

**WORSHIP in JULY**

- Sunday July 5<sup>th</sup>** 11 am Morning Worship including Communion - Revd. David Jenkins  
Theme: "**Starting Out**"
- Sunday July 12<sup>th</sup>** 11 am Morning Worship led by Mrs. Barbara Crock and Mrs. Jill Jenkins  
Theme: **Ordinary People?**  
**4 pm** A 'Tea Service' - informal worship including afternoon tea at 109 Derwent Road, N13.
- Sunday July 19<sup>th</sup>** 11 am Morning Worship -Revd. Ray Adams  
Theme: "**The Jesus' Lifeline**" - **Introducing Mark's Gospel**  
This is the third in the Vision4Life Bible series; worship is followed by coffee, discussion, and lunch at 1.00 p.m.
- Sunday July 26<sup>th</sup>** 11 am Morning Worship - Revd. Ray Adams  
Theme: "**Great Expectations**"

A bookstall featuring books relevant to the Vision4Life Bible Year will be available in the church on most Sundays. Payment by cash or cheque, please. Orders can be placed - books will be sent post free.

Lunchtime prayers with the Burford Centre day guests at 12.15 p.m. on Wednesdays are open to all. The Day Centre closes for its summer break on Wednesday July 25<sup>th</sup>, re-opening on September 9<sup>th</sup>.

The **TEA SERVICE** in **August** will be at 4.00 p.m. on **August 16<sup>th</sup>**, in the church.

*Vision4Life Bible project:*

The Lectionary readings for these Sundays are:

**5 July:**

Ezekiel 2: 1-5                      Psalm 123                      2 Corinthians 12: 2-10      Mark 6: 1-13

**12 July:**

Amos 7: 7-15                      Psalm 85: 8-13                      Ephesians 1: 3-14                      Mark 6: 14-29.

**19 July:**

Jeremiah 23: 1-6                      Psalm 23                      Ephesians 2: 11-22                      Mark 6: 30-34, 53-56

**26 July:**

2 Kings 4: 42-44                      Psalm 145: 10-18                      Ephesians 3: 14-21                      John 6: 1-21

Our worship leaders are encouraged to use the lectionary.

*Pastoral Letter*

Dear Friends

Although I love music, I don't know very much about Jazz. I was therefore both excited and intrigued to see this as the subject of one of the talks in the programme of a Ministers' Refresher Course I attended a few weeks ago in Edinburgh.

While I learnt quite a lot from the talk, I learnt more from visiting a Jazz Club that same evening. I was impressed that the performers were seriously committed to what they were doing. They weren't there to 'make a show' and didn't seem particularly interested in the audience. They just got on with the job in hand, and I, with other members of the audience, felt privileged to be in their presence.

Each musician brought his (*they were all men*) ability to improvise and offer it to the total experience which was being worked out before our eyes and ears.

The other thing I noticed was the music's democracy. The owner of the Club announced, 'if anyone would like to come up and play this evening, just give me your name and instrument, and I will work out who's playing with whom'. So we had drummers, pianists, trumpeters, guitarists, changing over from time to time. Thankfully, no one who couldn't play volunteered, but people had travelled from various places (the pianist was a university student from Glasgow; the trumpeter was Canadian), and their offerings were woven into the evening's programme.

I was impressed by the ability of these jazz musicians to improvise within an agreed musical framework, and to dip in and out of phases where they provided leadership for a while and then gave way to others when it was time to do so.

There was a real sense of convergence, as Duke Ellington, the great Jazz musician, composer and committed Christian, once observed:

'As I travel from place to place by car, bus, train, plane... taking rhythm to dancers, harmony to the romantic, melody to the nostalgic, gratitude to the listener... receiving praise, applause and handshakes, and at the same time doing the things I like to do, I feel that I am most fortunate because I know that God has blessed my timing without which nothing could have happened – the right time or place or the right people. The three must converge. Thank God!'

