

**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.

Thursday night:  
(Anticipation)

A meal,  
friends dining with history,  
shaping the future in bread and wine.  
This menu of prophecy and proclamation  
leaps from commemoration's stale  
impotency.  
The hidden bread put away at Passover,  
revealed, in word  
as the Word waits

for accusation, condemnation,  
shattered skin,  
and the staggered path  
to the weak darkness of death.  
A meal, friends dining on living bread,  
the table laden with hopes and fears  
a journey towards Omega  
as Alpha anticipates oblivion's  
futile final curse.  
The moon listens  
but the sun will refuse to see  
and the curtain will disclose  
the heart of man  
to the mind of God.

My heart in silence (Meditation)

My heart in silence humbly cried  
the scene before - a wounded side  
thorny crown and crucified.  
No faded communion this  
no winey blood nor half-baked body  
no hiding place for self-pity  
nor shield for rose-tinted eyes.  
Thorny crown and crucified  
the scene before - a wounded side,  
my heart,  
in silence, humbly cried.  
And hears your words,  
"Father forgive

**MBC** Welcome to our services today

Newsletter for w/c 21st March 2010  
(5th Sunday in Lent) [www.madeleybaptist.org.uk](http://www.madeleybaptist.org.uk)



*Submit to God and be at peace with him; in this way, prosperity will come to you. Accept instruction from his mouth and lay up his words in your heart. If you return to the Almighty, you will be restored. (Job 22:21-23)*

**Services today**

10.30am: ALL AGE SERVICE - led by Meena

6.30pm: **NO EVENING SERVICE AT MBC** -instead we meet at St Michael's for a joint service at 6.30pm, led by Keith.

Services Next Sunday (28th March)

10.30am: PALM SUNDAY: Communion

6.30pm: Palm Sunday reflection..

**An Important Message for all of our Church Fellowship:**

Dear Sister & Brother, in Christ

You will recall at the last Church Meeting that we have decided to put our ambitious plans for the Church in Madeley to the first test. We have decided that Easter Sunday will be a gift day when we will raise sufficient funds to take our very first tentative steps on this project. Whatever we do and whatever the outcomes we need to remain focused and put Jesus at the centre of all we think, do, plan & say and therefore as we approach Easter 2010, as a Church we will need to be focusing carefully on the events that lead up to that momentous occasion on the first Easter Sunday morning.

To help you to do this we have created an exciting programme of prayer and worship. Please find attached a copy of our exciting programme for Holy Week. You may have suggestions of your own too, which will be welcome.

I do hope that you can join us during the week for even a small or a major part of the events on offer

May God bless you

*John Battye*

Have you ever wondered why 'high' churches use incense burners? I found this in the Daily Mail yesterday and it sheds some light on why incense is used and thought you might be interested in some of the customs of the 'establishment high church' which sometimes seems so far removed from our own 'way of worship' but nonetheless is accepted by many Christians.



**Question:** When and why was incense introduced into church services?

**Answer:** The use of incense predates the formal Christian church service. It was originally employed for medicinal purposes, an antidote to lassitude (lack of energy) caused by the heat. Traditionally, incense was derived from the tree *Boswellia sacra* and the plant *Boswellia papyrifera*, which both produce frankincense.

It was widely used in pagan ritual as a sacrifice e.g. Virgil's Aeneid has 'his son Pallas was with him, and with him were all the leading young men, and his impoverished senate offering incense, and the warm blood smoked on the altars'.

Herodotus mentions its use by Assyrian and Babylonian priests, while on Egyptian monumental tablets, kings are seen swinging censers.

Incense was widely used in Jewish ceremony, in that traditionally the Levite tribe were proscribed care of the ceremony, Chronicles 9.29: 'Others were assigned to take care of the other articles of the sanctuary, as well as the flour and wine, and the oil, incense and spices.'

Precisely when incense was introduced into the religious services of the Church is unclear, but the early Christian theologian Pseudo-Dionysius the Areopagite, of the late 5th and early 6th century, was the first to describe its use. In his *De Ecclesiastica Hierarchia*, which examines the various orders and liturgy of the church, he describes clearly how 'The priest stands still at the altar. He enters the nave of the church only to bring sacred objects like incense, bread and wine, and holy oil into the realm of multiplicity, the spatially extended nave'.

The smoke of burning incense is interpreted by the RC Church and Eastern Christian churches as a symbol of the prayer of the faithful rising to Heaven. This symbolism is seen in Psalm 141 Verse 2: '**May my prayer be set before you like incense, may the lifting up of my hands be like the evening sacrifice**'.

However, many have also noted its very practical benefit of masking the smell of the unwashed congregation!

The question we may ask ourselves is: 'Why do these traditions come about, and do they have any place in today's modern, *clean* churches?'

Next Sunday being Palm Sunday - here are some thoughts to ponder



In fulfillment of prophecy (Isaiah 62:11 & Zechariah 9:9), Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey. The crowds lined the street shouting "Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord." (Psalm 118:25-26) They placed palm branches and robes in front of Jesus. This was particularly disturbing to the religious leaders who were jealous of Jesus. They demanded that Jesus silence the crowd, but he responded that even if the crowd were silent, the stones would cry out.

The events of the next week would forever change the world. Jesus entered Jerusalem and the crowd welcomed him as a king. By the end of the week they were demanding his death. His followers abandoned him in fear. None of his close followers had really understood the events of Palm Sunday and Holy Week until after Jesus returned. They had all expected Jesus to be an earthly king, but God had given them something so much better - ***an open door into a Kingdom that would never end.***

Palm Sunday, in the Christian calendar is the Sunday before Easter, sixth and last Sunday in Lent, and the first day of Holy Week. Palm Sunday 2010 is celebrated on March 28. The other important days of Holy Week include:

Palm Sunday - Jesus enters Jerusalem.

Maundy Thursday - The Last Supper and betrayal.

Good Friday - The arrest, trial, crucifixion, death and burial of Jesus.

Easter Sunday - The day Jesus rose from the grave.

#### **Looking forward:**

- **27th March:** Sat 7.00pm The Darby Singers at MBC.
- **Lent Meetings continue:** 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.
- **Read the attached flyer about the events happening in this church during Holy Week - an important week for our church and the community as a whole - read, pray, contemplate, then pray again.**