

AUGUST 2011

RUSH HILL UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

FROME ROAD, BATH

MINISTERS:

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ACTIVITIES

SUNDAYS

10.30 am Morning Worship

HOLY COMMUNION

Every 2nd Sunday morning

TUESDAYS

5.00 pm Rainbows

6.00 pm Brownies

THURSDAYS

9.30 am Ramblers

7.00 pm Guides

CALENDAR FOR AUGUST

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| 7th | 10.30am Morning Worship
led by Mr Peter Rouse |
| 14th | 10.30am Morning Worship
and Holy Communion led by
Rev Helen Pattie |
| 21st | 10.30am Morning Worship
led by Rev Helen Pattie |
| 23rd | 7.30 pm Bible Study
The New Creation led by
Rev David Pattie |
| 28th | 10.30am Morning Worship
Led by Mr Matthew Pattie |
| Sept
2nd | Elders Meeting |
| 4th | 10.30am Morning Worship
led by Rev Helen Pattie |

Dear Friends,

Thomas Babington Macaulay (1800-1859), politician, historian and poet, took a very dim view of British hypocrisy. He wrote ...

"The Puritan hated bear-baiting, not because it gave pain to the bear, but because it gave pleasure to the spectators. We know of no spectacle so ridiculous as the British public in one of its periodical fits of morality"

I wonder what Macaulay would have made of ever-unfolding revelations concerning 'phone-hacking' at the News Of The World, and the consequent allegations of corruption in the ranks of the Metropolitan Police Force? On one level the whole sorry saga is distressing, depressing and a sad insight into the workings of the Fourth Estate and the forces of Law and Order.

Many of us will have been genuinely shocked to learn of the alleged intrusions into the private lives of ordinary citizens in their darkest moments of deepest grief. The exploitation of the vulnerable-bereaved - for profit. Interference in criminal cases - for shareholder dividends. These acts leave a nasty taste in the mouth.

Even more-foul the taste left behind when we learn that it appears that is no longer really possible to trust our public guardians - the great British Police. Indeed, we might paraphrase the Roman Poet Juvenal who wrote *"Quis custodiet ipsos custodes?"* (Satire VI), and ask ... *"Who will police the police?"*

Yet, in the midst of this condemnation my mind is drawn back to the words of Macaulay *"We know of no spectacle so ridiculous as the British public in one of its periodical fits of morality"*!

For as several Members of Parliament observed during the emergency debate of 6th July - these things would not happen if the British public would refrain from parting with their hard earned cash to buy these newspapers. In other words, it was suggested that the public 'black' the publications of News International (The Times, The Sun, The News Of The World, The Sunday Times) until the message goes home. Hit them where it hurts ... in their profits! But sadly, many people like the sensational, the salacious, the speculative and the scandalous. That is why these publications are so popular.

The compiler of the Book of Proverbs, our biblical library of 'Wisdom', knew human nature only too well. Proverbs 18:8 says: *"Gossip is so tasty - how we love to swallow it!"* And that, sadly, is reality for many ... most (?) who buy these publications ... and then rush out to condemn them.

The challenge, I suppose, for the Christian person is to rise above this national hypocrisy and regain the moral high ground. To recognise that humans tend to be 'hard-wired' to 'swallow gossip' and recognising this - be proactive in rejecting it.

We can concur with the bestselling author Ian Rankin when he says *"We seem to be going to hell in a handcart"* and then respond to the present scandal by considering what news gathering methods we as individuals will fund ... either in our daily news buying, or in our share portfolios. Let us be people who do not *'find gossip tasty'* but rather those who *"have joy in what is true"* (1 Corinthians 13:6b)

Revd David

400m gold medallist reads Olympic prayer 400 days ahead of 2012 Games - and counting

This summer, with a year to go to the start of the London Olympics, the Church of England released a prayer for those preparing for the 2012 Games. It asks God to be with the athletes, their supporters and families, and the thousands of churches preparing to organise Olympics-themed events in their communities, and it is read on a new podcast by GB Olympic 400m gold medallist Christine Ohuruogu MBE. The Church of England is a member of the ecumenical organisation More Than Gold, which supports churches of all denominations around the UK with resources and ideas as they prepare to engage with the Games. The prayer, composed by the Revd Christopher Woods, the Church of England's National Worship Development Officer, reads as follows:

Eternal God,

Giver of joy and source of all strength, we pray for those who prepare for the London Olympic and Paralympic games. For the competitors training for the Games and their loved ones, For the many thousands who will support them, And for the Churches and others who are organising special events and who will welcome many people from many nations.

In a world where many are rejected and abused, we pray for a spirit of tolerance and acceptance, of humility and respect and for the health and safety of all. May we at the last be led towards the love of Christ who is more than gold, today and forever. Amen

VISIT TO ZAMBIA

For over a decade I have been travelling to Zambia with an agency called the Romans 1:11 Trust as a guest of our sister denomination – The Church of Central Africa Presbyterian (CCAP). Over that time I have been involved leading teams of clergy and laypeople to train Ordinands, Ministers and Elders.