I am sure there are several lessons here for any community, family, or circle of friends, and not least the Church. I particularly like Duke Ellington's idea that God not only supplies our separate gifts, but loves nothing better, through the creativity of the Spirit, than to improvise with us in our worship and service together. We need to stand back sometimes to appreciate the whole, and other people's contribution, rather than just be caught up in our own bit of the tune.



God bless you.

*Ray*

### **I AM THE RESURRECTION**

*Paul Stevenson, whose work I AM THE RESURRECTION is in the Foyer between the Sanctuary and the Halls and given by him to the Church in memory of Ruth Smith, died on the 10 June 2009. He wrote this about the painting in 1979.*

"Any work of art is about making connections and of course, all of us are free to make our own, but it can be interesting to know the connections that the artist originally made in doing the work.

In the early sixties I became fascinated by the idea of parts of paintings that were actually cut out of material with a jigsaw and fitted together. It was an idea taken from sculpture, in particular 12<sup>th</sup> Century Danish crucifixes, whose arms were carved out of separate pieces of wood and tenoned into the torso. In many of these ancient sculptures the joints were wrenched out - a very visual comment on the calculated cruelty of crucifixion. Ironic too, that Jesus as a carpenter, must have been very familiar with those tenon and mortise joints. Another reference was Michelangelo's use of human musculature as an image of spiritual power. His artistic roots reached back to ancient Greece, which again was another area of my source material, especially those simple Archaic Greek

sculptures - very stony, marble torsos with quiet, held-in power. So here are three references to human expressions of human spirituality from the past, forming a fragmentary visual statement on an overwhelming profound theme.

Twentieth Century technology enables us to put together on our TV screens a complex collage of a church service in a visual language that owes so much to cubism - my painting also acknowledges cubism in its split images, shifting view-point and its slipping planes.

When I first discussed the commission with the architect we realised that the visual format of a rectangular painting would not work in the architectural situation. The solution was to liberate the figure from its frame - Christ is liberated from the tomb - a few remnants of which cling to his right side and arm.

That arm, incidentally, is a reference to Michelangelo's 'Christ in The Last Judgement' in the Sistine Chapel. The red outlines record the painful change in angle as Christ 'rode' the Cross in order to breathe. The torso is simple and serene after the Passion of the left-hand panel. Here is the archaic Greek reference and in a way the first dawn - the First Adam linking with the second Adam and the Easter dawn. The left arm breaks free and reaches out over the door to the Sanctuary and visually points to and stylistically links with the text 'I am the Resurrection'. This arm is the last reference to the Viking 12<sup>th</sup> Century crucifixes. The dowel pins are there, hammered in and the joint wrenched and exposed as a reminder that Jesus the carpenter knew, in working with his hands, the reality of our human experience.

A painting like this attempts to make connections between many disparate things - the 'reality' of sculpture, the illusionist depth of painting, the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, the ancient past, the corporeal and the spiritual. In that respect I hope the work might be, in some measure, a symbol of the coming together of the congregations that now make up the United Reformed Church in Palmers Green."

(bds)

*Vision4Life* The bible made contemporary

**Leadership by Example** (suggested at our V4L Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> May)

Some leaders figuring on our recent TV screens (*in alphabetical order*):

Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, Gordon Brown, David Cameron, Nick Clegg, Frank Field, Mervyn King, Angela Merkel, Max Mosley, Benjamin Netanyahu, Barack Obama, Rowan Williams.

Some leaders who do not so figure:

Queen Boadicea, Caiaphas, King Cyrus, Emperor Domitian, Elijah, Frederick of Prussia, Keir Hardie, Thomas Jefferson, Judas Maccabaeus, Simon Peter, Paul of Tarsus.

Of course an obvious difference between the two groups is that TV wasn't invented in the times of the second group. But there are similarities - holders of high religious office, prophets within their fields, movers in the organisation of sport, political leaders in Europe, the USA and the Middle East, revolutionaries.

