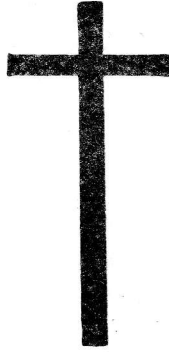


CLARION

CATSHILL  
CLARION



THE CLARION

CATSHILL CLARION

The monthly magazine of  
Catshill Methodist Church

MARCH 1984

68 Golden Cross Lane  
Catshill.

Dear Friends,

Two people went into a shop to buy a book. They found that the shopkeeper had only one copy left, and his customers quarrelled bitterly over who should have the last Bible. One even suggested tearing it in half, so that each could have at least something. Do you find that sad or unbelievable? That's just one aspect of life for the people of Angola, many of whom hunger and thirst for the word of God.

Nevill Cryer, the Director of the Bible Society, tells that story, taken from a letter written by Joan Makondekwa, the leader of the Bible Society work in Angola. He has a constant stream of orders for Bibles from church leaders which he cannot meet. About 1000 scriptures arrive every week, but people queue at once, and they are gone in a single day. What an appetite, in just one place, Angola, for the powerful word of God.

Where would you recommend a young person to begin reading? Samuel is a Kenyan, a Kikuyu who did not care for church or God. He scratched a living collecting old beer bottles and newspapers and selling them to traders. Having an unexpected sum of money - he felt a surprising urge to buy a Bible, and turned to the book of Haggai to begin reading. There he found the words, "God says my temple lies in ruins ..." Samuel realised that he had been totally concerned with his own affairs, and had not cared about what God required of him.

Do you know where Haggai is in your Bible? How many Bibles are there on your bookshelf? Is it the powerhouse of your life, and do you understand the spiritual hunger of your brothers and sisters in Angola? It is a real tragedy that so many Bibles lie unused in the homes of people all over this land, who are themselves wandering lost and forlorn for a word of direction and

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salvation. Let it speak to you and help others to uncover the riches of a book that has been an inspiration to millions over hundreds of years, and still sells in its countless millions all over the world today. Why? Because it has the good news of Jesus, who comes to show us the way to God. A message that is in truth 'new every morning'.

Your Minister and Friend,

Tony Price

### Baptism

5th February 1984 - Christopher James Cook

### Dates for your Diary

- 5th March Circuit Local Preachers Meeting, Bromsgrove  
9th March Worship Consultation: 7.30 pm in the church  
12th March Circuit Meeting: 7.30 pm in the church  
13th March Property Committee  
25th March Church Anniversary services today/see note  
Special speaker: Rev. James Hutchens <sup>below</sup>  
27th March Holiday Evening  
29th March to 1st April - Overseas weekend special events in the circuit and District  
and coming soon ...  
DAYBREAK - an Easter Musical - 13th April at Catshill  
14th April at Bromsgrove  
6th May 7.00 pm - Annual General Church Meeting.  
Items for discussion in writing to the Minister or Church Council Secretary by 29th April.

Church Anniversary - Refreshments will be served in the Youth Hall after the evening service - all are welcome.

## METHODIST CHURCH OVERSEAS MISSIONS

Details of the Circuit Mission Weekend were published in last month's Clarion. This will take place from Thursday, 29th March to Sunday, 1st April, and we should be deciding which events we are going to attend. It all seems exciting and worthwhile.

In addition, the Rev. H Holman will speak on his recent visit to China at the Bromsgrove Methodist Centre, Stratford Road, at 7.30 pm on Wednesday, 28th March. This is a Guild Meeting to which all are welcome.

Also there is a World Development Meeting at Four Oaks Methodist Church, Lichfield Road, Sutton Coldfield. Cedric Mayson (who escaped from South Africa last year whilst on a trial for treason) will address the Meeting at 3 pm and show slides. Tea at 5 pm will be followed by a public meeting at 7 pm, when he will give an up-to-date survey of the situation in South Africa.

At the Droitwich meeting (2.30 pm on 31st March), Overseas Missions Secretaries are invited to bring friends. John Barber is pleased to issue a general invitation. Please let him know if you would like to attend at Amphlett House.

