

# Gospel Mission Hall

## Barnoldswick

2006 No. 2

July



May the God of peace... work in us what is pleasing to him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

*Hebrews 13:20-21*

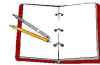
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## Dates For Your Diary



Monday-Friday	7-11 August	Going Bananas Holiday Club. See page 6.
Friday-Sunday	15-17 September	Youth Weekend. See page 10.
Sunday	24 September	Harvest Sunday - an opportunity to learn about and support the work of Tearfund.
Friday-Sunday	20-22 October	A relaxed weekend at Bassenfell Manor. See page 19.

## Pastor's Notes

### ***Trumpet the cause of the unborn***

I was working during the school holidays in the offices at ICI. After a few days one of my bosses in the office opened up the stationery cupboard and invited me to take what I wanted. "Don't worry" he said "everybody does it." The same philosophy is rampant in our society saying that because something is accepted practice it must be alright. It's almost forty years now since abortion was legalized in the UK and it seems to have left the public agenda. When Sue and I got married we were both committed to stand up for the unborn child and also to help children who are born into this world in difficult circumstances. The fact that there is a very vocal and strong lobby for "the woman's right to choose" should not make Christians afraid of taking a stand on this issue. However when we do we need to be informed. I recently read an article by John Piper on this issue and he tells the story of a conversation with a doctor who was performing abortions daily in a clinic near to Piper's Church. Piper had his arguments prepared, establishing that the unborn child was a full human being, but he was taken by surprise by the abortionist's reply. "You can stop your arguments, I acknowledge that I am killing human life but I do it for my wife, I do it because there is a greater good, a



woman's right not to have anyone else make decisions about her body." With the advances in technology that clearly show the humanity of the baby in the womb the argument has passed onto the ground of the woman's right to choose. In answer to this Piper makes the following points in order to strengthen the conviction of Christians that this argument cannot be used to justify the taking of life.

1. God commanded "Thou shall not kill." The Hebrew meaning violent personal killing not judicial execution.
2. The destruction of the unborn is an assault on the unique person forming work of God, Psalm 139:13 and Job 31:13-15.
3. Aborting the unborn sheds innocent blood, Jeremiah 22:3.
4. It contradicts the emphasis in the Word of God on the protection of the weak and most helpless in our society, Psalm 82:3-4.
5. The argument that the abortion stops suffering denies that God can show his gracious power through suffering.
6. The argument that aborted children go to heaven is presumptuous, it puts man in the place of God, and cannot be an excuse for doing evil.
7. The Bible commands us to rescue our neighbour being unjustly led away to death, Proverbs 24:11-12.
8. Aborting children falls under Jesus' rebuke of those who thought little children as unworthy of the Saviour's attention, Luke 18:15-16.
9. Only God has the right to give and take away life, Job 1:21.

Christians need to stay awake and judge the world in the light of biblical teaching. Experience tells us how easy it is for the public to become accepting of things which a little independent thought and some basic moral principles would tell them is totally unacceptable. Surely this is the case with the horror of abortion. We cannot do everything but we can do something. Be an authentic, audible Christian, pray the church will rise from it's moral sleep, be aware of the reality of what abortion is, support alternatives to abortion, and don't be afraid to speak out.

*Paul Standley*

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## 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

### Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> May 2006

John Fisher (retired Baptist Minister from Cockermouth) and his wife Jean helped us to celebrate the day and in the morning at Family Church in the Civic Hall we were challenged by his ministry from Hebrews 13:8 – Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. We were reminded that all His compassion, sovereignty and salvation exist in the same measure today, and will continue to do so tomorrow and forever. In the light of this, John encouraged us not to be stuck in the past whether in our own personal experiences of God’s goodness, or in the memories of a different era in the history of Barnoldswick Gospel Mission. Further to that, we should look forward to His work in times to come – prayerfully using us to effect His purposes.

At the Evening Praise service we met with a large gathering of churches from the town, in the Baptist Church Centre. Chris Waddington and Sarah Blamire led the music group in worship and John spoke on Jeremiah 6:16.

*This is what the LORD says: “Stand at the crossroads and look; ask for the ancient paths, ask where the good way is, and walk in it, and you will find rest for your souls...”*

Sadly this was a call to God’s own people as much as the unbelievers, most of whom were practising apostasy and idolatry. It is still a message for today. Our society celebrates the equal validity of all faiths or none. The broken cisterns of this generation barely differ to those resorted to by Jeremiah’s contemporaries. Still God waits to be gracious, calling us back to His standards outlined in His word, the Bible. John urged us to walk the old paths in new shoes, and outlined the practical ways in which to return to disciplined godliness:

1. Acknowledging His authority in total dependence.
2. In holiness of living - with prayer and fasting – seeking the way earnestly.

