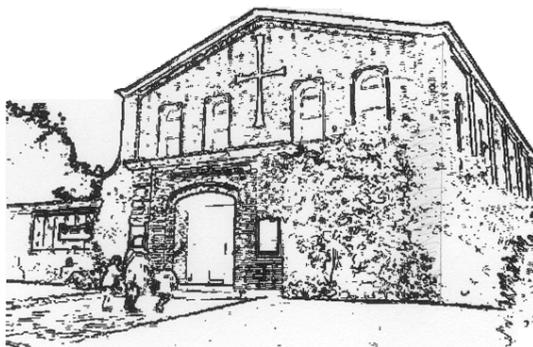




FOCUS



ISSUE NUMBER 109
JUNE & JULY 2014

www.st-georges-urc-hemel.org.uk

The Minister's message

Dear Friends,

“Once when Jesus was praying in private and his disciples were with him, he asked them, “Who do the crowds say I am?” They replied, “Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, that one of the prophets of long ago has come back to life.” “But what about you?” he asked. “Who do you say I am?” Peter answered, “God’s Messiah.” *Luke 9:18-20*

“Who do you say I am?” That’s a question Jesus asks each and every one of us. For most of us I hope our answer would be LORD. But what does that mean?

‘Jesus is Lord’ (*1 Corinthians 12:3*) is the distinguishing article of Christianity and marks the essential confession of faith (*Romans 10:9*). The expression "Lord" (*kurios*) speaks of ownership, while "Master/Lord" denotes an unquestionable right to command (*John 13:13; Jude 4*). Both words describe a master with absolute power over someone else. That explains Jesus' incredulity at the practice of those who paid homage to Him with their lips but not with their lives: "Why do you call Me, 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do what I say?" (*Luke 6:46*).

When clearing out my late mother-in-law’s house Mark found a large box of jewellery. As we looked through, a few of the items had hallmarks indicating that they were made of real silver or gold; others didn’t and were costume jewellery. Shiny baubles, pretty from a distance, but of no intrinsic worth. And it got me to thinking: does my life bear the hallmark of an authentic faith?

The difference between what is authentic and what is imitation can be enormous. Imitation watches and reproduction purses are of little consequence. But in things that matter, like love, relationships, heroes, friendship, and religion, people crave for what is real. They are tempted to become cynical by disappointments they suffer from people who are false.

So, what are the marks of an authentic Christian? You could answer, "faith, hope, and love" (*1 Cor. 13:13*), "the fruit of the Spirit" (*Gal. 5:22-23*), or being "holy" (*1 Pet. 1:15*), and all of these would be correct. But surely the best answer is "love." Jesus said that "the great and first commandment" is to "love the Lord your God," and that the second is to "love your neighbour." All of the Law and the Prophets stand on these two pillars (*Matt. 22:37-40*). We may have amazing gifts, knowledge, and faith, but without love we are nothing and have nothing (*1 Cor. 13:1-3*). Here is the mark by which others "will know" that we are true disciples of Christ (*John 13:35*). The mark of this authentic love is obedience—observing all that Christ commands. Jesus said, "If you love me, you will keep my commandments" (*John 14:15*).

I want to finish my letter with some words I read recently (by A. Troxel):

"The reason why a love driven by obedience is paramount is that such love is not just the mark of a true Christian, but also the mark of Christ. Here is where we can best imitate our Redeemer. Christ himself said, "I do as the Father has commanded me, so that the world may know that I love the Father" (*John 14:31*). Jesus does not ask us to do what he is unwilling to embody himself. Obeying his Father's will was his delight, his spiritual food, and his life's purpose (*John 4:34; 6:38*). His obedience unto death on the cross demonstrated his love for us and the sincerity of his love for the Father (*Rom. 5:8*). Such is the genuine love that we want people to see in us and in our churches, so that they will say, "There is a true Christian. There is an authentic church." Such is the love and obedience that we want to see in ourselves as well, so that we will be able to say to our God, "I am sincerely yours."