Watch out for the Key Letters - NM

West Midlands	World Mission
World Mosaic	World Miscellany
World (Development) Meeting	
With Music (Dayspring steel band)	
With (Dr. Colin) Morris	
With (Dr. A.) Mosley.	

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### GOOD NEWS FOR BROMSGROVE

Halfpennies are being collected in a tin in the Church Porch for Good News for Bromsgrove. Please bring your halfpennies for this worthwhile cause.

## SUNDAY SCHOOL

The young people in our Senior Department are anxious to do something for someone else and are therefore planning to serve coffee in the Youth Hall after the morning service on Sunday, 25th March.

This is an extra to the usual 'coffee on the third Sunday of the month' and we hope many of you will feel able to encourage their efforts and stay for a coffee with them; proceeds will be for a children's Bone Marrow fund.

The following Sunday, 1st April, will be Mothering Sunday, as well as parade service and Overseas Mission day, so we shall have plenty to think about; we hope to include a short presentation by the Sunday School on a Mothering Sunday theme during the morning service and specially invite the Mums of all children and young people within the Church to come along and join us.

The next few months generally look as if they are going to be particularly busy one, and some other dates for your diary are:

DAYBREAK performance - Friday, 13th April at Catshill  
Saturday, 14th April at  
Bromsgrove

YOUTH SUNDAY - 13th May - morning Sunday School  
evening Youth Groups

Finally, but no less important, we are planning a visit to our friends at Knowle Methodist Church, Bristol on Sunday, 24th June; you will recall how they visited us in September last year and we have now been invited down to Bristol - children and young people, parents and staff. Further details will be circulated soon, but please book the date and let's make it a real family outing.

One more point, we are still in need of extra staff to help us; this need not be an every week commitment as we try to arrange staffing on a rota basis so that all staff are able to attend morning worship too.

If you feel you'd like to join our team, please have a chat with Doreen Pearson.

## Sunday School/cont.

all staff are able to attend morning worship too. If you feel you would like to join our team, please have a chat with Doreen Pearson.

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## HOLIDAYS AHOY!

Many readers will already have plans in hand for holidays to come, many can look back with pleasure on holidays past. Not everyone is so fortunate.

Certainly many youngsters in the Birmingham inner city area would have no holiday prospects at all but for the efforts of the Education & Youth Department of the Birmingham Methodist District.

Our own youth club have in the past made a contribution towards the expenses of the PENARTH HOLIDAY PROJECT and this year we all have an opportunity to help if we would care to do so by supporting the "Holidays Ahoy!" night on Tuesday, 27th March at 7.30 pm in the Youth Hall.

This will be an evening for all in holiday mood, with competitions, music, souvenir display, bring-'n-buy (of items suitable for holiday use if possible please), supper with an international flavour, and a special presentation about the PENARTH HOLIDAY PROJECT.

In order to help catering arrangements, please get your tickets early - adults £1, children 50p, from Kathleen Price, Chris Nesbitt, Joan Mayo, Cheila Massey, Doreen Pearson, Jean Lacey, Ros Rumley or Pippa Collins.

All proceeds will go to the PENARTH HOLIDAY PROJECT; if you cannot come along on 27th March but would still like to make a contribution, please hand your donation to Mrs Kathleen Price,

The BB 'bus is to take some of the children to and from Penarth by kind arrangement with the BB and Mr Bill Kett in particular. Mrs Doreen Kett is collecting items of good used holiday wear, and would be delighted to hear from you if you can help in this way.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

## COVENTRY MYSTERY PLAYS

In August this year the Coventry Mystery Play - the story of the Life of Christ - will be performed in the beautiful setting of the ruins of Coventry Cathedral. I saw this Play performed three years ago and it was a brilliant production. The audience represents the crowd and actually partakes in the production.

I am interested in arranging to take a party from Catshill and wonder if it could be a family Church outing as the play is suitable for children and adults alike. If I hear from you that you are interested and there are enough people, I will go ahead and make plans. Details of cost, etc. - I will let you know at a later date.

Ros Rumley

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## SOUTHLANDS COLLEGE

Young people seeking higher education may wish to consider Southlands, one of two Methodist Colleges offering degree courses in a wide range of subjects, leading to Honours B.A. or B.Sc. degree of the University of Surrey.

