

MALBOROUGH
BAPTIST
CHURCH

MINISTER
REV TIM SKILLMAN

Fellowship News

Volume 3, Issue 2

February 2010

Morning Service 10:30 am Communion service held on the first Sunday of the month.

I don't know about you, but I love reading and I love books. Even though most of the work that I do is on computers, for me, the hard impersonal plastic screen of a monitor will never replace the tactile feel of paper pages bound in leather or board. There is something very personal and private that takes place when you open a book. You are sharing in the personal thoughts and feelings of the author. The story contained within has been crafted with you in mind, that's why you are drawn to read it.

My favourite fictional book, as I think I have told you before is Hitchhikers Guide to the Galaxy by Douglas Adams.

Why? To be absolutely truthful, I don't know why. It is a bazaar, science-fiction fantasy about a man called Arthur Dent who has nothing special about him at all. Arthur is taken off into space by an intergalactic hitchhiker, just as the earth is demolished to make way for a new intergalactic bypass. His new friend, Ford Prefect, is a reporter for the new edition of Hitchhikers Guide to the Galaxy. In short, they travel around the universe having many varied adventures until they are tracked down by two mice, who, as it turns out created the earth. The earth, incidentally, was not a planet, but a super-computer built to find out the question to the answer "What is the meaning of Life?" (the answer, of course, being 42). The earth was destroyed five minutes before the computer could produce an answer and the mice believed that Arthur, as the last surviving part of the earth, could provide the answer, or the question, as it may be.

Arthur and his friends manage to escape the mice and end up having the fantastic meal at The Restaurant at the End of the Universe.

Now, what, I hear you ask, has that to do with a Fellowship Newsletter.

Well, fantastical stories aside, my point is that we are drawn by the author to read and immerse ourselves in his book. I like Douglas Adams's book because, deep in the very heart of me - I want to be Arthur Dent, I want to live that life.

The author of the Bible, our gracious and loving father, wants us to immerse ourselves within His story and we are drawn to read it because we want to be like it's heroes. We want to be just and loving, kind and caring, truthful and respectful.

And by reading the works of the greatest author of all, we can do just that. Mark Page

Fortnightly Fellowships

On January 14th a number of us met at Richard & Rachel's place for the first of our fortnightly meetings for prayer, fellowship and study. We watched a video on the first five chapters of Acts which highlighted similar dilemmas today of how to preach the gospel in a world that scorns its message. This meeting also gave us the chance to pray for one another and fellowship. Thank you Richard & Rachel for your hospitality, and all those who will host us in the coming year! Please check your church calendar for the red boxes indicating these fellowship evenings. ...

*"Act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly
with your God"*
Micah 6:8

Fellowship News

The fellowship meal for our older folk, especially those who can't get out easily, was a great success! Many folk, who had not been able to meet for some time, finally got to see each other again. The biggest challenge was whizzing over to Chapel with hot roasties, 2 beef joints, veg, trifle, sticky toffee pudding and trying to keep it all hot (except for the trifle)! A big thank you to Jacqui, Rachel, Enid, Denis & Kate who cooked, hosted and provided transport. Overall £65 was raised, £35 of which will go to aid the victims of the Haiti earthquake as agreed at the meeting.

Appeal!!! I believe this year will provide plenty of opportunity for us to grow, get to know each other, help others in need and outreach to the village, but none of this will work if we don't take time and make an effort. If you can give just a couple of hours in a month to help or take part in the fellowship meetings, it will make a huge difference to all of us! Coming up on the 27th March is the 30's evening – if you would like to research, cook, decorate, provide transport and be part of this in some way, please let us know.

You know, this is not often said, but always noticed ... the flowers, the coffee times, the cleaning, the transport, the sorting out the finances and even standing at the door makes this church so special. A warm thank you to all of you – even if you feel unnoticed - may God bless you richly!! Please keep up your prayers for Les & Doreen, Pauline & Denis, Bryan & Diana, Peggy & David and others in the fellowship who need our support and encouragement.

Finally, don't forget the February Feast on the 11th February and also the quarterly business meeting in the evening of the 11th. Lent meetings will start on Thursday, 18th February, 7pm at our Chapel, meeting with All Saints Parish Church. Hmmm ... I wonder if you noticed, but this also means that our Thursday fellowship meetings (on the 25th February and the 11th March) will move to Wednesday's instead – the 24th Feb and 10th March – *please take note!*

Phew! ... Did you get all that?

Blessings ... Tim.

Blessing

May the grace of Christ our Saviour,
And the Father's boundless love,
With the Holy Spirit's favour,
Rest on us from above.

Services

February

7th Rev. Tim Skillman
14th Mr. D Jones
21st Miss. A Edgecombe
28th Rev Tim Skillman

March

7th Rev B Jago

Flowers

February

7th Mrs. Jones
14th Mrs. P Discombe
21st Mrs. K King
28th Mrs. D Laphorn

Hoovering

February

6th Mrs. J Brown
13th Mrs. P Discombe
20th Mr. H Jones
27th Mrs. K King

March

6th Mrs. Gill Sterry