Jane

UPDATE ON BADGER

We have now heard officially that Badger has qualified and has now been handed over to his new blind owner. He is a retired Solicitor and lives somewhere in Kent and apparently has a busy social life so Badger will be in his element but unfortunately unless the gentleman decides to get in touch we will not know what part of Kent he is in and how is doing. Badger during his last part of training went to Brighton for a demonstration to show people what Guide Dogs have to do. During this demonstration Badger had to walk the Mayor of Brighton around the town blindfold. Badger was a big hit with the Mayor and the public (which we knew he would be) and was also lucky to have his picture taken with The Stig (from Top Gear). We just hope and pray that Badger has gone to a loving and caring owner and has a good life.

We have just received from Guide Dogs for the Blind an official letter concerning the new law to protect Guide Dog owners and the Dogs.

On Tuesday 13th May the changes to the Dangerous Dog Act which is part of the Anti-Social Behaviour Act came into force.

Dog owners can now face up to three years in prison if an assistance dog is attacked. Guide Dogs has been campaigning for this change and welcomes the new tougher sentences.

James White, Campaigns Manager, Guide Dogs, said:

“Attacks on guide dogs are extremely distressing for their owners. Not only is the attack itself traumatic but if the dog has to be withdrawn from the service then the guide dog owner may have trouble leaving home on their own.

We hope the new tougher sentences for owners whose dogs attack guide dogs will act as a strong deterrent. With an average of 10 guide dogs currently being attacked every month, we are now looking to the police to fully use their new powers.”

Guide Dog owner Jemma Brown's dog Gus was attacked on many occasions. He was eventually withdrawn from service when the stress of the attacks meant he struggled to work properly.

Commenting Jemma said:

“The trauma of a dog attack doesn't end with the attack itself. It can leave its mark both physically and psychologically. Unfortunately, this law will not stop attacks on guide dogs overnight, but it will serve as a deterrent and make it easier to take action against dog owners whose dogs attack guide dogs.”

If you want to read more about this or get other information concerning all aspects of The Guide Dogs for the Blind Association you can go to their website: www.guidedogs.org.uk

Julia & Roy Brown



NEW CHRISTIAN CYCLING CLUB IN HEMEL HEMPSTEAD

Owen Cooper from New Horizons Christian Fellowship and Dave Tate from Haven House would like to start a new road cycling club, meeting early on Saturday morning. Many of the local clubs meet on Sunday morning, which clashes with Church fellowship, hence the Saturday get-together.

We would welcome all standards, whether you are a seasoned cyclist or someone who is just starting out and would love to get fitter. It will be a great time of fellowship and at the same time getting healthy. Don't worry we will deserve the coffee and cake stop. Many of my friends have stated that they would love to start cycling but find it hard to get motivated on their own, so here is the answer.

If anyone is interested in joining us please contact:

Owen Cooper on 07939 155 133 or by email at owencooper@capuk.org

Look forward to hearing from you.

Owen Cooper



**DEADLINE
FOR
AUGUST & SEPTEMBER 2014
ISSUE OF FOCUS
SUNDAY 20TH JULY**

Ideally send contributions to
watson@melsted16.co.uk
but hand-written articles given to Judy are
also very welcome!



Can you help out at this year's Holiday Bible club?

Monday 29th July setting up 9.30- 10.30 a.m. – Sorting tables out, setting up activities etc.

The holiday Bible club will be running **Tuesday – Friday volunteers** need to be here from **9.15 a.m. -12.15 p.m.**

Adults needed as **team leaders and helpers** - please let Jane know which days you are available

N.B. Child protection: If you do not already hold a DBS with St. George's please speak to Jeremy Flynn asap. (for those over 18).

Young People required - if you are senior school and you would like to help out please let Jane know which days you are available.

If you are able to help with **refreshments or registration** please speak to Gill Griffin.

Prayer Warriors required – Without prayer we labour in vain. If you are willing to pray for the club in the weeks leading up to the event and receive daily updates during it, please let Jane know.



Bible Dingbats

(Answers at the back of Focus!)