Southlands is a member college of the Roehampton Institute, offering collegiate life based on Christian values, in an attractive setting on the edge of London. The Minister has more details if you are interested.

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If anyone needs to get in touch with Robert or Carole Trigger, please note that they now live at 64 Kidderminster Road, Bronsgrove - Tel. 76074.

## 1st BROMSGROVE BOYS' BRIGADE COMPANY

On Monday 30th January the faithful eight minstrels (seven Juniors and one from Company Section) accompanied by a contingent of Officers, had yet another rehearsal of the Battalion music show "Take It From The Top" - this time at Hurst Green. This was for a performance the following Saturday at Birmingham Road Methodist Church, Blackheath - part of the meeting of Blackheath L.P.M.A. This time the miming was omitted and the choir rendered what was undoubtedly their best performance to a very appreciative audience. One of three narrators, Mrs D. Stephens, gave another superb performance.

The Battalion Band competition was held on 7th February at Bromsgrove Youth Centre. Our Band rehearsed very hard to endeavour to recapture the Championship, which they held six times in eight years. There were two sections:- Group A, the main event, and Group B for novices, which was won by 4th Halesowen with 89 points followed by 1st Cradley with 81 points. In the main event our Band were second, scoring 103 points out of 120, only two behind the winners: 4th Warley with 105 points. 4th Warley were adjudged the best drum section and 1st Bromsgrove the best bugle section. Competition was very keen.

On Saturday 11th February the Battalion Cross Country was held over a gruelling course at Halesowen. Organised by our Company, this is a team event, and it is many years since our Company won. So congratulations to our Junior team, which won in great and convincing style with 20 points. Second were 1st Redditch with 44 and third came 3rd Dudley with 71 points. Our victors were David Machin (1st), David Hardy (2nd), Andrew Marling (7th) and William Kett (10th). We had a team in the Intermediate which was won by 1st Redditch (45), with 2nd Kidderminster next with 47 and third were 1st Cradley (55 points). In the Seniors we did not have a team, but one gallant competitor in Dean Fitzer. This event

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## Boys' Brigade/cont.

was won by 2nd Halesowen (14) followed by 1st Redditch (36) and 3rd Warley (42).

The best wishes of the Company go with Sgt. Michael Cook, who left on Sunday, 26th February to continue his studies at Bradford University. Whenever any voluntary service was required, Michael was always first to volunteer and he has been the only holder of the Service Award since this was inaugurated several years ago, and this he has held with pride. He is an example to all Members of our Company. Cpl. Dean Fitzer has deservedly been promoted to Sergeant in his place. L/Col. Mark Donald has been promoted to Corporal. Congratulations to both. Four boys will be promoted to L/Cpl. at the March Parade Service. These were all agreed at a recent Officers' Meeting when plans were made for the Display (5th May) and Fete (7th May). A full Fete Meeting will be held soon.

When the clocks are put forward, our Company will resume keeping tidy the three footpaths leading from Golden Cross Lane. A recent survey showed what a shocking condition they are in. Alas! Catshill has its share of litter louts, but we will soon be on the job as will Bromsgrove Society's campaign in Bromsgrove. It is through our membership of this organisation that we are involved in this public duty.

Our Quiz teams are busy preparing for a Battalion Bible Knowledge Quiz at Hurst Green, the County Youth Quiz at Malvern, and the Fire Service Quiz at Droitwich. We wish them well.

We were at home this year for another happy occasion, the Camp Reunion on Saturday, 18th February, when we entertained our co-campers from the Girls' Brigade.

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## Boys' Brigade/cont.

Thanks to the officers and helpers who prepared an excellent meal and to Mr L Bowditch for showing his fine film in which he kindly commemorated our Company in the BB Centenary Year. Two 8mm films were also shown, Michael Cooking being the projectionist.

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### 'COINS DOWN THE AGES'

Peter Mobley gave 'Tuesday at 8' members and guests a most interesting talk on the development of coinage as a universally accepted means of exchange.

Showing examples from his collection, Peter explained how coins had been made down the ages, and highlighted various coins mentioned in the Bible, including The Widow's Mite.

At the end of the talk members had the opportunity of having their coins valued, and more than one person went home feeling rather better off!

By general request a second talk will be given at a later date on British coinage over the recent centuries.

