

CROWTHORNE METHODIST CHURCH

Sep 19th 2010

10 Dukes Ride, Crowthorne, Berkshire. RG45 6LT

Revd Robin Selmes 01344 411417 robin.selmes@btinternet.com



Our aims: **To help people meet with God
and to rejoice in and express his love**

www.crowthornemethodistchurch.org.uk

Please join us for coffee after the Service

Today September 19th 10.30am Mary Elms Harvest Celebration AAW
Tuesday September 21st 10.00am "Service of Prayer"
Sunday September 26th 10.30am Revd Nick Thompson
Sunday September 26th 6.00pm Service at Pinehurst
Tuesday September 28th 10.00am Revd Robin Selmes study service Acts 11

Monday September 20th 8pm Circuit Meeting at CMC
Thursday September 23rd 10am Pastoral Meeting in the reception room

Dates for Diaries

Tue 5th October at 8.00 p.m.: Women's World Day of Prayer Autumn Meeting at St John's Church Hall. Speaker: Maggy Garton. Please come along and support this event.
Thu 7th October at 7.45 p.m.: Church Council Meeting
Wed 13th October at 8.00 p.m.: Serendipity meets to hear John Norman speak about 'Bee Keeping'

The Trustees of Just Around the Corner (JAC) Limited would like to invite you to their AGM at 7.30 pm on Monday 11th October at Crowthorne Baptist Church.

After the short formality of the accounts, refreshments will be served and guests will be invited to hear from team leaders and young people from each of the areas JAC works in

During the evening Marifiki jewellery will be for sale. This jewellery is made by two groups of Kenyan ladies who have lost their husbands to AIDS. All proceeds go to the ladies in order to keep their children in school, keep sufficient food on the table to assist the anti-retro viral drugs against AIDS and to enable the ladies to buy higher quality materials and diversify their business.

See poster in reception room

Rory O'Connor (Churchwarden of St. Sebastian's Church) is running the Dublin Marathon on 25th October in aid of the **Mityana Charity**

If you would like sponsor him please visit www.mycharitypage.com/rory

See Poster in reception room

Worship Leaders Course

Wednesday 22nd September at 7.30pm venue 6 The Chase

for more info please call Maggie Blake 01344 286949 or Maggie.blake@wokinghammethodist.org.uk

Please pray for

all our church family who would like to be with us today but for whatever reason they are not able to.

Next notices	Sunday	Oct 03 2010	Tel. 01344 779637
Deadline	Thursday	Sep 30 2010	email dorothy.bell10@btinternet.com

Harvest Newsletter

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.

When you hear the word creation, the first sound that should ring, sing in our minds is grace. Creation is grace! It was brought to life by the greatest artist of all time, it is an act of sheer divine generosity. Out of nothing, and not for any reason but only from love and for love. And you know that it was borne out of love by the way he created it.

We live in an amazing world. The greatest of all creations is humanity, look at the complexity of our human body. It is a dynamic framework of many parts that come together beautifully, efficiently, working in precise unison with each other. The human Body is a complete demonstration that they are a work of love by an intelligent and skilful designer, God Himself.

Again, for me there is no doubt, when you look at the beauty of nature, you can see that this world was created with purpose by a loving God. He filled the world with many beautiful and wonderful living things. God created flowers, the animal Kingdom, the sun and numerous stars to show us the best special effects we can see. And when I see this it's difficult for me to comprehend the idea that this world is a matter of chance, like some believe. I feel that things work together too perfectly for that to be the case.

So at Harvest time we thank God, for the abundance of his creation and all of the opportunities made available to us from the world and its resources. Yet this planet is not ours to do what we want with. It is made by God and we are privileged to have a time here to look after and enjoy it. The expectation is that we will pass it on to our children in a better condition than we found it.

Again we cannot help but feel embarrassed that we have so much and others due to many reasons have so little. So whilst we still give thanks to God for the plentiful Harvest, we are encouraged to think of those who are not so fortunate and by giving away our produce to people in need, at Crowthorne Methodist Church this year we are giving away our items to Faith, who are working with the homeless and poor in Reading.

Equally there are some areas of the world that are not so fortunate, they have difficulty producing a Harvest with the ease we do here in the West. So no harvest festival service should ever take place without a time of prayer when we think of the conditions prevalent in parts of the world where people die for lack of resources which we routinely throw away.

From this I often believe that there is a lesson God is teaching in this, that we should share our resources and our know how through specific projects in the Third World, so that they are able to bring forth their own harvest. As the people of these countries often say 'its not just food aid that they want, it's the ability to do it for themselves that counts just as much. Every person has a certain dignity they wish to preserve.

Therefore, we need to look beyond the immediate future to make sure that the harvest is sustainable, that the skills and seeds are preserved. If the farmers didn't pass on the knowledge and skills, if they didn't preserve their seeds and so on, then how would we sustain the perennial harvest?

With all our senses at our disposal, to see, to hear, to taste, to smell and to touch, we can really encounter creation and through this encounter, once again realise that we are an intrinsic part of the created world and we all have the responsibility to preserve it for the love of God. Amen