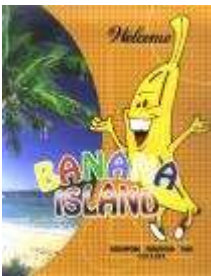
3. Serving and witnessing with sincerity.
4. In fellowship with one another and with our Mediator, Jesus Christ.

The gathering broke up into divisions of four groups in order to pray for a) Church well-being; b) Church witness; c) Community institutions and d) Civic concerns, breaking after ten minute intervals to move onto the next 'zone'. In one instance of the Holy Spirit's prompting - since the noise was rather distracting and the groups large - two people in different parts of the same group prayed almost the same prayer!

It was a wonderful evening and the time ran away with us! There were refreshments to follow and fellowship with other Christians in the town was – as ever – uplifting and encouraging. A happy anniversary!

*Jane Gilbert*

## Going Bananas



Monday 7<sup>th</sup> to Friday 11<sup>th</sup> of August, 10:00 to 12:00. We're getting organised for a fun packed week. Lots of helpers needed! There will be a planning meeting at 5 Montrose Terrace at 7:30 on Thursday 29th June. Lizzie has already been hard at work getting four massive hands of plastic bananas out of Fyffes. The children will be

jetted away to Banana Island and find out about famous people in the Bible who went bananas for God. It is our prayer that as well as having great fun children will discover life changing truths about God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit. Friday Evening there will be a BBQ and prize-giving. If you can't help please pray. Following the week we are launching J Club on a Thursday night.

*Paul Standley*

## Anniversary May Day Picnic

We were jumping for joy at our Anniversary May Day Picnic. (See front cover.) The Deer Park at Studley Royal was a great venue for young and old alike when we eventually arrived! When 5:00 came I wanted to stay longer, we had just got into that nice relaxed day out mode. One of our aims for the Mission is to be a genuine fellowship and events like this help us to build our enjoyment of one another in the body of Christ. When Barbara said to me “I have really enjoyed today” in a way that conveyed she really meant it, the day was complete.



The sun eventually shone.



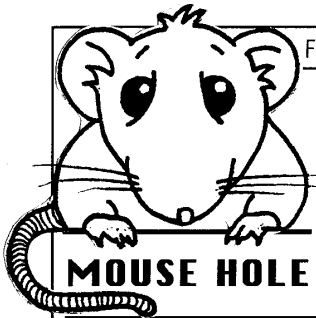
A very artistic photo by Victor.



Sam enjoyed the day.

*Paul Standley*

# Mouse Hole



From my home in the church I learn about all sorts of things...

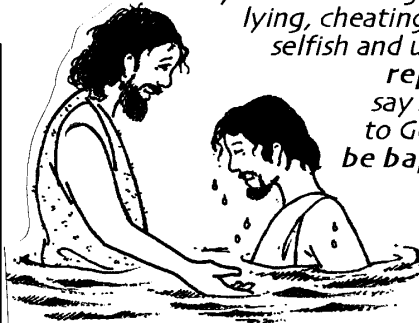
## GET READY! GET READY!

The Prophet John had a message from God for everyone who wanted to listen.

*"Get ready, the Messiah, our Saviour is coming...."*

*Get your lives straight, stop lying, cheating, being selfish and unkind...*

*repent, say sorry to God and be baptised".*



Many people changed their ways and came to John to be baptised

Read John's story in Matthew chapter 3

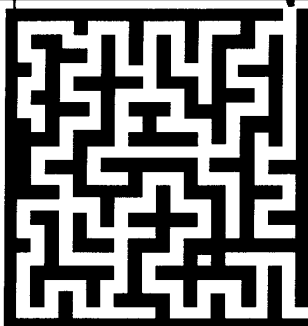
## LOCUST LUNCH

John was Jesus' cousin, he lived in the desert and ate locusts and wild honey. Eating locusts may sound horrible to us but in some countries people love them. When they land they are collected then roasted or boiled. Some are dried, beaten to a powder and used like flour to make cakes!



The 40 days before Easter is known as **LENT**. It's a time to think and pray and learn more about God.