Created by Biblepuzzles.org.uk

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| <p>LION LION LION LIO LION LION DANIEL NOIT NOIT NOIT N N LION LIO</p> | <p>SPEECH EVEREST</p> | <p>MON ↗ MON MON MON MON</p> |
| | | |
| <p>LISTEN! WAIT! START! STAND! JUMP! Go! FETCH! STOP! LOOK! SIT!</p> | <p> NEWS</p> | <p>YYYYYYYYY </p> |
| | | |
| <p>SHEEP SHEEP SHEEP SHEEP SHEEP SHEEP SHEEP SHEEP SHEEP SHEEP SHEEP SHEEP SHEEP SHEEP</p> | <p>PROPHETS → PROPHETS</p> | <p>SPIRIT</p> |

**CONGRATUATIONS
JACK PAYNE
FOR
BEING ACCEPTED
INTO THE ARMY
LOVE
*MUM & NAT***



Booking now for 2015

Having just come back from a fantastic time of fellowship, teaching, relaxation and fun, Spring Harvest 2015 seems so far away. But it's not! **The booking deadline for next year is mid-June this year**, so if you don't want to miss out on this fantastic event, please think about booking your places now.

The dates for the event are 6th to 10th April 2015 in Minehead
(other dates available: Minehead 28/3-2/4, 3-6/4; Skegness 7-10/4; your own booking if required)

I don't know the prices yet, but it is likely to be slightly more than this year. Rachel and I would love to take the youth again, so please talk to your youngsters and see if they'd like to come.

We will also co-ordinate the adult/family places if you would like us to. This year some people had to cancel their places last minute whilst others were booking last minute. If you are interested in going but cannot fill a full chalet, there may be others in the same situation willing to share. It would be really nice to have a large crowd from St Georges, so put your names down and we'll see what we can do.

If you would like to come and be part of the youth leadership, please let me know.

If you can't come, but would like to sponsor a youth place (in full or part) this would be a very kind gesture and may allow a youngster to encounter a great time they perhaps would not otherwise be able to experience because of cost.

Next year's title is **IMMEASURABLY MORE** – why not check out the website springharvest.org or [#ThereIsMore](https://twitter.com/ThereIsMore)

BOOK YOUR PLACES BY 15TH JUNE

Red hoodies????

Linda

Pray

Beware in your prayers, above everything else, of limiting God, not only by unbelief, but by fancying that you know what He can do. Expect unexpected things, 'above all that we ask or think'. Each time, before you intercede, be quiet first, and worship God in His glory. Think of what He can do, and how He delights to hear the prayers of His redeemed people. Think of your place and privilege in Christ, and expect great things!

-Andrew Murray

Andrew Murray (1828 – 1917) was a South African writer, teacher and Christian pastor. He is the author of over 240 books.

Lord, Teach Us To Pray

by Andrew Murray

written in 1896



This book was converted to digital format (ebook) and released in September 2008 by Project Gutenberg. It is available free on the web.

Reviews and comments

This was a short but wonderful read with timeless lessons on prayer. --- Tatuu

I loved the richness of the old English it was written in. The depth he brought out for the words we say so easily, yet don't really understand the full meaning of. ---- Georgia Thomlison

I read a few pages during devotion and learned more and more about the importance, power and pleasure of prayer. Andrew Murray dissects the Lord's Prayer and reveals the gospel in it. --- Nathan Kahue

The book is simple and an easy read. It makes you feel as though someone is holding your hand showing you where to go --- Divine 47

This is a little gem. Murray gives us four reflections on how the Lord teaches us to pray. The first is taken from the title verse and simply reflects on the significance of each word in the request. The second explores what it means to pray in spirit and in truth. The third focuses on the prayer in secret and the rewards the Lord gives those who seek him. The last is a phrase by phrase reflection on the Lord's prayer. Each of these studies concludes with a prayer of response to the truths in these reflections. This can be read at a sitting and obtained for free for various e-readers. Not to be missed! --- Bob

Where to find the book online

| | |
|--|---|
|  <p>Public domain ebooks</p> | <p>Books by Andrew Murray available on Project Gutenberg</p> <p>http://www.gutenberg.org/browse/authors/m#a4672</p> |
|  | <p>Andrew Murray's <i>Lord, Teach us to Pray</i> available for download on Project Gutenberg</p> <p>http://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/26709</p> |
|  | <p>The Kindle version can be obtained from the Amazon store.</p> <p>http://www.amazon.co.uk/Lord-Teach-Us-To-Pray-ebook/dp/B004TIJJOW</p> |
|  <p>Free public domain audiobooks</p> | <p>The audio version of the book can be found on Librivox –the first 5 audio files of 'With Christ in the School of Prayer'</p> <p>librivox.org/with-christ-in-the-school-of-prayer-by-andrew-murray</p> |

WEDNESDAY WELCOME

When we realised that the first summer meeting was on St. George's Day, it seemed appropriate to mark it in some way. Ladies were asked to wear red, white and blue, with a small prize for the best outfit.

