



WEST CRAVEN BAPTIST FELLOWSHIP



No.1: May 2010

## **So what's this all about?**

This is the first West Craven Baptist Fellowship magazine.  
Thanks to everyone who has contributed to this 'first edition'.

We hope you find it interesting and that you would like further editions to be produced.

We would welcome your feedback and you will find a sheet inside the magazine for your comments. Please return that to any member of the leadership team or email your comments direct to Mel or Margaret.

drmelmitchell@yahoo.co.uk    m.nutter@btopenworld.com

We also need a name.

Suggestions so far are:

- B.E.S.T. - Barlick, Earby and Salterforth Times
- The Son
- Craven Image

Do any of these appeal to you or can you think of something better?



## **Children:**

Look in the middle of this magazine and you will find a special page just for you.

If you would like to write a short article for the next Kidz Korner, whether it is about a church event you have attended, something you have learned at Sunday club, or what you like about church, or if you have any ideas about what you would like to see in the Kidz Korner section of the magazine, then please get in touch with either Mel or Margaret.

## **Matt's reflection**

### **Thinking of you...**



The idea of "sabbatical" is not a new one. It comes from the Greek word *sabbatikos* which is an extended form of the word *sabbath*. Our main understanding of *sabbath* is as a reference to the last day of the week, a day set aside for rest, the day when God rested at the end of creation. However, there are also Biblical traditions of *sabbath* year: one year in seven when the land is not worked, it is left to rest; a year when debts are released and

slaves freed. In more recent times this principle of *sabbath* has been applied to individuals in their working life, with one dictionary definition stating that sabbatical is *any extended period of leave from one's customary work, esp. for rest, to acquire new skills or training, etc.* It's with this last understanding of *sabbatical* that ministers are encouraged to take a period of rest every seven years during their ministry and so as you read this I will soon be beginning my time of sabbatical. During this time I will indeed be having a rest, I also hope to visit a few other churches and reflect on different ways of being church, especially those who work in some kind of partnership, like we do at West Craven, and you never know, there may even be a bit of DIY to do....

I'm looking forward to my sabbatical, but at the same time it'll feel strange not being part of West Craven church life. For the last eight years I've been so busy with much of my life and my family's life revolving around church that it will be odd to not have that responsibility. I will miss you and all that is happening in West Craven; it's been a great year already with WCBF going through some really exciting times. In recent months we seen some fantastic encouragements: 50 people at the Kidz Praise Party; around 15 people attending the Lent lunches; the showing of "The Passion of the Christ" at the

Rainhall Centre. With such exciting things happening it'll be hard to step back and leave you to it.

I want to make two requests as I begin this time of sabbatical: the first is that you take care of one another and keep on moving forward together; the second is that you pray for me and for Sarah and the boys, that we will all be blessed, refreshed and encouraged during the coming months.

Peace be with you

Matt

### **So what are the practicalities?**

Matt will be on sabbatical for the three months of May, June and July.

For much of that time he will be living at home in the manse. We all need to remember that it is important not to disturb him during this period of sabbatical. It is also important that we remember that part of Sarah's support for Matt at this time will be to 'protect' him from intrusion. She too needs our prayers and consideration.

Various arrangements have been made to ensure we do not need to disturb Matt and that the work of the fellowship can continue.

#### **Chairing meetings:**

- Team meetings will each agree a chair at the meeting prior to the sabbatical.
- WCBF Leadership Team meetings will be chaired by Margaret Nutter.

Members' and deacons' meetings will be chaired by the church secretary or someone delegated by the secretary.

#### **General contacts:**

Church secretaries will be the main contact person for each church.

#### **Funerals:**

In the event of church related funerals, Tony Taylor and Paul Severs are happy to be called upon.

#### **Pastoral care:**

- Matt has described the development of WCBF Pastoral Care team elsewhere in this magazine.

**Services:**

- These are already catered for through normal planning, but Now Praise will be co-ordinated by Julie and Kathryn

**Contacting Matt:**

- It would be very helpful to Matt if his name is taken off all round robin emails for the period of the sabbatical. Minutes and other documentation can be passed to him on his return.
- If any issue arises which Matt needs to be made aware of, this will be done by a nominated member of the leadership team. Church members should talk to their secretaries or representatives on the leadership team.