Can you find your way through the crooked ways to the straight path? ↓

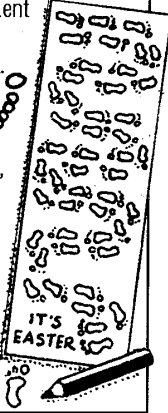


The first day of Lent is called **ASH WEDNESDAY**. It is a day for saying 'sorry' to God for any wrong things you have said or done.



Make a Lent calendar bookmark.

Draw 40 footprints, plus 7 extra for 'Holy Week'. Colour in a footprint each day.



## Youth Weekend

### Swarthghyll Activity Centre

15<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> September



We are blessed at the moment with the number of young people who come to the youth clubs, Unplugged and Pulse, at the church building on Friday evenings. Many of these young people have no church background and no other contact with the gospel message.

As a means of building on the work that is done at the clubs we are planning a weekend away at Swarthghyll Activity Centre near Oughtershaw, Buckden, from 15<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> September. Swarthghyll Activity Centre is part of Swarthghyll Farm, a working 1000 acre sheep farm on the Dales Way in the heart of the Yorkshire Dales and provides self-catering accommodation for 40 people. The weekend will include recreational activities (such as raft building and canoeing on Semer Water near Hawes) and teaching/worship sessions.



The main aims of the weekend are to promote friendships between members of the group and the leaders and to provide an opportunity for a considered look at aspects of the



BIBLE STUDY

Christian faith. Please pray for this event over the summer months as plans are being finalised and the details of the various elements of the programme are worked out. Pray also that the young people would be keen to come and that it would prove to be a rewarding time for them and the leaders.

The cost of the weekend is £35 per person and there may be people who would like to go but whose parents cannot afford the cost. If you would be prepared to sponsor anyone who is in this position please use the one of the forms provided for this purpose or see me for further information.

*Christopher Jackson*

## Spring Harvest 2007



“Spring Harvest” is an annual convention for people of all ages and church backgrounds and aims to offer:-

- ◆ Gifted speakers who unpack the Bible to deliver fresh understanding of God’s Word.
- ◆ Talented musicians who lead powerful times of vibrant worship.
- ◆ Tailor-made programmes for children and young people which allow them to learn and explore the Christian faith with their peers.

- ◆ A number of meeting styles and additional workshops which give an opportunity to study in the way that suits you.
- ◆ A time to relax with your family and the church group, or make new friends with people from other parts of the country.

We have booked 6 self-catering chalets for Spring Harvest Word Alive (Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> March to Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> April 2007) at Butlins Holiday Centre, Skegness. Each chalet accommodates 6 people.

The cost (excluding food and transport) is £159 per person (£144 for children aged 2 -14). A deposit of £8 per person is required on booking and the balance is payable by the end of January 2007.



The theme this year is “The Big Story – One People” and will include a look at what it means to be the church and how we become the people God wants us to be.

Whilst the convention is aimed primarily at those who are Christians the event is open to anyone who is interested in exploring the Christian faith or who may as yet be unsure of their Christian commitment.

Please see me as soon as possible if you are interested in coming along. You can also find out more information by visiting [www.springharvest.org](http://www.springharvest.org).

*Christopher Jackson*

## Book Review

### **“Stop trying to live for Jesus and let him live through you” by Charles Price**



I bought this book after hearing the author speak at Spring Harvest. I found it challenged a lot of my thinking about living as a Christian, blew away some commonly believed myths and helped me to understand several things I found difficult. Everything in it is backed up by bible references and it's quite easy to read, not at all heavy going.

A comment on the back of the book says “It ought to be required reading for all Christians”. This is a statement I wholeheartedly agree with, which is why I am recommending that you read it.

Here are some of the things I have learnt from this book:

- ◆ We are not called to dedication to live for God, but to die to ourselves and our own self-sufficiency and rely on him. God does not recognise our efforts on his behalf; he invites us to be channels for his activity.
- ◆ God's main purpose for us is not forgiveness of sin and the prospect of eternity in heaven (man-centred) but for us to become like him and display his character (God-centred).
- ◆ The definition of sin is missing the target, which is the glory of God. Sin is only sin because it is inconsistent with the character of God.
- ◆ There is only one kind of Christian – God's kind. We can not pick and choose which aspects of his word to live by.
- ◆ It is wrong to tell someone that he/she can become a Christian just by asking Jesus into his/her life. Jesus instructed people to respond to him on the basis of

their willingness to pay the cost i.e. to surrender to his lordship and be willing to give up everything for him.

