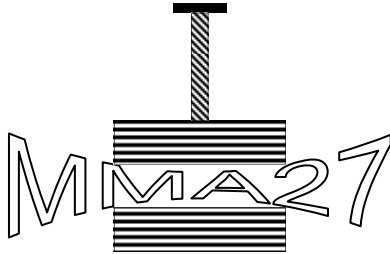


Winepress



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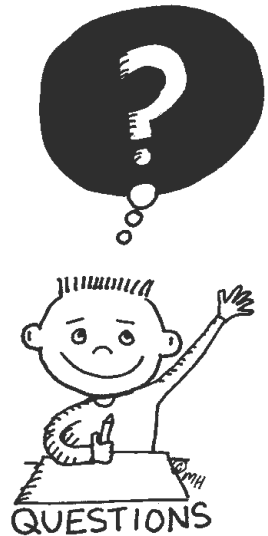
Notice Board

April 2009

Why 27?

I was recently asked to explain why we are called MMA 27, and what an MMA is anyway. In 2005, Derby Diocese underwent a restructuring; 58 MMAs (*Mission and Ministry Areas*) were set up, most consisting of groups of parishes, some consisting of just one. The whole project, still ongoing, is called *Renewing Ministry* which itself came out of a document called *A Better Way* which was adopted by the Diocese in March 1998.

So much for the history lesson! But what was it all in aid of? It was an attempt to address various challenges facing the Church of England in this Diocese such as shortage of money and hence the need to cut back on salaried clergy. However, the stated aim of *Renewing Ministry* was 'to take the Diocese from maintenance to mission'. Since 1998, several other dioceses around the country have pursued similar projects. The jury is still out on whether these schemes have been a success.



Perhaps a more intriguing question for many people, particularly those who have read Dan Brown's *The Da Vinci Code*, is why there are 27 books in the New Testament. Why not 26, 28 or 30? The New Testament canon (agreed collection) of books was determined by the early church using certain criteria, such as was a book written by an apostle or someone working with an apostle? E.g. John's Gospel is John's account of Jesus, Mark's Gospel... Mark was not himself an apostle... was Peter's account written down by Mark. Had a book been in widespread use since the earliest days of the church? Did it conform to the teachings of the apostles? We can have a very high level of confidence that what we have in the New Testament is the teaching of the apostles.

Understanding how things have developed is important. Learning from our mistakes is important. The Crusades were not good Christian witness. The Reformation, on the other hand, brought much of the Church back to the Bible as our chief source of authority.

Some things, like the canon of Scripture, are permanent. Other things in God's dynamic organisation called the Church change. Where will MMAs be in 20 years time? Where will MMA 27 be in 20 years time? It is encouraging to see Bishop Alastair leading Bible studies all round the Diocese, and encouraging us all to get back into our Bibles. We need to be ever in our Bibles: feeding so that we may grow and monitoring ourselves against the yardstick of Scripture so that we do not drift with the culture of the day or the latest fad. As Jesus on the road to Emmaus pointed those two followers to the Scriptures, *which spoke of him*, we need to point people to the authentic Jesus, the Jesus of the Bible, not to our version of him. In MMA 27 we need to ensure that we encourage people, from first contact with us onwards, to meet with the real Jesus as he walks off the pages of the 27 books of the New Testament.

TERRY CLARK

News from Frances

Most of you will already know of Frances Harris and her valuable work for YWAM with homeless people and drug addicts on the streets of San Francisco. She has recently experienced unexpected financial problems due to bills for medical treatment. She asks for your prayers and support in this situation.

If anyone is able to contribute financially to help Frances, please ring her parents, Philip and Sally (864602), who will also be able to provide up-to-date details of her situation.

Revelation Weekend Away

What's an old codger like me doing, going on a weekend away with a load of teenagers? Well, I did, and what an experience!

Unfortunately, I had decided to return home for the first night (I know what you are saying - I didn't have the bottle!). Well, actually, I was the one to loose out. One of the first activities was chasing one another around in the countryside with glow torches. I would hardly have been able to walk around, let alone run. However, Tim and Duncan tell me it was great fun - my loss!



So early the next morning, well early for me (7.30am), I drove back to Edale to rejoin the party. It was a wonderful journey; God does bless us in so many ways. I arrived just in time for the Leaders' meeting and breakfast. And what a breakfast: orange juice, cereal or porridge (the porridge was grrrreat!) and then eggs and bacon - what a treat! You are beginning to realize why I went on the trip now ... well you would be wrong but it was a real bonus. Thanks to Elizabeth and Christine, aided by Duncan.

It was then time for the morning introduction to let the youth know the purpose of the weekend. This was led by Kizzy, the theme being 'The Heart of God'. The youth had to make messages with spaghetti letters which was very messy, but interesting. After this, we went to our groups where the message was further explored in an informal atmosphere. Following this was 'Prayer Worship', where it was wonderful to see the youth worshipping. You could see and feel that they were enjoying it and that the Holy Spirit was with us.



