

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

Alternate Tuesdays at 10.00am Bible Study
-14 Cottage Farm Close, Madeley.

COFFEE MORNINGS:
10.30am Every Monday and Thursday in church

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

Keep Your Fork

A woman was diagnosed with a terminal illness and given three months to live. She asked her Pastor to come to her home to discuss her final wishes. She told him which songs she wanted sung at her funeral, and what scriptures she wanted read, and which outfit she wanted to be buried in.

Then she said, "One more thing... I want to be buried with a fork in my hand."

The pastor was surprised.

The woman explained, "In all my years of attending church socials and potluck dinners, I always remember that when the dishes of the main course were being cleared, someone would inevitably say to everyone, 'Keep your fork.' It was my favourite time of the dinner, because I knew something better was coming, like velvety chocolate cake or deep dish apple pie - something wonderful. So, I want people to see me with a fork in my hand and wonder, 'What's with the fork?' Then, I want you to tell them, 'Keep your fork, because the best is yet to come.' "
The pastor realised she had a better grasp of heaven than he did, and knew something better was coming.

At the funeral, when people asked him why she was holding a fork, the pastor told them of the conversation he had with the woman before she died. He said he could not stop thinking about the fork, and knew they probably would not be able to stop thinking about it either. He was right.

"Keep your fork. The best is yet to come!"

MBC Welcome to our services today



Newsletter for w/c 28th February 2010
(Second Sunday in Lent)

www.madeleybaptist.org.uk

We come not because we are able by our own right, but because we know our need of God. We come not because we are able by our own deeds, but because we are summoned in God's love. We come in our need and hope. We come because of all that God has done. We come in thanksgiving.

Services today

10.30am: ALL AGE worship led by Meena

6.30pm: Prayer and Praise evening

Services next Sunday 7th March:

10.30am: Morning Worship - **Joint Service with Peace Chapel Int**
Led by Keith. Sermon title: 'Standing for Truth'

6.30pm: Communion led by Keith

Looking forward:

- **1st March @ 7.30pm: Church Members' Meeting: AGM (part 2)**
- **Lent Meetings: at Sutton Hill church on Monday evenings 7.30.p.m. to 9.00.p.m and at MBC from 10.30.a.m. - 12.00 midday on Fridays.**

And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God! (Micah 6:8)
So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own. ((Matthew 6: 31-34)



Churches Election Bulletin Issue 1 – February 2010

Although the date of the General Election is still unknown, it is looking more likely that Thursday 6 May is a safe bet. Churches are already gearing up for hustings meetings and campaigners are working hard to push their issues with Parliamentary candidates. It's a busy time for everyone involved in politics.

Faith in Politics, is a 16-page guide to some of the key policy areas likely to be debated in the run up to polling day. Each subject has been prepared by a leading Christian expert or campaigner in that field. It does not represent a 'Church' view or support a party line, but is designed to encourage Christians to engage with a range of important issues facing our country.

ELECTION WEBSITE LAUNCH

Christian Voters are Encouraged to 'Make the Cross Count'

The Christian charity CARE today launches its *Make the Cross Count* website for the 2010 General Election. The website www.makethecrosscount2010.net features a range of resources that will help equip Christians to actively participate in the forthcoming General Election. CARE's www.makethecrosscount2010.net website includes:

1. *A hustings guide: This guide contains everything you need to know to organise a successful hustings in your local constituency.*
2. *My Manifesto project: Christian leaders and thinkers explain what policy issues they would like to see in a party manifesto.*
3. *Faith and politics bible studies: An excellent resource for individuals or small groups.*
4. *Policy papers: Researched and written by CARE's Public Affairs team, the documents provide an overview of key policy areas and help Christians think through the issues. During the actual campaign the website will be updated daily by CARE's election team with all the latest news and developments.*

Nola Leach, CARE's Chief Executive said, 'The General Election presents the Church with a unique opportunity to play a part in shaping the kind of society we want to live in. At a time when voters seem disillusioned with politics we hope the church will be making the case that politics matters more than ever.'

Dr Dan Boucher, CARE's Director of Parliamentary Affairs said, 'One of the best ways for churches to get involved in the election is to organise and attend a hustings event. This provides voters with an opportunity to question the candidates standing in their constituencies and consider a broad range of issues.'

For further information, please contact:

Dr. Dan Boucher (Director of Parliamentary Affairs).

www: www.makethecrosscount2010.net E-mail: election@care.org.uk

Tel. 020 7233 0455 Twitter: [@careorguk](https://twitter.com/careorguk)

Also see website: www.ctbi.org.uk for much more information to help Christians make an informed choice on election day.



A Carrot, An Egg and A Cup of Coffee



You will never look at a cup of coffee the same way again.

A young woman went to her mother and told her about her life and how things were so hard for her. She did not know how she was going to make it and wanted to give up. She was tired of fighting and struggling. It seemed as one problem was solved, a new one arose.

Her mother took her to the kitchen. She filled three pans with water and placed each on a high heat. Soon they came to boil. In the first she placed carrots, in the second she placed eggs, and in the last she placed ground coffee beans. She let them sit and boil, without saying a word. In about twenty minutes she turned off the burners. She fished the carrots out and placed them in a bowl. She pulled the eggs out and placed them in a bowl. Then she ladled the coffee out and placed it in a bowl. Turning to her daughter, she asked, "Tell me what you see."

"Carrots, eggs, and coffee," she replied.

Her mother brought her closer and asked her to feel the carrots. She did and noted that they were soft. The mother then asked the daughter to take an egg and break it. After pulling off the shell, she observed the hard boiled egg. Finally, the mother asked the daughter to sip the coffee. The daughter smiled as she tasted its rich aroma. The daughter then asked, "What does it mean, mother?" Her mother explained that each of these objects had faced the same adversity: boiling water.

Each reacted differently. The carrot went in strong, hard, and unrelenting. However, after being subjected to the boiling water, it softened and became weak. The egg had been fragile. Its thin outer shell had protected its liquid interior, but after sitting through the boiling water, it's inside became hardened. The ground coffee beans were unique, however. After they were in the boiling water, they had changed the water.

"Which are you?" she asked her daughter. "When adversity knocks on your door, how do you respond? Are you a carrot, an egg or a coffee bean?"

Think of this: Which am I? Am I the carrot that seems strong, but with pain and adversity do I wilt and become soft and lose my strength?

Am I the egg that starts with a malleable heart, but changes with the heat? Did I have a fluid spirit, but after a death, a breakup, a financial hardship or some other trial, have I become hardened and stiff? Does my shell look the same, but on the inside am I bitter and tough with a stiff spirit and hardened heart? Or am I like the coffee bean? The bean actually changes the hot water, the very circumstance that brings the pain. When the water gets hot, it releases the fragrance and flavour. If you are like the bean, when things are at their worst, you get better and change the situation around you.

When the hour is the darkest and trials are their greatest, do you call on the One who listens to our every prayer and will be with us in all our circumstances of life? Are you a carrot, an egg or a coffee bean?

As Christians, we can 'change the water' of the world around us too, bringing the love of Jesus to all whom we meet on our way.