- ❖ We can't "make Christ our Lord". He is Lord whether we like it or not. Either we can come to terms with this now, voluntarily, or wait until the day when there will be no choice.
- ❖ We should not preach the gospel because it works or because people need it, but because it is true. On earth there are plenty of other things that work and fulfil people's needs, but one day we will all be answerable to God.
- ❖ Jesus was not under pressure to get results from his ministry but to communicate the truth, irrespective of how people responded. Many listened to him, but few became his disciples.
- ❖ Fear of letting God take control of our lives derives from not knowing him well enough.
- ❖ The most important thing about faith is not the amount or strength of our faith, but the object in which we place our faith.
- ❖ God has no favourites. He is willing to work through anyone who will let him.
- ❖ Be committed to Jesus, not to evangelism. God does not want us to be dedicated to causes but to be available to do anything he has given us to do. Serving him is not an optional extra.

Buy the book or borrow it from me.

*Sheila Jackson*

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## A Short Stay!

Camping can be a wonderful experience! At the spring holiday Margaret, Jonny and I spent three days on a camp site at Cayton Bay. The sun shone and we managed to find a level site adjacent to the Toilet block and sheltered by a hedge. Experience has taught me that these things are essential to a successful camping holiday!

Camping can also be a traumatic experience. We visited the same site six years ago. Torrential rain turned the site into a quagmire and many tents were flooded out. Fortunately our trailer tent is about 600mm off the ground and the waters passed safely under our tent. It rained every day that week that year, and I received a call on my mobile telling me to come home because my mum was dying in Airedale hospital.

Life is like that; wonderful experiences, traumatic experiences and a great deal of ordinary experiences in between.

Perhaps the greatest lesson we can learn is that camping is a temporary experience. Camping always reminds me of the temporary nature of our life on earth. Each day there are arrivals and departures. A new group of people arrive and they struggle to erect their new tent, hopeful that they will have a good week. Another group is packing up ready to move on. If rain threatens it is essential to get the tent down before it gets wet, or you will spend a lot of time drying it when you get home! Moving on is always difficult. We go home with mixed feelings; sad to go if we have had a good week, glad to go if we have had a wet week, but going back to our permanent home.

Life is also like that. We may have a nice 'new tent', we may feel that we have found an ideal location, we may think that the good times will last forever – but they don't. Conversely we may be going through a difficult time and think that our suffering will never end – but it will. Our times are in the hand of God. He knows the day of our arrival on earth, he also knows the day of our departure.

In 2 Corinthians 5v1 the Word of God tells us that one day the 'tent' in which we live will be destroyed. It is not our permanent home! I remember a memorable night many years ago when we camped on the cliffs above Woolacombe. I had yet to learn the importance of pitching the tent in a sheltered position! That night the gale force winds nearly destroyed our tent. If our tent had been destroyed that night it would have been very sad, but we would have just gone home to our permanent home. We do not spend most of our lives in a trailer tent; we have a permanent home which is built of stone. In the same way our life on earth is very short compared to the eternity which will follow it. When we put our faith in Jesus we have the assurance that he has prepared a permanent home for us – John 14v2. I have the assurance that when the day of my departure comes I am ready to go home. Do you have this assurance?

*Richard Kay*

## **24/7 Prayer for Pendle**

On Sunday June 11<sup>th</sup>, Pauline a friend of mine, came over for lunch. After this we drove to Shekinah Christian Centre for the first gathering of the 24/7 Prayer for Pendle. Although not everyone was able to be there, it was lovely to meet up with others who are praying to see God moving in our area. We had a time of worship. Some shared visions of what God had shown them. Churches were represented across Pendle. Sue Butler who started the 24/7 prayer vision encouraged us by sharing the number of Churches who had responded. We closed with a buffet tea and came home very encouraged.

*Barbara McCartan*

*24/7 Prayer aims to have someone praying for Pendle every hour of every day. At the moment just over a third of the 168 hours are covered. If you want to get involved contact Sue Butler at the Inghamite Church, Wheatley Lane, Fence. Editor.*

## Brief Encounter



I am not about to retell the story of the film, this is my story. I was travelling on the train to Carnforth, it was crowded and I had to sit travelling backwards. When the lady across from me had a vacant seat next to her I slipped across. She said she didn't mind and we started to talk about the view out of the windows. There wasn't a cloud in the sky and the sun shone very brightly. She remarked that when we got to Lancaster we would be travelling backwards. I told her I was only going to Carnforth. She looked puzzled so I explained "I am going to the Monastery just outside Warton Village. I have been invited to a ladies first profession, the first step in becoming a nun." Then she started to tell me she was going to Morecombe and she would probably be there for three months looking after her son who was recovering from a brain tumor. He was fifty four and had all the treatment he could have and at the moment things were looking good. I told her I would pray for her son. "Thank you" she said in a very grateful way. I noticed the train was slowing down, I looked out of the window and saw we were approaching Carnforth. As I stood up the lady grabbed my arm, "you won't forget to

pray” she said. I assured her I wouldn’t. My brief encounter was not with a man but I recognised that the love of God met the needs of this anxious mother.