The afternoon took us into the 'workshops'. There was 'Wii Challenge' and 'Games in the Wood' led by Tim and Duncan.

Again, the youth worked well together. I must not forget the 'Water Balloon' session led by Tim and Duncan. The youth stood in a circle and had to throw and catch a water-filled balloon until it finally gave way and soaked them. Just before tea, Jill did a treasure hunt which gave another opportunity to work together. Also, during this time, I believe Richard got a small band together to practice for the Sunday worship.

Then came mayhem on the Saturday night. We were to have organized games etc., but before the team got ready, the youth had other ideas and took over the proceedings. They had found a box of clothing in the hall and began dressing up in various items. It was hilarious and had to be seen to be believed.

After hot chocolate it was bedtime. It took a little time for the teenagers to settle down, but the team made sure that they eventually went into their own rooms and got some sleep. Tim and I sat by the fire drinking coffee and talking about the weekend and various other things; it's good to chat. Then off to bed, and did I sleep well!



Sunday followed a similar schedule, starting with an introduction and 'Prayer Worship'. We then had to clean and tidy. The youth did this quite well and one lad, who I won't name, was fantastic in his enthusiasm. No weekend is complete without a gunge tank, apparently. After a legitimate ballot as to who was to be gunged, Kizzy had the most votes. If you heard a shout - you possibly would have done in Glossop - it may have been Kizzy.

To complete the weekend, it was fitting to have worship which was led by Richards's band and soloist Daniel. Awards were given out and nearly everyone received one for their efforts in making the weekend what it was.

Thanks are due to all the team leaders and youth; no-one could have done it without the others, and of course without the presence of God who graciously works through us all.

ROB MOORE

Here's what the youth had to say about the weekend ...

I learnt that I'm good at manipulating lights 2 create an atmosphere and I realised that I'm being called in production of events like Revelation Live.

The best thing was the worship, playing the glow games, :D being with everybody and god!!! Also when Kizzy got gunged.

The best thing was the worship coz it was A M A Z I N G !

All ages together, having major God time in loads of different ways! searching for glow sticks in the dark, chilling with friends, reading the bible.

The best part of the youth trip was getting to know everyone, listening to the youth band, playing games and joking with my new friends.

Eden Bus Revamp



The Eden Bus has just had a makeover; it is now bigger, brighter and bolder than before with its brand new funky graphics. The Eden Bus comes to Glossop every Friday evening and parks behind the Town Hall from 7.30 - 9.00pm.

Please pray for this project. We now have bus boxes in which to collect your spare change. The team would very much appreciate your financial support too!

If you would like to know more, or to join the volunteer team, please contact me on 01457-853279.

DUNCAN EDGE

Explore

‘Explore’ is another name for ‘Messy Church’. This was created by Lucy Moore in Portsmouth, who has subsequently written two books to assist other churches in launching the initiative. It is a fresh expression of church which provides a safe, relaxed mid-week venue for children and parents to meet together to learn about Jesus. The idea is to reach out into the community to those who do not normally attend traditional services (though those who do are certainly not excluded). Why does church have to be only on a Sunday when we can worship God any day of the week?



Explore meets after school on the last Wednesday of each month at St Luke’s from 3.30 to 5.15pm. It is aimed particularly at children between five and ten years of age, though all children are welcome but they **must** bring their parent(s) and/or carer(s) along. A typical programme includes drinks and nibbles followed by craft activities and quizzes. Then we have a short talk, a song of praise and say the special ‘messy grace’ together.



At the first meeting in January we were overwhelmed and overjoyed to see so many people turn up. For each child an adult also comes along, so one can imagine the chatter and excitement! I have had positive feedback from both parents and children who say they really enjoy coming.

Disappointingly, In February and March not quite so many attended. Please continue to pray for us that more children and parents will join us on this journey. Our vision is to continue to bring more people to know Jesus as their Saviour and Friend.

LORRAINE CHADWICK

Full House

The spirit of the sovereign Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners. (Isaiah 61:1)

In 2007, my husband Steve and I, inspired by this scripture passage, felt we wanted to dedicate our lives to the people of Whitfield, so put our house on the market in order to move into the area. We were looking forward to HOPE 08 with excitement, hoping to get involved in the outreach events. The theme ‘do more than you have done before and do it together’ was at the front of our minds. These words would soon have significance for us, but not in the way we had expected.

In January 2008, Steve’s sister Sharon, who had been ill for a few months, was becoming more poorly. She lived alone with her children, Emma (13), Danielle (11) and Nathan (5), who were her world, so it took time to persuade her to go into hospital. She was concerned that they shouldn’t go into care, so for a month, with Sharon’s mum Christine, we looked after them. A rota showed who would stay at their home, working round shifts, hospital visits and taking Nathan to school. We were certainly doing ‘more than we had before’ and were ‘doing it together’!