We couldn't find out why our church is dedicated to St. George, but did some research on the subject, and discovered some historical information regarding the dragon, a poor neglected reptile, as follows:

Not long ago I found a fragment of parchment – scorched round the edges – amongst my Dad's papers. The writing was archaic and faded but I could just work out that it was in Latin. Luckily someone – my Dad, perhaps- had translated the contents into rather free-and-easy modern English. This is what it said.

“First of all, let's get one thing straight: dragons are vegetarian. That's right: vegetarian. No way do we eat young women, innocent or otherwise. How my poor family got so misunderstood, and my story twisted I can't imagine. Jealousy, I suppose, for in the remote corner of the ancient world where I lived, I was the chosen companion, pet if you must use that word, of royalty, – oh, my princess loved me, and I loved her. She could have walked from one end of the kingdom to the other without a qualm if I was with her. There was just one problem. Dragons breathe fire – we can't help it – and I believe they had difficulties with fire insurance. Well, there were one or two little accidents – a house here and there, the odd stable – little things, nothing too serious. However, if we're taken for long walks and allowed to stretch our wings, and generally get tired out, the flames die down to just little puffs of smoke. And life was so beautiful until one day....”

At this point the parchment is all smudged, as though large tears had fallen on it so there's a gap in the translation, but it continues –

“...so Princess Lucinda ran screaming towards me, and I realised that a thing in a tin suit was waving a sword in a very dangerous manner and was between us and the city gates, frightening the poor girl out of her wits. So I roared. And nothing happened –my fire had all but gone out after our brisk walk. So I charged this tin thing, and bumped into Lucinda – poor girl wasn't looking where she was going – she would not wear her glasses - and I fell over and hit my head on a stone.

When I came to the tin suited thing had one foot on my head and was telling Lucinda he'd saved her from the maiden-eating dragon. Well, you all know what happened next. Perhaps I should explain that Lucinda was – well – rather plump – oh, and well, other things – her teeth – poor dear – and a bit spotty. Anyway after that it was all downhill for me. When I got to my feet I found the town gate firmly barred. I was locked out. Couldn't believe it. Lucinda came to a little hatch in the great gates "Go away" she hissed at me "This may be my last chance. Dad's going to offer him my hand in marriage. Get lost."

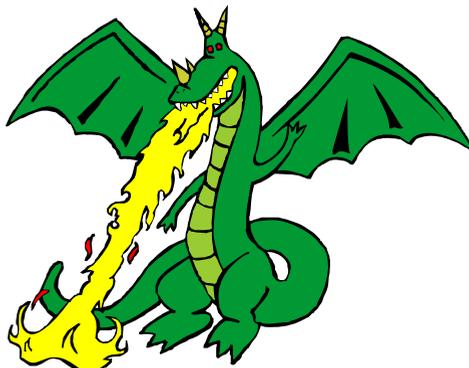
So here I am in this horrible cold cave. I seem to have caught a cold and

And here the parchment ended in a scorch mark. Maybe the poor dragon sneezed?

The person who provided this "research", not surprisingly, wishes to remain anonymous!

However, on a more serious note, we did reflect that there really are plenty of 'dragons' ready for slaying – loneliness, ill-health, hunger, poverty and so on.