**Growing Women Leaders**

Sarah reports about this YBA initiative

Someone asked: "Why growing women leaders, why not encouraging or enabling women leaders?" The answer to that would be that "growing" implies starting from scratch whereas encouraging and enabling suggests existing growth that needs further development. Sadly, and in spite of our tradition's long history of ordaining women, Baptist churches still lack significant female presence in positions of leadership, especially in areas of preaching and other recognised ministries. Our inherited history is a male dominated history and for many women this can quash the sense of calling to various forms of ministry.

The "Growing Women Leaders" course has been established by the Yorkshire Baptist Association and Rev Dr Kate Coleman in order to create an opportunity for women to reflect on their place and role within church life. The initial day event at Wakefield Baptist Church provided me with some time out to think with Abi, Julie and Kathryn from West Craven and with many more women from across the association. The day was spent in worship, in lunching, in listening to each other and in being inspired through Kate's theological reflections. The input from Kate was an encouragement to us to engage with the leadership questions with which God had been challenging us, for some, over many years. After this initial event the course is set to run for another six sessions over the next twelve months.

The aim of the meetings is to give women the confidence and the relational support to respond to their calling to be leaders.

### **What is the West Craven Baptist Fellowship?**

The West Craven Baptist Fellowship (WCBF) is made up of the three Baptist Churches in West Craven; Barnoldswick, Salterforth and Mount Zion, Earby.

The three churches are committed to working together to serve God and the communities in which they are placed.

In September 2008, Revd. Matt Jones was called by all three churches to become the first minister of the Fellowship.

For the present, the three churches maintain their traditional structures with their own church officers and diaconates. Three congregations – one fellowship!

A recent development is a new pattern of meetings which will both reduce the total number of meetings and increase opportunities for the fellowship to meet together. There will be a three month cycle of leadership, members' and deacons' meetings. Meetings will be scheduled together. The church and deacons' meetings will start with united meetings which will then separate into individual church meetings to deal with local business. You will find the dates for these meetings for the rest of this year elsewhere in this magazine .

The churches are doing more and more together and currently there is a leadership group and three working groups which are leading developments and initiatives. The secretaries and treasurers of the three churches along with the WCBF secretary and treasurer make up an administration team which ensures we are legal and properly funded!

#### **Some of the things we do together:**

- Monthly prayer breakfast
- Study Groups in Lent and at other times
- Monthly Now Praise service on the second Sunday evening in the month
- Joint members' and deacons' meetings
- Walking group
- Tuesday club for children aged 7-11 and Café for parents
- United services
- Social events like parties and games evenings



### **Some of the things we are working on:**

- Developing a pastoral team
- Developing discipleship
- Planning pulpit supply across the fellowship
- Monthly meditative service on the fourth Sunday evening in the month – Reflections!
- Mission initiative for Christmas 2010
- Away Day in September 2010
- Appointing one or more people to leadership roles within the fellowship

### **Pastoral Care Team**

With the approach of my sabbatical, this seems like a good place to introduce the Pastoral Care Team. This is a small team of people who will be taking responsibility for pastoral care during my absence and if there are particular needs or concerns whilst I'm away they should be passed on to the team. This doesn't stop the wider fellowship from continuing your own caring relationships with one another and it doesn't replace the great work that is already done by those of you who take on visiting but it does offer some co-ordinated oversight to try and ensure that pastoral concerns are dealt with effectively. Some of the team will already be well known to you, others may not be, but it's my privilege to give them my encouragement and blessing as they serve West Craven in this way.

Take care of each other,  
Matt

If you need to make contact with the Pastoral Care Team, they are:

Carol Sneath: 816784

Christine Morgan: 842215

Malcolm Fisher: 430809

Melanie Mitchell: 841966

Sheila Heap: 842769



## *Kidz Korner*

This is your special section of the magazine. We hope you like it. When you have finished all the activities, hand the sheet to one of your Sunday Club Leaders and we will print your name in the next magazine. There may even be some prizes!