Sharon continued to deteriorate and we prayed for a miracle of healing. At the time I was moved by this scripture:

Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen to share your food with the hungry and to provide the poor wanderer with shelter - when you see the naked, to clothe him, and not to turn away from your own flesh and blood? ... Then you will call for help and he will say: Here am I (Isaiah 58:6-9)

Tragically, Sharon died on February 25th. We were devastated, but she was a Christian and she was now with Jesus. We knew what we had to do - despite the worldly view that this was an impossible task, we accepted her children into our family, knowing that God promises help when it is needed:

*Do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my victorious right hand.
(Isaiah 41:10)*

We had had a final offer on our house while Sharon was still in hospital, which to us felt crazy with everything that was happening, but we knew we had to trust God. After only six weeks on the council waiting list, we were given a four-bedroom council house in Simmondley, five minutes from our previous house. Our God is amazing and powerful; people can wait years for bigger houses and still not get them. Then came three weeks of frenzied activity, ‘changing-rooms’ style! Our wonderful church family served us by cooking, decorating, cleaning, building furniture and helping us move.

The last 16 months have been a roller-coaster, but our faithful God has been there throughout. We have received approximately £1000 in ‘bite-size’ pieces as God prompted people to give, always when we needed it the most. Clothing five children for school and college seemed overwhelming, but every penny needed was provided.

We now have three new Christians in the house as all three children made commitments before the end of the summer. Life certainly isn’t easy at times but it normally gets harder when we are trying in our own strength and not God’s. Please continue to pray for us. We will never forget what God has done for us through our brothers and sisters in Whitfield Parish and offer our deep heartfelt thanks and appreciation to you all.

TRACEY FELLOWS

God at the Caf'



Back in September, we began to meet on Tuesday afternoons in the Jericho Café, Gamesley, with a few of Nick and Donna Rogers' Gamesley friends. At that stage, Nick and Donna had been running the caf' (as we call it) for two and a half years and in that time had seen mira-

cles, transformations and many answers to prayer in the lives of the people they were meeting. The number of people who pass through that place whose hearts Nick and Donna have won over through their friendship and commitment amazes us. We joke that we could start a church there tomorrow and get 100 people straight away!

Donna says, "We have run Start courses and discussion groups but we really wanted to set up a bible study or cell group. However, we are so busy working in the caf', we needed some help to set up and maintain it." So, Richard and I helped them set up a new group. In it, we have been working through Mark's gospel and are discipling the group to faith, talking frankly about our lives and the hope we have in Jesus.

Our group has gone from strength to strength. A number of people come and go but we have about eight regulars. Jean, who volunteers at the caf', describes the group as her sanctuary. She enjoys looking at the Bible and feels a sense of peace as we meet together. In her words, she "wouldn't be here now if it wasn't for Nick and Donna." Wyn Field, who has also benefited from the Start course, says that the group has helped her to believe in Christ. Another of the caf's volunteers told us: "It is a friendly, relaxed environment where we discuss personal issues with car-

ing, kind people ... [We] learn more about Christ and strengthen our faith in the Lord. I like reading the Bible and discussing it, which helps me to understand it.”

We know that Jesus loves our little group and he shows up there each week to minister his love and healing to us all. We’re learning to say ‘Yes’ to Jesus, knowing that he will always respond to the small steps we take. Please pray for us as we discern God’s plans for us in Gamesley, for the harvest which we know is plentiful and for the workers who, for now, are few.

KATHRYN ENGLAND



Notice Board

At St Luke’s

BAPTISMS

12th Apr Harry Robinson
12th Apr Oliver Robinson



DEDICATION

22nd Feb Joseph Khalil

At St James’

WEDDING

21st Feb Lizzie Sutcliffe and
David Boucher

FUNERALS

2nd Feb Elsie Ball
5th Feb George Plant
9th Feb Janice Reddington
27th Feb Emily Bailey
2nd Mar Arthur Smith Morris
6th Mar Ada Vallaley

winepress... is a magazine serving the Christian congregations in Whitfield Parish, Glossop (MMA 27).

Please take only **1** copy per household to keep down wastage.

It is wonderful that our church has experienced so much growth in recent years. A multitude of groups has sprung up to cater for every aspect of Christian life, all age ranges and all interests.



With so much growth, it can be difficult to keep track of what's happening. The aim of this publication is to transmit information between congregations and to keep everyone up to date with who's doing what, and where. Each issue will spotlight different groups, report on events and bring a roundup of news.

Do you have newsworthy items from your congregation for inclusion in winepress? Would you like to report on what your group is doing, or would you like to recommend it to others? Have you an inspiring story to tell?

Please submit articles to winepress@glossop.org
or phone Beverley on 862105.