



Week beginning June 27th, 2010

WEEKLY BULLETIN

Bringing Life to the Heart of 1066 Country, and beyond

Puffins, passion and power . . .

During our brief break Pat and I travelled as far north as we could in the U.K. We reached the Shetland Islands, journeying to Lerwick by train and ferry, and discovered a largely treeless, yet beautiful landscape carpeted with many wild flowers, including orchids.

The birdlife was fascinating. I'd never seen bonxies or puffins in real life before. What strange birds puffins are, diving for food, and using their wings like flippers to swim for fish and molluscs which they eat under water. Puffins come ashore to breed, making nests underground in sandy burrows. It is, of course, the red-and-yellow parrot-like bills for which the birds are most famous.



Whilst in Lerwick we worshipped with the Baptist church and visited the Island's only Christian bookshop. I bought a book about the 1994 "Toronto blessing." That evoked a few memories of 16 years ago when, whichever way we look at it, there were extraordinary scenes in hundreds of churches world-wide, including our own, as "times of refreshing" were enjoyed. Reading this book was a pleasant trip down memory lane, and I couldn't help reflecting on the fact that 1994 is half a generation ago, and a long time before the experience of our entire youth congregation!

However good yesterday's experiences were, they are about as much use as last week's fish-and-chip wrapper. Every church needs to know afresh God's blessing and power week-by-week.

The return journey was interesting. We took a ferry south to the Orkney Islands and boarded a bus which crossed the Orkney mainland for the Stromness ferry. The ferry passed the "Old Man of Hoy," a sea-stack 137 metres high, before reaching Scrabster where we transferred to a bus for the short journey to the railhead at Thurso.

continues . . .

Battle Baptist Church is Life with Hope Trust; registered charity 1134288, Mount Street, Battle, East Sussex TN33 0EG. • Website: www.battlebaptistchurch.org.uk • Telephone and answerphone (01424) 774825 • Email: office@battlebaptistchurch.org.uk • Fax: (01424) 775875. • Caterpillar Preschool (01424) 774997. • This week our office will open from Monday to Friday from 9am to 1pm. • Material for the *Weekly Bulletin* must be clearly written and signed in the special office book, or typed and signed, or emailed, *no later than Wednesday.*

In one place during our exploration of northern Scotland by train I noticed a high, narrow waterfall where a mountain stream dropped a long way down a rock-face. Its raw energy was attractive and natural — much more so than another stream a few miles further on which made its journey down a rock-face via a long pipe and across some turbines as part of a hydro-electric scheme. In this case *the raw energy had been usefully channelled*.

Was there a parable in this? Spiritual experiences like the Holy Spirit manifestations in the Toronto blessing can be like the waterfall resulting in *raw, untamed passion and energy* — with a certain attraction and beauty, but not in itself achieving much. The hydro-electric scheme, however, is like the churches: places where the energy and life — the “power” — of the Holy Spirit can be focussed and channelled for positive outcomes.

Coming home was again to be part of what the Lord is doing in Sussex. *Let's pray that as God's Spirit moves among us today the resurrection life of Jesus will flow out in new and fresh ways.*

Your friend and pastor,
Dennis

News, notes and prayer opportunities

We extend our love and sympathy to **Pat Whitehead** whose mother has died after a long illness.

- There are still a few places available for our **Holiday at Home** (for the over 50s), August 16th, 18th & 20th. *Please use a booking-form as soon as possible.*

Football. If you can wash the kit for our new Youth Team from September 10th to April 11th (expenses paid), please contact **Gary Walsh**. *Thank you!*

Barbara Graham is having a break from helping with refreshments at our **Thursday After School Club**. If you'd like to take her place from September, please speak with **Andy Garlick** a.s.a.p. (Also, see poster.)

Unlock Charity engaging in evangelism in deprived areas in Sheffield, Birmingham and Bristol acknowledge with thanks our recent gift of £150.

Ladies Keep Fit!

Wednesday, July 7th at Claverham Sports College
7.30 to 8.30pm Arrive by 7.15 for a prompt start, please.
Followed by refreshments at The Manna House!
Cost: £3 when booking. Pick up a form.



WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

Homegroups, Baby and Toddler Group (Monday and Thursday), Caterpillar Preschool, Prayer for Middle East and Israel (second and fourth Thursdays at 2pm), and Thursday After School Club. For football updates see fixtures on our website. All as usual, plus:

Sunday, June 27th. 9am: Chapel Meeting, plus Youth Group, Sunday Club and crèche. (Refreshments after.) • 10.30am: Meeting at Claverham (North Trade Road), plus Sunday Club and crèche. (Refreshments before.) • **NO 4pm Chapel Meeting.** (See following note for today.) • 6.30pm: 412 Youth Congregation at the Chapel. *Open to all.*

Also SUNDAY 27th : Summer focus on Battle churches

12.20pm: Churches Together Picnic, Abbey Green, followed by outdoor Songs of Praise at **2pm.** (Both at St Mary's if wet.) Our fellowship is to organise a BBQ. **2.45pm:** BIG SCREENING of England v Germany in our Chapel. Bring your own drinks (not alcohol).

Tuesday. 9am: Healing Prayer Group. At 10.30am the prayer-ministry team will be available for anyone who comes for personal prayer. • Twelve 'til One: Soup-and-Dessert lunch. • 2pm: Tuesday Fellowship with John and Jenny Roper (Gideons). *All are invited.*

Wednesday. 12.30 to 1.30pm: Unity Prayer Meeting at the Roman Catholic Church. Take a packed lunch. • 7.30pm: Bible Study in the Youth Room. *Come if you can.*

Friday. 7am: Early Prayer followed by a do-it-yourself breakfast. • 9.15am: "Chatterbox" for parents, carers and young children. • 10.30am: Coffee Club. • 12.30pm: Lunch at the Manna for retired people. (Advance booking *essential* on 772192, weekdays between 6pm and 7pm.)

• **Sunday, July 4th,** with guest speaker Revd. K. M. Payne: 9am: Chapel Meeting, plus Youth Group, Sunday Club and creche. (Refreshments after.) • 10.30am: Meeting at Claverham (North Trade Road), plus Sunday Club and crèche. (Refreshments before.) • 4pm: Chapel Meeting, plus Sunday Club and crèche. • 6.30pm: Youth Congregation at the Chapel.

Goings and comings.

- Our friends **Brian and Shirley Brightiff** have moved to Bexhill & consequently have left the Membership of our fellowship after nine happy years. *We thank them both for all they have been involved with over the years.* They plan to worship at Beulah Baptist Church. Their new address is: 5 St Lucia, West Parade, Bexhill on Sea TN39 3DT. Telephone 01424 224495.
- **Pat & Alan Whitehead** are also leaving as Alan has been appointed from September as Associate Pastor of Clive Vale United Reformed Church in Hastings. *We give a big thank you to Pat and Alan for their fellowship over the last nine years.*
- Last Sunday we welcomed **Karen & Johan Brussée** to Membership at our 9 a.m. service.
- **Application for Membership** has been received from **Amy Collins**. Observations are invited to an elder in the usual manner.



Last year heaps of delicious cakes were baked and donated for our residential youth-event Soul Survivor. If you'd like to do the same again this year we'll be most grateful!

Cakes and cookies (if in tins, you'll not want them back) at The Manna House on July 28th and 29th, please.

A BLAZE from the past

Give me your hand . . .

"Give me thy hand. I do not mean you to be of my opinion; you need not. I do not expect or desire it; neither do I mean I will be of your opinion. I cannot; it does not depend on my choice. I can no more think than I can say or hear as I will. Keep your opinion and I mine, as steadily as ever. Only give me thy hand. I do not mean embrace my modes of worship or I embrace yours. I have no desire to dispute with you one moment. Let all matters — of belief — stand aside, let them never come inside. If thine heart is as my heart, if thou love God and all mankind I ask no more. Give me thine hand."



John Wesley

Dennis Nolan (pastor); Francis Willoughby (associate minister);
Our other elders: John Southam (church manager);
Rob Duffill (treasurer); Andy and Jo Garlick.
Contact details (church office number): (01424) 774825.