

Dear Friends,

So work has at least begun on the site of the old ‘Fox and Hounds’. And what a mess it looks at the moment! True, a new path from Maidstone Road to the Village Hall has already been laid down – and very good it looks too.

But the rest of the site looks quite chaotic. Piles of earth, various items of machinery and other materials have appeared and it seems impossible that the promise on the hoarding “Attractive Development of Ten Town Houses” could ever be fulfilled.

Well, that’s what it seems like to us. The Planners, Architects and Builders on the other hand have the whole thing under control (we hope!) and will be working towards that ultimate goal. One day (I understand the job is planned to take some 40 weeks) the “Attractive Development” will be there.

Is there not a lesson here for us and God’s dealings with us and the world?

Our personal lives may go through periods of turmoil and chaos. Things “go wrong”, our plans are upset, events do not go as we may have wanted; illness comes; accidents happen and we may wonder what rhyme or reason there is for such things.

But the Bible assures us that God is sovereign; that he does have a purpose – even in the things we regard as bad. Paul puts it like this “In all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.” (Romans 8 vs.28)

And there are incidents in Scripture that show us this. Take Joseph, sold by his Brothers to a group of Ishmaelite traders, then as a slave in Egypt, but rising to become second only to the Pharaoh and the means of saving his family at the time of famine. He said to

them “You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives” (Genesis 50 vs.20).

Now this truth does not absolve us from always seeking to do right; it cannot be an excuse for evil and wicked conduct. We shall be held responsible for our deeds. But that God is in ultimate control should be of comfort to us and, in times of trial, strengthen us to cope with them.

For God is working to a plan – and one day (although we cannot say how many weeks, months or years it will take) that plan will be fulfilled and we shall see it to be perfect. The old illustration of a tapestry work is appropriate. From the back you cannot make out the design, but from the front it is clear. At the moment we look at the back of God’s plan – but one day he will show the front of the completed work.

See how Paul unveiled things in Romans 8 vs.18.

Yours sincerely,
Eddie Porter.

NOTES AND NEWS

- We were sad to hear of the death of Lily Hollman on 4th May. Lily had been a Member of the Women’s Fellowship and, before her accident when she broke her hip, had regularly attended our Sunday Morning Services. She had lived for many years in Tilton Flat, but when she broke her hip for the second time, she had to move to a Warden-controlled flat in Wrotham. We extend to her Brother and other relatives our heart-felt sympathy.

- * The next Quarterly Members' Meeting will be on Thursday, 27th July at 7.45p.m.
- * The Preacher here on Sunday, 20th August, will be Mr. Simon Percy from Woodford Green, Essex.
- * The Farewell Meeting for Andrew and Jenny Love (from Erith) will be on Saturday, 22nd July, at 2p.m. Andrew and Jenny hope to leave for Brazil in September.
- * We are pleased to report that Jenny Hazlewood has successfully come through her operation and is making steady progress. Jenny would like to thank everyone for their prayer support at this time.
- * On Saturday, 1st July and 5th August we shall be holding our Coffee and Cake Mornings from 10 – 12 noon. Please tell your friends about this and come in and enjoy a refreshing drink and a slice of cake!
- * Also on 1st July we hope to have a Church Outing in the afternoon, to end with a fish and chip supper – details to follows.
- * On 13th/14th/15th July the Kent County Show takes place at Detling. Again this year the Reformed Baptist Churches in Kent will have a Stand. Please remember them in prayer and visit the Stand if you are at the Show.
- * On Thursday, 20th July we shall be having another Family Evening in the form of a BBQ at the Primary School. Again, details to follow.

IN THE NEWS

There were two items reported on a recent news programme that show the sad state of our society.

The first was the news that the Government was to receive the report on the investigation on fox-hunting with dogs and as a result would probably bring in a Bill which would out-law this “sport”. True to form, we had opinions for and against such a ban, together with pictures of huntsmen and dogs.

The second item (which, if I remember rightly was in third spot on the broadcast) was a report that the Family Planning Association had brought out a booklet giving advice to girls from 14 to 18 on abortion. Again, there were interviews with those for and against and some comments from young people. In a report in a national newspaper on the booklet, it was said that this information was necessary for, among other reasons, pregnancy in young teenagers would hinder them going out and “having a life of their own”!!

It was also reported that last year there were 180,000 abortions in this Country. As we have said before, a ban on fox-hunting is estimated will save a maximum of 8,000 foxes a year.

Again, as before, we must ask the question, much as we oppose suffering inflicted on animals, is human life so much less valuable that we can accept the killing of 180,000 unborn babies whilst having so much time and money spent on saving 8,000 foxes?

A second question must be, isn't it time we began to teach young people that sex is not an activity they should indulge in, but that it should be practised within marriage only. This may sound old-fashioned and prudish, but does the so-called liberal view of “do it when you want to” really produce a happy and stable society? How

many young lives have to be spoiled by unwanted pregnancy or abortion before we come to our senses?