On Sunday 31st January 2010, the first 'Kidz Praise' party was held at Salterforth. The church was really packed. It was a truly amazing time as Annie Bryan (age 9) reports:

*At the end of January, there was a Kids Praise Party at Salterforth church. About 30 children were there. The worship band played, Matt told a story from the bible and we played some exciting games. Parents and grandparents could stay if they wanted.*

*Lucy Whipp said "I thought the band and songs were extremely good." One of my favourite bits was when we marched around the room, singing 'We are marching in the light of God'. I think most of the other children enjoyed it.*

*Finally, we all shared a delicious party tea. I hope there's another one soon!*

**We are pleased to let Annie know that there are plans for another Kidz Praise Party later in the year. Keep an eye out for further details.**

**PUZZLE TIME** name: \_\_\_\_\_ age: \_\_\_\_\_

The theme of the Kidz Praise event was Moses' encounter with God at the burning bush, the plagues of Egypt and the escape across the Red Sea. Complete the following wordsearch on the ten plagues. Then put the letters you have not used in order to complete the memory verse we learned that afternoon.

P	B	L	O	O	D	R	G	O	D	A
S	I	O	S	E	E	B	E	L	S	O
R	E	C	D	S	A	A	V	I	S	O
U	R	U	S	D	T	P	Y	G	E	A
I	L	S	G	Y	H	O	S	N	N	A
U	S	T	O	A	R	B	U	A	K	N
L	E	S	R	U	L	R	D	T	R	I
I	S	A	F	D	E	P	O	S	A	M
A	O	N	S	P	S	A	X	L	D	A
H	M	I	R	A	C	L	E	S	M	L
S	E	I	L	F	B	O	I	L	S	S

The words you are looking for are:

<i>Animals</i>	<i>Blood</i>	<i>Boils</i>
<i>Darkness</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Egypt</i>
<i>Exodus</i>	<i>Flies</i>	<i>Frogs</i>
<i>Gnats</i>	<i>God</i>	<i>Hail</i>
<i>Locusts</i>	<i>Miracles</i>	<i>Moses</i>
<i>Pharaoh</i>	<i>Plagues</i>	

**Memory Verse:**

\_\_\_\_\_ to the \_\_\_\_\_, to God our \_\_\_\_\_, who  
\_\_\_\_\_ bears \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ 68, verse 19

**Quiz:** *You can find the answers to the questions in Exodus Chapters 3, 4 and 14.*

- When God first spoke to Moses, how did he appear to Moses?
  
- When Moses came closer, God asked Moses to take off something he was wearing.  
What did Moses have to take off?
  
- God told Moses to throw his staff on the ground.  
What did it turn into?
  
- God told Moses to put his hand inside his shirt.  
When he pulled it out again, what had happened?
  
- What was the name of the sea that Moses parted when they escaped from Egypt?

*Colouring page*



**"The bush was blazing away but it didn't burn up!"**

## ***Family Profile:***

### ***The Mitchells***

In this section of the magazine, we would like to take the opportunity to profile different people from the fellowship. In this edition it is the turn of the “new” Mitchell family.



#### **Q: Who are you?**

A: We are Nicholas (Nick), Melanie (Mel) and Andrew Mitchell, not forgetting Alfie the rabbit of course!

#### **Q: Are you related to the Salterforth Mitchells?**

A: Not that we know of!

#### **Q: Where are you from?**

A: Nick is originally from Rochdale, and Mel from Buckinghamshire. We met in Colchester, where we both went to the University of Essex. We stayed in Colchester for about 13 years, as we were both perpetual students (16 years of University study between the two of us!). We got married in 2005 in Little Kingshill Baptist Church which Mel attended before she went to uni. We moved up to Earby in July 2008. We're less than an hour from Nick's family, although a lot further from Mel's, which she sometimes finds difficult. Andrew, of course, was born at Airedale last August.

#### **Q: What brought you here?**

A: Nick's desire to move back North – there just aren't enough hills in Essex! Mel got a job in Leeds a year before Nick got a job in Preston. We stuck a pin in the map for somewhere half way between the two places, and ended up here. We feel very blessed – we found a house we love, and a community we feel so comfortable in. It's just the sort of place we imagined settling and having a family.

**Q: You're recognised as playing in the band at the Now Praise services, but what are your day jobs?**

A: Following several years as a Software Engineer at BAE Systems, Nick is now a Senior Lecturer in Computing at the University of Central Lancashire in Preston. Mel was a Human Remains (oops – Resources) Officer at the University of Leeds, but has given that up to be a full-time mummy.

