

HIGHER THOUGHTS...

Living your fullest life

'...my purpose is to give life in all its fullness.' John 10:10

Living your fullest life requires three things:

1) A good mentor. Paul writes: 'Stick with me, friends...' (Philippians 3:17 TM). Good mentors lead by example; they know that in order to be followed they must first be respected. They carefully tailor their instructions by understanding your strengths and weaknesses; knowing whether you are right-brained creative/intuitive or left-brained analytical. They know whether you learn visually or verbally. They know when you need a pat on the back or a kick in the seat of the pants. If you have such a mentor you're blessed. If you don't, ask God for one.

2) Your best effort. Andrew Carnegie said, 'There's no use in trying to help people who won't help themselves. You cannot push anyone up a ladder unless he or she is first willing to climb it.'

3) A little extra. This is the 'extra mile' principle Jesus taught (Matthew 5:41). It involves: a) a little extra effort. Art Williams said, 'You beat 50% of the people by working hard; you beat the other 40% by being a person of honesty...and the last 10% is a dog fight.' If you want to win that fight, make up your mind to always do a little extra b) extra time. '...Though it linger, wait for it; it will certainly come...' (Habakkuk 2:3 NIV). Guyton Berglund, the sculptor who created the memorial to the American Presidents at Mount Rushmore, was asked if he considered his work to be perfect. He supposedly replied, 'Not today. The nose of President Washington is an inch too long. It's better that way though. It will erode and be exactly right in 10,000 years.'

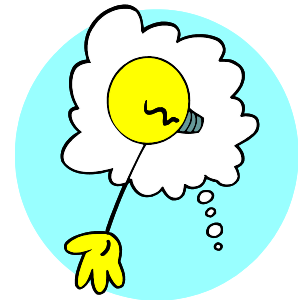
by Bob Gass—UCB Word for Today

'All Age Worship' the Millennium Room

On Sunday 11th January we held our first 'All Age Worship' meeting in the Millennium Room at Pitstone Memorial Hall. Sheridan and I felt it went quite well for a first attempt and there were about 18 'children of all ages' there. We decided to start with this to try to reach families with younger children and give an alternative to 'normal' church (whatever that may mean).

We will continue this in February and March to test the waters since advertising materials could not be published in time for the January meeting. Please try to encourage those in your families to come along and any you know living around you. It would be a wonderful problem to have if in six months time we were looking for people to teach a small group in Sunday School!

I still believe that if we are to grow numerically, God is asking us to call back the prodigals who are close to us and who are seeking food elsewhere. To coin an over-used phrase 'Everyone Win One'. If this were possible, and I'm sure it is even in Ivinghoe and Pitstone, we double the fellowship in a year. Something to think about!



THOUGHTS FROM A CHURCH SEEKER

I want to change, but I don't know how,
Society shunned me a long time ago.
I've done wrong, must put things right,
I need someone who will help me to fight.

I heard once that Christians are loving and kind,
Perhaps they're the ones who will help me to find
Peace and hope, a reason to live,
They would not judge, only forgive.

What will I find when I come through your door,
Committees and meetings, cliques by the score.
Complaining, backbiting, rumour, unease,
Self gratification, social disease?

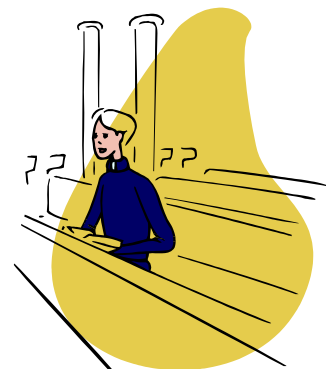
Would you ask me to move if I sat in your seat,
Ask me to stop if I move to the beat.
Think me quite odd if I cry out in despair,
Rebuke me sternly "We don't do that here"?

Am I unworthy to be in your midst,
Don't have the qualities down on your list.
My language and dress are not to your taste,
The life that I live fills you with distaste?

Do I see a people with time for the lost,
Working together whatever the cost.
Will I feel that I shouldn't be there,
If I stay away would you really care?

