

PRAYER MEETING (Seven:14):
Every Wednesday Evening at 7.14pm

BOY'S BRIGADE:

Tuesdays: Anchors 6.00pm - 7.00pm (In church)
Juniors 6.30pm - 8.00pm at Madeley Rest Room (Church Street)
Company Section (11-15yrs) Fridays 7-9pm in church
Contact: Wayne Trumpeter - 07824 618061

COFFEE MORNINGS:

10.30am Every Monday and Thursday in church

The Three Kings
by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

Three Kings came riding from far away,
Melchior and Gaspar and Baltasar;
Three Wise Men out of the East were they,
And they travelled by night and they slept
by day, For their guide was a beautiful,
wonderful star.

The star was so beautiful, large and clear,
That all the other stars of the sky
Became a white mist in the atmosphere,
And by this they knew that the coming was near
Of the Prince foretold in the prophecy.
And so the Three Kings rode into the West,
Through the dusk of the night, over hill and
dell, And sometimes they nodded with beard
on breast, And sometimes talked, as they
paused to rest, With the people they met at
some wayside well.

"Of the child that is born," said Baltasar,
"Good people, I pray you, tell us the news;
For we in the East have seen his star,
And have ridden fast, and have ridden far,
To find and worship the King of the Jews."
And the people answered, "You ask in vain;
We know of no King but Herod the Great!"
They thought the Wise Men were men
insane, As they spurred their horses across
the plain, Like riders in haste, who cannot
wait.

And when they came to Jerusalem,
Herod the Great, who had heard this thing,
Sent for the Wise Men and questioned them;
And said, "Go down unto Bethlehem,
And bring me tidings of this new king."

So they rode away; and the star stood still,
The only one in the grey of morn;
Yes, it stopped --it stood still of its own free
will, Right over Bethlehem on the hill,
The city of David, where Christ was born.
And the Three Kings rode through the gate
and the guard, Through the silent street,
till their horses turned And neighed as they
entered the great inn-yard;
But the windows were closed, and the doors
were barred, And only a light in the stable
burned. And cradled there in the scented hay,
In the air made sweet by the breath of kine,
The little child in the manger lay,
The child, that would be king one day
Of a kingdom not human, but divine.
His mother Mary of Nazareth
Sat watching beside his place of rest,
Watching the even flow of his breath,
For the joy of life and the terror of death
Were mingled together in her breast.
They laid their offerings at his feet:
The gold was their tribute to a King,
The frankincense, with its odour sweet,
Was for the Priest, the Paraclete,
The myrrh for the body's burying.
And the mother wondered and bowed her
head, And sat as still as a statue of stone,
Her heart was troubled yet comforted,
Remembering what the Angel had said
Of an endless reign and of David's throne.
Then the Kings rode out of the city gate,
With a clatter of hoofs in proud array;
But they went not back to Herod the Great,
For they knew his malice and feared his hate,
And returned to their homes by another way.

MBC

Newsletter for w/c 10th January 2010

www.madeleybaptist.org.uk



But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint. (Isaiah 40:31)

Welcome to our services today

Services today:

10.30am: Ministry Sunday (bring a testimony, a song, a poem....)

6.30pm: Preaching Evening.

Services next Sunday 17th January:

10.30am Beginning of Christian Unity Prayer week with pulpit exchange - speaker will be Mr Duncan Grimshaw (Dawley BC)

6.30pm: Discussion evening

Looking Forward:

Monday 11th January, 7.30pm - Church Members' Meeting

Friday 5th and Sat 6th Feb: 24hrs of Prayer - more details to follow.

"Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres"

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Check out our website for lots more info and the Minister's blogspot.

*From Averil's pen, this week's Pause for Thought:
Jeremiah*

I've been reading Jeremiah, and reached the point where the Jews invite some men from the Recabite family to eat and drink with them. (Jeremiah Chapter 35).

However, the men turn down the offer saying " We have been told not to drink wine by our ancestors." (The Recabites were tent-dwelling nomads, opposed to building houses, planting crops or vineyards and drinking wine. Normally they would not have been caught inside a city, but the Babylonian invasion had driven them there). Then God says through Jeremiah "Take heed and listen to what those men are saying and doing. They are obeying their fathers - but you don't obey me!"

This made me think.

Do we pay lip service to God? Do we do things we should not do and then wriggle round it in our minds? "Oh it's only" and that somehow justifies it for us to do it? How often do we disobey, sometimes unintentionally without thinking, at others perhaps deliberately, lashing out in anger at someone perhaps, intending to hurt them because we've been hurt? How very easy it seems to disobey. It is easier to form bad habits, than good ones. I know that from my own experience. Bad habits are extremely hard to break. It is a lot easier not to start something, than to try to stop it afterwards. No wonder we have to continually ask God's forgiveness.

Paul said something like this in one of his letters " We should not keep on sinning, so that God's grace becomes even greater, but we should try not to do that sin again, once we are aware of it." Very easy to say, not so easy to do.

One of the old hymns that we used to sing years ago was

*"Yield not to temptation, for yielding is sin
Each victory will help you some other to win".*

The chorus goes:

"Ask the Saviour to help you, comfort, strengthen and keep you, He is willing to aid you - He will carry you through".

So according to the hymn the sin is in succumbing to temptation, not necessarily the actual thing itself. I'm not altogether sure I quite agree with that! Just as a matter of interest, if you would like to read the rest of the hymn you will find it in The Baptist Hymn Book Number 569. (I had thought it was in Mission praise, but certainly not in the copy I have).

How thankful we are that we do have a Heavenly Father, who is willing to forgive our sins when we confess them, and to help us in our walk with Him.

POVERTY AND HOMELESSNESS ACTION WEEK

From 30th January to 7th February 2010 people around the country will be celebrating the many positive solutions we can find to end poverty and exclusion when we share what we have more fairly. Have a look at www.actionweek.org.uk for free resources.



Some ducks braving the frozen waters on Thursday morning January 8th.

Don't be left out in the cold...

I took the above photo on Thursday morning of the ducks on the lake close to where we live. It made me think.....

We take so much for granted these days - warm houses, plenty of food, companionship of our family and friends - Looking at the picture of the ducks who were unable to swim in their normal fashion and were in effect 'out of their comfort zone' - made me wonder what would we do in a similar situation? What if we had no warm home, no family, no friends? Who would we turn to? It can and does happen to 'ordinary' people - many of those living on the streets in our towns and cities were once home owners with families and friends, but it all went wrong and they were cast aside for whatever reason. If we trust in God's mercy and love, we will always have One who will be with us, whatever our circumstances in life.

Remember God's promise to us in Isaiah: "Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by your name; You are Mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; And through the rivers, they shall not overflow you. When you walk through the fire, you shall not be burned, Nor shall the flame scorch you. For I am the Lord your God, The Holy One of Israel, your Saviour." (Isaiah 43:1-3)