Two years ago I was honoured to be appointed as a visiting lecturer at the denominations Theological College at Chasefu. In addition I have been involved with the CCAP HIV/AIDS Care & Prevention Programmes. Over a number of visits, and in financial-partnership with Rotary International, I have supervised the provision of protective clothing, training and equipment for the home nursing/care programme.

A further extension of this was the launch in 2007 of two HIV/AIDS Prevention Projects for young men and women – 'Footballs for Zambia' and 'Netballs for Zambia' - These being programmes of structured sporting activity with HIV/AIDS Prevention education given as part of the coaching regime – We provide the resources for the playing equipment.

This year, in August (14-22), I will be in Lusaka, Zambia. This time as a speaker at the CCAP National Youth Conference. I am accompanied by another minister and a member of the URC FURY Group. The Youth Conference is a biannual event attracting 500-600 delegates. The event is to be opened by the First Lady of the Republic of Zambia and is a major fixture in the CCAP calendar.

Beyond the conference I will be visiting churches and projects. I also intend to select suitable people from Zambia to visit us here in the UK during 2012.

Thank you for your support and interest.

Rev. David.

COMMITMENT FOR LIFE PRAYER FOR AUGUST

Pray then in this way: our father in heaven...your Kingdom come. Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven...forgive us our debts as we also forgive our debtors
Matthew 6: 9-14

How can you bless the widow's mite when your children place value on coins and notes, and her orphans starve in want and need?
How can you bless the widow's mite when your children wear respect as labels and tags, and her orphans earn next to nothing?
How can you bless the widow's mite when you children are consumed by must-have debt, and her orphans are burdened by international greed?
Forgive us the debts we owe to others, grant us to work for the good of all, Save us from ourselves and lead us into your ways of righteousness
Amen

ALL IN THE MONTH OF AUGUST It was
300 years ago:- on 11th August 1711 that the first horse race meeting at Ascot took place, initiated by Queen Anne.

100 years ago: on 10th August 1911 that British members of Parliament voted to receive salaries for the first time..

75 years ago: on 1st August 1936 that the XI Olympic Games opened in Berlin, Germany. It was the last Olympics for 12 years, due to World War II.

40 years ago: on 6th August 1971 British sailor Chay Blyth became the first person to sail non-stop around the world in the 'wrong' direction (i.e. westward), against all the prevailing winds and currents.

30 years ago: on 12th August 1981 that IBM launched the Personal Computer (PC).

20 years ago: on 6th August 1991, that the first ever website (info.cern.ch) went live.

SOCIAL CALENDAR

Saturday August 6th

Trip to Abergavenny Market, and Brecon Mountain Railway—NOW FULLY BOOKED

Saturday 10th September

Pub Walk—meet at Newton St Loe Church at 10am for a 2—3 hour walk followed by lunch at The Globe. See Carol or Clair for more information

Sunday 23rd October

Church Anniversary and Harvest Lunch—Sunday lunch to follow the morning service

Saturday 19th November

Craft Fair at Rush Hill. Jewellery, glass, pottery, and other crafts, refreshments and light lunches. 11am—2pm. See Carol for more details and to book a stall.

Friday 2nd December

Carols and Chips Getting the festive season underway, 6pm for chips, 7pm for Carols.

Tuesday 20th December

Fish and Chip Supper and Social at Central URC

"Thanks"

Carol, Cara and Joe would like to thank all friends at Rush Hill for their immense kindness, support and prayers during their period of bereavement. We have been overwhelmed by your cards, flowers and visits and continue to take great comfort from them. Thank you so very much.



"Looks like no one was available to fill in for the vicar's annual holiday again."

FAMILY NEWS

It is with great sadness that we record the passing this month of Ian, husband of Carol Lacey and of Valerie, daughter of Edna Ball.

We also report that Olive Willoughby is currently in Midford Ward at the RUH.

Carol, Edna, Bert, and their families are in our thoughts and prayers.



Congratulations to

Cara Lacey and Christopher Nash on their

recent Graduation—Cara from Exeter and Christopher from Birmingham. We wish them every success as they take their first steps towards their future careers.

FLOWERS

Aug	7th	Audrey
	14th	Spare
	21st	Carol
	28th	Chris and Pete
Sept	4th	Spare
	11th	Beryl

CHILDRENS ROTA

Aug	7th	Sue
	14th	Sue
	21st	Jackie
	28th	Carol
Sept	4th	Sue
	11th	Jackie

CHURCH CLEANING

Aug	7th	Maintenance Team
	14th	Mrs J Jones
	21st	Mrs C Rumble
	28th	Mrs E Rumble
Sept	4th	Maintenance Team
	11th	Miss A Child

NEWSLETTER

Items for the next issue to Sue Thurston by 21st August.