



Issue 14:2

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May 2010

LAST MONTH'S
FIGURES

MAJOR'S MUSINGS

Dear Friends,

I don't imagine it has escaped anyone's attention that a General Election is taking place next week. Over these last days and weeks we will often have heard the word "manifesto" with each of our political party leaders setting out their promises of what they intend to do, if only we let them. At the end of the debate televised again this week each of them ended with their own summary of why we should trust them and their manifesto and not that of the other parties, and then each looked at the camera—and therefore the nation—and said something to the effect of "It is your decision ... The choice is yours"

The campaign continues, of course, with the party leaders themselves and their team members travelling around the country. These team members are of great importance—they are as ambassadors to the party leader. Their job is to meet with and talk to people also with the hope that something of their words and actions can convince the present unbelievers to change their minds and to choose the leader that they represent.

In Luke's Gospel we have words of Jesus through which in effect He was outlining His manifesto—a fulfilment of the prophecy of Isaiah given over 600 years before. These are His words from Luke chapter 4 verse 18 **"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because He has chosen me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind; to set free the oppressed and announce that the time has come when the Lord will save His people."**

Jesus himself travelled around encouraging the people to see the good in His ways, to listen to His words, to put their trust and their hope in Him, to believe that He was true to the promises that He made: His promise was for

- * hope and abundant life to those who are spiritually poor;
- * escape from captivity to sin, addiction, guilt, separation from God;
- * light to those who live in spiritual darkness as people's spiritual eyes and hearts are opened to personal relationship with God;
- * the assurance that we are kept safe and saved with Him, both in this life and for eternity. No politician could ever offer these things. Jesus did and He made it clear to the people; "It's your decision," The Choice is yours"

The same manifesto stands today—and today Jesus chooses to spread the word by means of His representatives: We read in 2 Corinthians 5 v 20 **"We are Christ's ambassadors; God is making His appeal through us. We speak for Christ when we plead, "Come back to God!"**

If God is to "make His appeal through us" we need to ensure that every day we make Him our choice and that we make ourselves available for a continual anointing of His Spirit. Let us believe that as we fulfil the task that is ours that something of our words and actions can convince the present unbelievers to change their minds, to choose the one whom we represent to govern their own lives.

As we continue on our campaign trail for Jesus,
may His Spirit infill, strengthen, bless and use us each one.

God bless and love as always.

Carol

SUNDAY ATTENDANCE

Week 1	58
Week 2	38
Week 3	54
Week 4	49

AVERAGE 50

OFFERINGS

Envelope giving	£ 1959.70
Collections	£ 169.61
TOTAL	£ 2129.31

INCOME & OUTGOING

Income	£ 3664.49
Expenditure	£ 3003.43
SURPLUS	£ 661.06



We thank God for the
life of

Rev'd Richard Bray
who went to Heaven

on Wednesday 28 April.

Richard has served St Mary's church as a member of the retired clergy team for a number of years; He has also been a most valued member of our "Listening Ear" team at The Well on Thursdays.

Any whose lives have been touched by Richard's life could not help but have received blessing from God. We pay tribute to a very special man who has had a very special Godly ministry. We pledge our prayer support for his wife Pamela and other family members in these days

Prayer: Lord Jesus

During your earthly ministry
You showed us how to live in peace
and harmony. You promised that
one day you would return and make
it happen.

Until that time: Give wisdom to all
those who govern, guidance to those
who grant them their power.
And make us truly children of God.
Amen.

SUNDAY REFRESHMENTS

MAY

- 2 Karen, Adrian, Peter
9 Christina, Gael, Jackie
16 Colleen, Betty G, Betty H
23 Sally, Helen, Sheila S
30 Shirley, Sheila A; Paul, Lisa



JUNE

- 6 Karen, Adrian, Peter
13 Christina, Gael, Jackie
20 Colleen, Betty G, Betty H
27 Sally, Helen, Sheila S