*Barbara McCartan*

*For those who do not know the film “Brief Encounter” was filmed at Carnforth Station. Editor.*

## **Computer Bits**

We have recently acquired a few new bits for the church computer.

Short (3m) video cable. This is more convenient to use than the long (25m) one we use at the Civic Hall. It is sometimes in one of the cable boxes which we use for peripatetic church, at other times it may be in the computer’s carry case.

USB extension lead. This is for connecting USB devices, such as a memory stick. The USB sockets are not very accessible to some devices when the laptop is flat on a table, so the cable removes this problem. It lives in the computer’s carry case.

If you log in as Projector Users, there is a folder on the desktop called “How-To”. This contains a few documents which I have gathered together, and I will add more as necessary. The documents you can find there now are:

- ◆ An electronic version of the projector manual.
- ◆ A description of how to change “display mode” for playing DVDs or other film clips.
- ◆ Guidance on preparing PowerPoint presentations.

If you want a copy of any of these, please either take one or ask me and I will give you one.

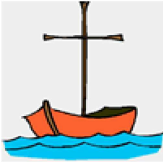
One other point to mention is “don’t ignore copyright”. In particular, just because something can be copied from the internet does not necessarily give you the right to use it.

*Stephen Jackson*

# Missionary Update



## Canal Ministries



Canal Ministries was formed in the summer of 2005 following the Mission to the Heart of England. Five of the boats involved felt a strong leading to join together in a ministry committed to personal evangelism on the waterways. More than ever the waterways are being used as places to make a home as well as by millions seeking peace and recreation. The culture of the canals is that you talk to others and help. The work of Peter and Lin and the other boats fits this culture perfectly and they have many opportunities to come alongside people and share the Good News. The boats that form the ministry are:

- ◆ Alan and Geraldine on “Still Waters”. This boat winters over at Skipton.
- ◆ David and Carole on “Days of Elijah”.
- ◆ Henry and Lin on “Trinity”.
- ◆ John and Barbara on “Ichthus”.
- ◆ Peter and Lin on “Gospel Belle”.

For more information visit [www.canalministries.org.uk](http://www.canalministries.org.uk).

*Paul Standley*



## Bassenfell Manor

**A relaxed weekend 20-22 October.**

There are still places available for this weekend. The venue is excellent and in a beautiful location near to Bassenthwaite lake. The weekend is suitable for all ages and the cost will not be more than £40 per adult, children under eleven being half price and under fives free.

*Paul Standley*

## What's On

Sunday	10:30	Family Worship & Sunday School (at the Civic Hall).
	6:00	Evening Praise.
	7:30	Young People's Fellowship. Discussion topics, Bible Studies, prayer times, games and social evenings (academic years 7 to 13).
Monday	11:00	Home Group. Come along for Bible Study, prayer & fellowship. (Varying venues as announced, or ask for details.)
Wednesday	7:45	Home Group. Come along for Bible Study, prayer & fellowship. (Varying venues as announced, or ask for details.)
Thursday	7:45	Home Group. Come along for Bible Study, prayer & fellowship. (Varying venues as announced, or ask for details.)
Friday	7:00-8:30	Unplugged. Games, drama, teaching (academic years 7 to 9).
	8:30-10:00	Pulse. A time of games, activities and friendship in a relaxed atmosphere (academic years 10 to 13).

## Contacts

Pastor	Rev. Paul Standley	01282 814705
Secretary	Christopher Jackson	01282 844472
Unplugged & Pulse	Christopher Jackson	01282 844472
Young People's Fellowship	Rachel Waddington	01282 816006
Sunday School	Sue Standley	01282 814705

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Why not pay us a visit on the worldwide web at <http://www.barlickmission.org.uk>? You will find lots of useful information, including email contacts and this newsletter! You can also send email to our [info@barlickmission.org.uk](mailto:info@barlickmission.org.uk) address.

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