Judy Watson

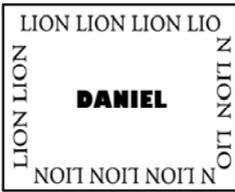
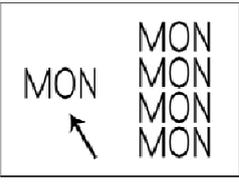
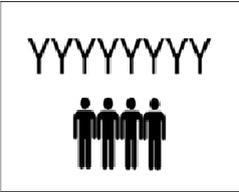
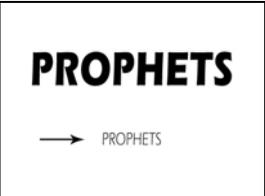


P.S. Does
why our church is dedicated to St. George?

anyone know

Bible Dingbats Answers

Created by Biblepuzzles.org.uk

| | | |
|---|---|---|
|  |  |  |
| <p>Daniel in the Lions' Den (Dan 6)</p> | <p>Sermon on the Mount (Matt 5)</p> | <p>Solomon (2 Sam 12:24)</p> |
|  |  |  |
| <p>Ten Commandments (Exo 20)</p> | <p>Good News (Pro 25:25)</p> | <p>Wise Men (Matt 2:1)</p> |
|  |  |  |
| <p>Lost Sheep (Luke 15)</p> | <p>The Minor Prophets</p> | <p>Holy Spirit (Acts 2:4)</p> |

WEEKDAY ACTIVITIES

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| Mondays | <u>Home Group</u> : - 8.00 p.m. Leaders: Linda & Kevin York <u>Home Group</u> –Leaders Amanda and Dan Hobbs NB For the time being, day, venue, leader & time can vary. Telephoning advised – 07725525176 |
| Tuesdays | <u>Home Group</u> – 1 st /3 rd week of each month at 7.45 p.m. at Peter & Jo Taylor’s home. Leader: Tracy Malan. |
| Wednesdays | <u>Wednesday Welcome</u> – 10.30 a.m. in Church Hall in term time. Coffee/Tea served at 10.15 a.m. <u>Prayer Fellowship</u> : - 2 nd /4 th Wednesday of each month from 7.00 – 8.00 p.m. in the Bell Lounge <u>Home Group</u> – 1 st /3 rd week of each month at 8.00 p.m. Leader: Richard Waymark |
| Thursdays | <u>Toddlers’ Group</u> - 10.00 – 11.45 a.m. <u>Pilots</u> : Deckhands – 5.30 – 6.30 p.m. Adventurers – 5.45 – 7.00 p.m. Voyagers – 7.00 – 8.15 p.m. Cell Groups. (Navigators) 8.30 – 9.30 p.m. <u>Grandparent & Toddlers’ Group</u> – Weekly in term time, 1.30 – 3.00 p.m. <u>Home Group</u> – Weekly in term time; 1.30-2.45 p.m. Leader: Gill Griffin |
| Fridays | <u>Youth Chill Zone</u> 4 – 6.00 p.m. |
| Saturdays | <u>Table Tennis</u> - 9-11.00 a.m. – Church hall, Leader Dennis Chang and Gill Griffin |

Music Group Practice – TBC weekly by Worship Leader

DIRECTORY

ST. GEORGE'S URC

| | |
|---|--|
| Minister: Revd. Jane Wade | Tel: 216597 |
| Secretary: Jeremy Flynn | Tel: 215268 |
| Treasurer: Brian Hardy | Tel: 266337 |
| Focus Magazine: Judy Watson Ai Ling Chang | Tel: 261056 or Watson@melsted16.co.uk |
| Magazine Distribution: Alf Guilder | Tel: 256926 |
| Junior Church co-coordinator Sharon Boyall | Tel: 213538 |
| Pilots: Captain: Jane Wade Deckhands (<i>Years R-2</i>) Andrew & Yvonne Masters Adventurers (<i>Years 3-6</i>) Jane Wade Voyagers (<i>Years 7-9</i>) | Tel: 216597 Tel: 389278 Tel: 216597 |
| Toddlers Group Carol Edgeworth | Tel: 392389 |
| Wednesday Welcome Jo Taylor | Tel: 862754 |
| Home Groups Revd. Jane Wade | Tel: 216597 |
| Music Group Co-ordinator: Mark Wade Music Director: Dan Hobbs | Tel: 216597 or 07869131756 248427 or 07717201775 |
| Prayer Co-ordinator Penny Crosswell | Tel: 211457 |
| Prayer Chain Gill Griffin | Tel: 24367 |
| Hall Bookings (<i>Church Activities</i>) Dave Greenwood | Tel: 258757 |
| Transport Co-ordinator Denise Chennells | Tel: 246277 |
| Table Tennis Leaders Dennis Chang & Gill Griffin | Tel: 243267 (Gill Griffin) |
| Women's Ministry Angela Such | Tel: 07941 534123 |