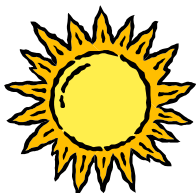
Then again, is it not time we protested to the makers of TV programmes (soaps and drama series) who, it seems, can't portray a friendship between a man and woman without showing them in bed within the first couple of meetings? The makers may claim that such scenes do not have the power to encourage the conduct in viewers, to which we must ask if TV does not have the power to influence, why do so many Companies spend so many millions on using this medium for their adverts?

This brings us back to the truth that, as a Nation, we have turned our backs on God and his word, and so give to man the so-called "right" to decide on right and wrong which can only lead to everyone claiming their view is as good as the next and everyone doing what is right in their eyes.

What can the church do in this situation? Fulfil its God-given task of preaching the Gospel, which must include God's wrath against sin as well as his readiness to forgive where there is true repentance and faith in Christ.

It means a return to the acceptance of the Bible as the inspired word of God and our only authority for teaching and practice.

Let us pray that God will revive his church, so that our society can be affected for good as it was in the revival through Whitefield and Wesley and those other great Preachers of that age.



CHILDREN'S PAGE ***HOLIDAYS***

Where are you going on holiday this year?
See if you can find the holiday places mentioned
in these verses from the Bible:

Acts 18 vs. 2

Acts 29 vs. 1

1 Samuel 10 vs. 18

Ezekiel 28 vs. 25

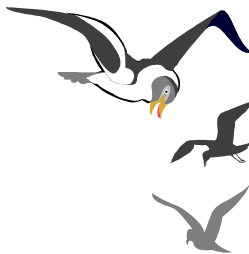
2 Timothy 1 vs. 17

Isaiah 23 vs. 1

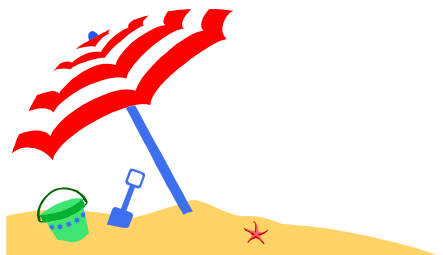
Romans 15 vs. 28

Daniel 10 vs. 20

Luke 2 vs. 2



And can you find out where the word **holiday** comes from and
what it means?



WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Over the last two months we have – without any travel hiccups – had two brief trips abroad. We went to China with Mrs. Clements from OMF and to Peru with Geoff Lowe who, with his wife, hopes to go to work there under the auspices of GBM. The difficulties and deprivations entailed in working for the Lord in these and other Countries demands our thoughts and prayers for all concerned in missionary work.

Grace led a cavalcade of us on a Blossom Tour which everyone thoroughly enjoyed (even when getting lost!) not to mention the lovely tea and cakes provided at the Church when we arrived. We've also enjoyed return visits from Rev. Dawson and Mrs. Gravatt. Also, our Pastor came to tell us how the Bible evolved.

Pam and Anne portrayed an indoor picnic, suggesting ways in which we can see and appreciate God's creation (and the cakes were real!) Anne and Andrea showed a video of Switzerland at our last meeting of the month – thank you, Anne, for sharing your home once again. Anne and Andrea also supplied a lunch for us on the 5th

Wednesday in May, which was very much enjoyed. Our thanks to them for filling the gap when there are no village lunches on the 5th Wednesdays.

Both Lilian and Phyllis are making steady progress, so we look forward to the time when they feel well enough to join us and be in their usual places. We saw Esther at the lunch and she seemed very well but not yet able to face us all every week. Please continue to pray for these Ladies. We've had to delete another name from our Register – Mrs. Lily Hollman who died in May. Due to holidays and the time arranged for the funeral, none of us were able to go but we all have memories of her. We share the joy of Flo and Ivy

(Goldspink) on the safe arrival of two more Great Granddaughters and trust that both Mums and babies are doing well.

You will see we have a nice surprise for everyone in July – Evelyn is coming down especially to spend an hour or so with us. It's a long way to come, so please make sure to be there at our Meeting, to make her journey really worthwhile. We thank David for having a day off work to bring her down.

We have an annual break throughout August but don't forget to come back in September, Ladies! Can you bring a friend too?

To while away the days, especially on the Wednesdays, how about reading through Colossians – it's only four Chapters long. If it raises any questions in your mind, make notes of them and hand in for when we have a questions afternoon later in the year. Our Searchword for September will be **EXCEPT**, so you could be finding one or two (or more!) of those too, and why not come to Church on Sundays. We would love to see you there. Transport can always be provided.

Arrangements for July/September

July 5th: Searchword Afternoon. **MIGHTY**. Table for Falconer Trust.
12th: Grace.
19th: Evelyn.
26th: Mrs. Hilda Dawson.

August **No Meetings in August**

Sept. 6th: Searchword Afternoon. **EXCEPT**. Table for GBM.