PRAYERS for Saffron Walden

1. For Pamela Bray and family following the passing away of her husband, Rev'd Richard Bray;
2. John & Sara who have great concerns for two family members who have been diagnosed with long term incurable illnesses; we support them in prayer as they support loved ones;
3. For Rev'd Murray (URC) who has just had news that his Mum is very poorly; We support him and Karen and the whole family in these days;
3. For Patrick in his search for work;
4. For others who come into The Well who are also without work, especially for those with families to support;
5. For all who are taking part in the Christian Aid collection; that all will be kept safe; that opportunities will arise to witness to our faith;
6. For the Ceilidh event; that as people join us for the fun and fellowship they will see something of our joy in the Lord;
7. For the Fun day event; that as we work together with our friends from the URC, people will recognise our unity in the Lord and our joy in serving Him;
8. In all of our service this month, pray that our lives (words and actions) will speak out for God and that more of His precious children will be drawn to seek Him for themselves;

PRAYERS for others

For Vonnie, Adrian's sister who continued her struggle with cancer and for others that we know of in a similar situation.

UNITED CHURCH PRAYERS

For the month of **MAY**
We are invited to pray for
**CASTLE STREET
METHODIST CHURCH**
We pray for Rev David Keeble, his wife Fran, leaders and members of the congregation



COMMISSIONING SERVICE FOR COLLECTORS

Sunday 9th May, 4pm
Saffron Walden Methodist

CEILIDH

[Country dancing suitable for all ages]

Saturday 8th May. 7.30pm.
£6 Adults/ £5 concessions
(under 5's free)

*Includes a sandwich buffet
and soft drinks*

Please purchase your ticket in advance to give a number for catering. They are going well, but there are still some available—on sale at the Army and at Tourist information.

THE UNITED REFORMED
CHURCH AND
THE SALVATION ARMY

FAMILY FUN DAY

SATURDAY 22nd MAY, 2010
10am - 2pm
Abbey Lane, Saffron Walden

Nearly new clothes Tea room
Games & Competitions Plants
Bric a brac & books Barbeque

Entrance 50p adults, children free

Sheila, Sara, Paul and Adrian are representing us on the organising committee for this event. Please support them by offering to man a stall or competition. Add your name to list on notice board or speak to Sheila.

Lots of help needed for setting up gazebos and stalls on Friday evening and Saturday morning please. See Paul for this

Offers of cakes please for tea room and cake stall. Space on list at hall.

DATES FOR THE DIARY

MAY

- 4th-7th Carol on 4-day seminar
Sat 8 Ceilidh—7.30 in URC hall.
Sunday 9 Candidate Sunday—visit of Captain Sandra Welch (DHQ)
4pm Christian Aid service.
Castle Street Methodist Church
9 - 15th Christian Aid week.
Tues 11 Cameo: "Bonnie Scotland"
6.15 Custerson Court service - Steph
Thurs 13 Crishall school —Carol
Friday 14 Singing Group
Sat 22 Fun Day in Abbey Lane
Sunday 23 4pm Churches Together Pentecost Praise service (Baptist Church)
Tuesday 25 Cameo: "A life on the Ocean waves."
Friday 28 Singing Group

JUNE

Sunday 6th

Ashley to be enrolled as a Senior Soldier.

- Tue 8 Cameo: "Surprise, surprise"
Wednesday 9 Carol at URC Guild
Friday 11 Farmadine Service - Carol
Wed 16 Corps Council 7.30pm
Tuesday 22 Cameo: "Mr and Mrs"
Thursday 24 11am Churches Together meeting (Kelvin and John)
Friday 25 Singing Group

JULY

- Saturday 3 Divisional children's Fun Day. Jam Club members going.
Tuesday 6 Cameo
Friday 9 Singing Group
Saturday 10 Farewell event to Major Carol—possibly afternoon and early evening. Further arrangements to follow
Sunday 11 Major Carol's final meeting
Thursday 15 Major Carol's duties end
Sunday 18 CS Steph Leading
Sunday 25 CSM Frank leading
Thursday 29 Captain Carol commences duties
Saturday 31 Coffee morning—Steph & Sally organising
Sunday 1 August Welcome Sunday to Captain Carol Baker

CLACTON OUTING

Please note change of date!!
New date is
Saturday September 11th