**Q: And your hobbies?**

A: Nick's great passion is steam engines. He loves seeing them, riding on them and making models of them, having even won trophies for his tiny N-gauge models. His favourite engine is Flying Scotsman, and even managed to get on to the footplate to go down on one knee and propose to Mel! When she finds a spare moment, Mel enjoys card-making and cooking. She's also been known to dabble in cross-stitch and longstitch, but it's been a while since she's managed any of that! Mel also loves languages – she studied French and Spanish at University, and would love to pick them up again, and possibly learn another one at evening class sometime in the future.

**Q: Were you brought up going to church?**

A: Nick was dedicated at Ebenezer (Doals) Baptist Church, Weir (near Bacup). Co-incidentally, the first minister there (from 1862) was one Mr Isaac Brown from Salterforth. When the family moved to Milnrow they didn't immediately find a church, but started attending Ogden Baptist regularly when Nick was 10. Although christened into the Church of England as a baby, Mel didn't start going to church regularly until she about 12 – churchgoing was something that happened on Christmas Eve, and for weddings and christenings. She, her mum and brother started going regularly to the small Baptist chapel near home after an invitation from some neighbours to a church Harvest Supper. She became a Christian about a year later during a summer event for children and teens in the village.

**Q: You are having Andrew dedicated at a service in April. Why is this important to you?**

A: As Christians, we want Andrew to know and understand what Jesus has done for him as he grows up. We also want to thank God for the most precious gift we have in this beautiful little boy. Having Andrew dedicated is a declaration before God of our intention and commitment to raising him according to His ways until Andrew is old enough to make his own decision to follow Jesus. It's great for us to know that we have the support of church friends and our families in this.

**Q: What do you like about the WCBF, and what are your hopes for its future?**

A: This is an interesting question for us, because we've never really known anything other than the WCBF set up in its current guise. We started attending Mount Zion about 2 or 3 weeks before Matt's induction, at a point when people were getting very excited about the Jones family's imminent arrival. The fellowship is so friendly, and very different from the large church we attended in Colchester where it was hard to get to know everyone (on one occasion Mel was asked if it was her first time there after she'd been attending for about 7 years!).

It's been very exciting to see the WCBF develop over the last eighteen months, and there's such a lot of potential going forward. We've really enjoyed getting involved in the band and playing at the Now Praise services, and would love to see that continue to flourish. We can see that there are so many gifts within the fellowship, and it will be great to continue seeing them being used to be able to cater for the needs of different groups of people, be it children, teenagers, older people, those who prefer quiet services or those who prefer louder ones, and starting new ventures over the course of time.

It would be lovely to see it grow and reach out to the local community, whilst retaining that family feel. We believe that the Fellowship is currently undertaking a journey of consolidation and unification under Matt's leadership (and naturally this takes time because it is such a big step), and that it is preparing to be able to do amazing things in the local communities of Barnoldswick, Salterforth and Earby. It's so important to keep praying that God reveals and makes clear his plans for the WCBF.

## **Social Group News**

The Social Group is now well established and is organising social events for the West Craven Baptist Fellowship to share.

Forthcoming events over Spring and Summer include:

A walk to Ingleborough Caves, with the option of climbing Ingleborough – Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> April

A Car Treasure Hunt, ending with a barbeque at Robert and Abi Whipp's, Bank Edge, Lockfield Drive, Barnoldswick – Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> July

(It is hoped to have a mini-bus running for the treasure hunt for non-drivers, or just join us for the barbeque afterwards)

Full details of both events later.

The Leprosy Mission Morecambe Bay Walk is on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> June. Robert Sneath will be doing this walk and would welcome some company! See Helen Edmondson for details.

The Walking group is also arranging walks on:



12<sup>th</sup> June,  
7<sup>th</sup> August,  
18<sup>th</sup> September  
16<sup>th</sup> October

Further details of length, level of difficulty etc. in due course.

## **Mission Group Report**

Mission is reaching into the world as gospel people by our words, thoughts and actions. The aim of the mission team is to:

1. Encourage existing activities and take the initiative of engaging in new mission activities and developing mission strategy;
2. To move the church forward as a mission community.

At the time of writing, the mission team is looking forward to hosting the screening of 'The Passion of the Christ' at the Rainhall Centre in Barnoldswick on Maundy Thursday.