Will you receive me and lead me inside,
Welcome a stranger with arms open wide.
Warm and sincere would you ask me to stay,
Still be my friend at the end of the day?

Sheridan Clifford



Gift Aid on Your Offering

For those of us who pay tax, covenanting our giving can be very helpful since an extra percentage can be reclaimed at the end of the year. It does not cost us any more, but is reclaimed from Inland Revenue on the tax we pay on our income. If you would be interested in joining the scheme please discuss it with me.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY FEBRUARY

8TH FEBRUARY— 'All Age Worship'
3.00p.m. in the Millennium Room (No Chapel Service)

16th — 22nd FEBRUARY— 'STORK WEEK' - Ele (Dave and Sheridan's daughter) due to deliver. We may not be around much this week. David Pollard has kindly agreed to preach as required. Thank you David.

26th FEBRUARY— LENTEN LUNCH, Pitstone —Any ladies who would like to help or know more, speak to Sheila.

MARCH

6th MARCH - 'WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER' at I&PC

8th MARCH — 'All Age Worship'
3.00p.m. in the Millennium Room (No Chapel Service)

15th MARCH — Rob Webb from Rural Ministries will be speaking at our morning service.

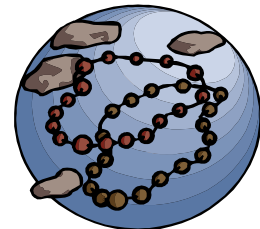
26th MARCH — LENTEN LUNCH, Ivinghoe —Any ladies who would like to help or know more, speak to Sheila.



WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER— MARCH 6th at 2.00p.m.

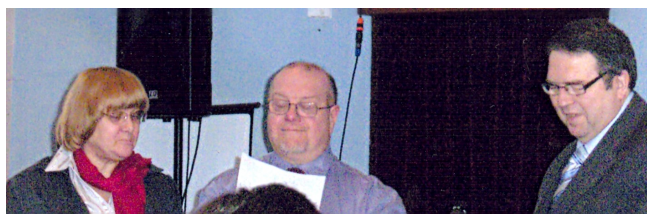
This year it is our turn to host this event so I hope as many of us as possible will be able to support it and Sheridan has been asked to give the address on that day.

This year the service materials have been prepared by people in Papua New Guinea. The focus will be on Christian living and concern for their country.



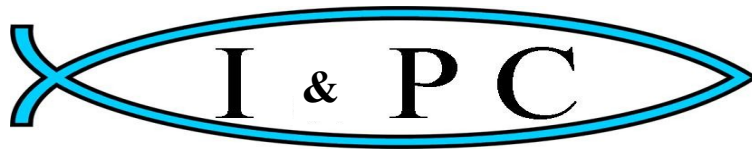
AND FINALLY....

A big thank you to all of who made our Induction Service and Welcoming so memorable for us. Colin Hale felt at home as did the Dudley Mob!



Thanks for the photos Stewart and Mary.

Thanks and God Bless.



IVINGHOE & PITSTONE CHAPEL NEWSLETTER

Issue 1—January 2009



STOP PRESS NEWS.....

**Bible Study starts TUESDAY 27TH JAN.—10 a.m. 'til Noon
At 60 Albion Road.**

Hello and welcome to the first issue of our very own Newsletter.

The idea of this publication is not to replace PPP or Parish News, but to provide information, news, spiritual issue to meditate on and dates for diaries for our own members. The circulation will be small—our own fellowship and any one else you would like to pass on to, to encourage them to worship with us.

I expect things will be a bit quiet to start with, but I'm sure you will all be able to contribute and share your experiences, thoughts, favourite scriptures, hymns, poems and more in future issues.

If you feel you have items of interest, let me have a copy of them (editor's decision is final however). Or if you have news or maybe just want to share something, contact me on

or by mail at 01296 660023,
or if you have a computer at 60 Albion Road, Pitstone, Beds.. LU7 9AY,
davidclifford954@btinternet.com

I look forward to hearing from you and receiving your contributions.

Pastor Dave Clifford