CALENDAR FOR JUNE & JULY 2014

| | | |
|---|-----------------------|---|
| 3rd June | 7.30 p.m. | Elders' Meeting |
| 8th June | 3.30 – 6.00 p.m. | Messy Church (please note change of date) |
| 13th – 15th June | | Pilots' Camp |
| 20th – 22nd June | | CVM (Christian Vision for Men) camp. See Dan Hobbs for details. |
| 8th July | 7.30 p.m. | Elders' Meeting |
| 23rd June – 5th July | | Minister away |
| 12th July | | Elders' Away Day - Latimer |
| 13th July | After morning Service | Church Meeting |
| 26th July | 2.00 p.m. | James Wade & Josie Bacon Wedding. |
| 28th July – 1st August | | Holiday Bible Club – see separate announcement |

NO Messy Church in July and August, but children currently in school years R – 6 are invited to join us from Monday, 28th July to Friday, 1st August from 10.00 a.m. – noon for **“Monsters Stink” Holiday Bible Club** (suggested donation £5 for the week).

James Wade & Josie Bacon Wedding – Please join them for the service, followed by cake and Buck's Fizz (or orange juice) in the Manse Garden.

Mission Direct Trip to Kenya: Minister & Church Secretary both part of the Group.

SUNDAY SERVICES JUNE & JULY 2014

| DATE | TIME | SPEAKER AND NOTES |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------|---|
| 1st June | 10.30 a.m. | Jane Wade – Communion |
| 8th June | 10.30 a.m. | Jane Wade – Pentecost |
| | 3.30–6.00 p.m. | Messy Church |
| 15th June | 10.30 a.m. | Wendy James – Fathers' Day/Pilots' Camp |
| 22nd June | 10.30 a.m. | Jane Wade (CVM camp) |
| 29th June | 10.30 a.m. | Jonathan Lee |
| 6th July | 10.30 a.m. | Angela Such – Communion Jane Wade |
| 13th July | 10.30 a.m. | Jane Wade |
| 20th July | 10.30 a.m. | Jane Wade |
| 27th July | 10.30 a.m. | Jane Wade |

No p.m. services except where stated

Focus on the Home Groups - 2014

◆ What is a home group?

Quite simply, a group of people drawn from the St George's Family who meet together regularly in a home (or even at Church!). We have 6 groups currently, with a total membership of over 60.

◆ What is it for?

To enable the members of the small group to get to know and care for one another, and help each other grow in the Christian life. The groups are really appreciated by long-standing and new members alike.

◆ What happens at a home group?

Each group develops its own particular style of sharing and learning together, drawing on the ingredients of worship, prayer, Bible focussed study/discussion, and maybe a "cuppa". Leading is shared among those members of the group who feel happy to do so, and the subject may be of their own choosing or part of a prearranged series. Meetings typically last 1½ to 2 hours.

When and where do the groups meet?

| <u>Leaders</u> | <u>Time</u> | <u>Venue</u> |
|-------------------------------------|---|--|
| Amanda & Dan Hobbs | For the time being, day, venue, leader & time can vary. Telephoning advised 07725525176 | |
| Kevin & Linda York | Mon 8.00 p.m. Weekly | 6 Stronsay Close, Northend, Hemel |
| Tracy Malan HH 389022 | 1 st /3 rd Tues 7.45 pm | "Lauries" London Rd Bourne End (Peter and Jo Taylor) |
| Richard Waymark HH 262646 | Wed 8.00 pm 1 st /3 rd in month | 4 Sidford Close (Richard Waymark) |
| Gill Griffin HH 243267 | Thursday 1.30 – 2.45 pm Weekly in term time | The Bell Lounge |

Can I join?

Yes! If you are interested, or would like to find out more, please speak to Jane Wade or one of the Home Group leaders.