We also organised distribution of UCB goody bags to all the children who attended a carol service at one of our churches.

As a community of believers, we are all Christ's ambassadors; each of us is a missionary. We all have opportunities to demonstrate the love of Jesus through our words or actions. However, many in our fellowship need to develop confidence in sharing our faith. A Bible study or house group programme could therefore have a big impact on our identity as a mission community and we hope to have some involvement in the development of this in the future.



Members of the WCBF are very active in our local Christian Aid Committee.

This year a new sponsored walk has been planned for Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> May. It is a ten mile walk with the first five taking us along the canal as far as East Marton, an easy pushchair-friendly flat walk. After that the route follows the West Craven Way through open countryside with spectacular views of Pendle as far as Horton. Minibus transport will be available to take walkers back to Earby or Barnoldswick from all checkpoints. Sponsor cards are now available.

We will also be involved in street collections in Earby and Barnoldswick on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> May.

If you can help in any way, please see John, Julie, Margaret or Robert.

## **From the Worship Group**

Gathering together to worship God at the start of the week is possibly the most important part of church life.

Our minister, Matt, leads one of the WCBF services each week and a wide range of other people lead the remaining services. Sunday morning services across the fellowship vary in style and content. Sometimes the focus is on communion, at other times all-age worship. Whatever your need on a particular Sunday, you will find something to suit you in one of the churches.

Our monthly 'What's On' Sheet gives full details of all services. In addition to these morning services there is a lively contemporary praise service on the second Sunday of each month at 6.30 p.m. at Barnoldswick.

During November and December the people who regularly attend church were asked to complete a survey about ways in which they would like to see our worship develop.

As a result we are planning to hold a quieter, more contemplative service on the fourth Sunday evening of the month. Initially these services will go under the name 'Reflections' and the first of these will be on 25<sup>th</sup> April at Salterforth.

We also plan to develop more Bible Study and Prayer Groups as time goes on.

Planning leaders and preachers for services needs to be done well in advance. Planning for 2011 is happening now and if you have any comments or suggestions about people you would like to see leading worship, please talk to Matt, Stuart Bryan or Michael Nutter.

Whether you come to church regularly or occasionally or if it is something you have never done, you can be sure you will be welcome at any service.

**WCBF Leadership Team, Deacons and Church Meeting Dates:**

Wednesday 14 <sup>th</sup> April	Leadership Team
Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup> April	Members' Meeting at Salterforth
Tuesday 18 <sup>th</sup> May	Leadership Team
Wednesday 9 <sup>th</sup> June	Deacons' Meeting at Barnoldswick
Wednesday 14 <sup>th</sup> July	Members' Meeting at Earby
Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> August	Leadership Team
Wednesday 8 <sup>th</sup> September	Deacons' Meeting at Salterforth
Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup> October	Members' Meeting at Barnoldswick
Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> November	Leadership Team
Wednesday 24 <sup>th</sup> November	Administration Team at Barnoldswick
Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> December	Deacons' Meeting at Earby
Wednesday 19 <sup>th</sup> January	AGM at Barnoldswick

Contacts:

<b>Church</b>	<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Leadership Team</b>
Barnoldswick	Keith Whipp	Shaun Cole Margaret Nutter
Mount Zion	Trish Pepper	Julie Bryan Christine Morgan
Salterforth	Brian Mitchell	Mary Mitchell Rita Mitchell
WCBF	Kathryn Fisher	Kathryn Fisher Malcolm Fisher (treasurer)

**Stop Press: Book the date**  
**West Craven Baptist Fellowship Day**  
**What: a day for all ages on the theme "It's good to talk"**  
**When: Saturday September 4th**  
**Where: West Lane Baptist Church, Howarth**

## **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)

### **Secretaries:**

#### **WCBF**

Kathryn Fisher: 01282 430809

#### **Barnoldswick**

Keith Whipp: 01282 815196

#### **Earby**

Trish Pepper: 01282 843364

#### **Salterforth**

Brian Mitchell: 01282 842302

### **Minister:**

Matt Jones: 01282 815374

Please note that the minister will not be available during the months of May – July inclusive as he will be on sabbatical leave.  
(see page 3)

### **Magazine Coordinators:**

Melanie Mitchell 01282 841996

Margaret Nutter 01282 813582