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### COMPETITION

Ros Rumley

Are you any good at drawing or photography?  
The Church Council agreed to the production of a Mug with a design of our Church on it. It is hoped to have it ready for sale during the summer-time. We need a good design or photograph of our Church, and the picture will be put on the mug, along with the words 'Catshill Methodist Church'. Please submit your photograph or drawing, 3½" x 5" print size or drawing on a card of same size to Mrs Ros Rumley by Sunday, 25th March. Please write your name on the back and it will be returned to you after the judging has taken place. I shall be taking orders for the mug in due course by putting a sheet for signing in the Porch.

## SUNDAY JOINT

Our start to 1984 at Sunday Joint has been fairly quiet, after all our Christmas activities.

The annual carol singing tour around the village was enjoyed by one and all. We had about 30 young people turn up and so split into two groups to go and sing to those people in the village who had been unable to attend any of our Christmas services. We were able to bring a little Christmas cheer to these people with our singing, even though Clive's rather off-key warbles seemed to dominate in 'Angels from the Realms of Flory'.

Our post Christmas activities brought in our friends who don't normally attend and one or two of these people have now become occasional visitors to our group. We had a very enjoyable evening at Stirchley bowling alley and Anne scored a record 14 no scores before she realised she was supposed to hit the skittles down!

New Year's Eve found us at Dave and Di's having our traditional meal and followed by Auld Lang Syne, and a toast to the New Year. Our first meeting of the year was a 1983 review, with studies and cine films from our year's activities.

After a discussion at our last meeting on the 'One True God', we have decided to do a bit of research into what other religions believe in. Each of us has chosen a different religion, ranging from the Muslim faith to Hari Krishna, and including Christian Scientists and Mormons.

In the coming weeks we will be discussing such varied topics as: "The purpose of Life", "Nuclear Disarmament", and the use of our senses.

We are also involved in a service at Wildmoor, the Easter Breakfast, Youth Sunday and of course, the Sunday Joint Train-Trip!

BB Friends Association

A CAR BOOT SALE will be held on the Church Car Park on  
Saturday, 31st March 1984 at 9 am - 12 noon.

Entrance Fee £2.00

Refreshments will be served.

Please come along with your boot full of things to sell!

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PLAYGROUP SPRING FAYRE

in "Toyland"

Saturday 17th March at 2 pm

Stalls, games, refreshments, Police and Fire Brigade.

Come along and meet the Giant Panda, as seen at the  
Palace Theatre, Redditch.

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PAUSE FOR THOUGHT

Are you an active member, the kind that would be  
missed?

Or are you just contented that your name is on the  
list?

Do you attend the meetings and mingle with the  
flock?

Or stay at home in comfort and criticise and knock?

Do you take an active part to help the work along,

Or are you merely satisfied just simply to belong?

Think it over, member, you know right from wrong -

Are you an active member - or do you just belong?

ABOUT THIS CHURCH:

Minister: Rev. Tony Price,  
68 Golden Cross Lane  
Catshill. Tel. Bromsgrove 76405

Services: 10.30 am Family Service and  
Sunday School  
6.00 pm Evening Worship

MID-WEEK EVENTS

Monday 5.45 pm Brownies  
7.00 pm Guides

Tuesday 9.30 am Pre-School Playgroup  
2.00 pm Mums and Toddlers Club  
7.15 pm Rangers  
8.00 pm Tuesday at Eight

Wednesday 9.30 am Pre-School Playgroup  
2.45 pm Women's Own  
2.00-7.30 pm Quiet Time  
9.00 pm Choir Practice

Thursday 9.30 am Pre-School Playgroup  
10.30 am Neighbourhood Ladies  
Coffee Meeting  
(alternate weeks)  
1.30 pm Pre-School Playgroup  
6.30 pm Boys' Brigade (Jun.Sec.)  
7.45 pm Boys' Brigade (Com.Sec.)

Friday 9.30 am Pre-School Playgroup  
6.00 pm Boys' Brigade (Anchor Boys)  
7.45 pm Youth Club

Church Bookings: All bookings for the Church  
and Youth Hall should be made through:

Mr Robin Sanday  
93 Barley Mow Lane, Catshill  
Tel. Bromsgrove 74164