In both groups some have attained leadership through democratic means, some through sheer charisma, some through military acumen, some by nepotism and some by social conscience.

The Bible has much to say about leadership - indeed, one John C. Maxwell has published a 'Leadership Bible', the blurb for which reads; "God has shown us in the Bible the time-tested and irrefutable principles of leadership. Maxwell has assembled these biblical teachings to equip and encourage leaders and those who serve with them to meet the challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century....."

But from my own researches I find these:

*'By contrast, [to the works of the flesh] the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness.* <sup>[Galatians 5: 22]</sup>

*'The Lord answered me and said: "Write the vision; make it plain on tablets, so that a runner may read it."* [Habakkuk 2: 2]

*'But not so with you; rather the greatest among you must become like the youngest, and the leader like one who serves.'* [Luke 22: 26]

*'As shepherds seek out their flocks when they are among their scattered sheep, so I will seek out my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places to which they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness.'* [Ezekiel 34: 12]

*'A good name is to be chosen rather than great riches, and favour is better than silver or gold.'* [Proverbs 22: 1]

And perhaps most relevant for our current time of disillusionment with UK political leadership:

*'The righteous walk in integrity - happy are the children who follow them!'* [Proverbs 20: 7]

But you might well prefer to do your own research. I suggest study of Mark 10: 33-45 (Jesus on authority) and Matthew 8: 5-13 (the place of faith in leadership).

(dalj)

### JULY DIARY

'A Place for Coffee' is open every Saturday morning from 10.30 to 12noon

Wed	1 <sup>st</sup>	Day Centre - 10.15 to 3.15pm
Sat`	4 <sup>th</sup>	Concert by North London Symphony Orchestra at 7.45pm <a href="http://www.nslslo.org.uk">www.nslslo.org.uk</a>
Mon	6 <sup>th</sup>	Elders' Meeting 8pm
Wed	8 <sup>th</sup>	Day Centre - 10.15 to 3.15pm - An Antiques Story - David Orfeur
Sat	11 <sup>th</sup>	Rowantree Choir Special 50 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Summer Concert at 7.30pm <a href="http://www.rowantreechoir.org.uk">www.rowantreechoir.org.uk</a>
Sun	12 <sup>th</sup>	Concert by Children's International Voices of Enfield at 3pm 8882 7404 or <a href="http://www.childrensinternationalvoices.co.uk">www.childrensinternationalvoices.co.uk</a> Tea Service - 4pm at 109 Derwent Road - informal worship with afternoon tea
Wed	15 <sup>th</sup>	Day Centre - 10.15 to 3.15pm
Thurs	16 <sup>th</sup>	Vision4Life evening discussion 8pm at the home of Margaret Jepson, 25 Forestdale, N14
Sat	18 <sup>th</sup>	Concert arranged by Margaret Coolen in aid of Church funds - a varied musical programme from Dowland to Gershwin - Tickets: adults £5, children free. Please sign for tickets on the list by the coffee bar
Sun	19 <sup>th</sup>	Vision4Life - slightly shortened morning worship, coffee, discussion followed by lunch and continuing discussion
Wed	22 <sup>nd</sup>	Day Centre - 10.15 to 3.15pm
Sun	26 <sup>th</sup>	Dedication of Christopher, infant son of Susan and Junior Brown
Tues	28 <sup>th</sup>	Finance & Fabric meeting at 7.30pm
Wed	29 <sup>th</sup>	Day Centre - 10.15 to 3.15pm (last one this session)

### AUGUST DIARY

'A Place for Coffee' is open every Saturday morning from 10.30 to 12noon

Sun	9 <sup>th</sup>	Vision4Life - slightly shortened morning worship, coffee, discussion followed by lunch and continuing discussion
Sun	16 <sup>th</sup>	Tea Service at 4pm - informal worship with afternoon tea
Sat	22 <sup>nd</sup>	African Evening