

CATSHILL



CLARION

The monthly magazine of

CATSHILL METHODIST CHURCH

The Manse
Catshill

April 1986

Dear Friends

I find golf on television very compelling. Once I start watching, I find it all too easy to keep on watching. Mind you, Kathleen says I find anything on telly hypnotic - it does seem to draw like a magnet for some people, and what a time waster it can be.

But I was talking about golf. It's one of those games that I could never find time for, and maybe that's just as well. Some 30 years ago I was a movements clerk at RAF Altona, Hamburg, and I had to process the documents for all new arrivals. Peter was posted to Altona, and I noticed that he gave his civilian occupation as 'professional golfer'. We became good friends and, when we were both posted to HQ unit some months later, he taught me some of golf's secrets, including the joy of seeing your ball speeding down the fairway straight and true from a good hit.

The frustrating thing for a golfer is that, having hit a perfect tee shot, your next stroke might be terrible. You could follow a hole in one, with your ball up a tree or down a ditch. Every shot and every hole needs your full attention and your best effort to achieve the best result. Are there always too many bunkers about?

Because life is lived in a world of different problems, we can easily get upset about the way our shots often go the wrong way, and complain about the 'rub of the green'. Life, too, seems to have too many bunkers!

Jesus told his friends that, in the world, they would have all sorts of troubles, but that this need not depress them, for he had overcome the world. From a life where more rejected Him than accepted Him, He

triumphed to the ultimate victory, over His enemies,
the Church leaders and rulers of the people, yes,
and over death itself.

He also promised the gift of His Spirit, that, living
in grace, we may know something of His power, and in
our lives, find out what God intended for us all along,
a life of purpose lived in love and joy, walking that
most fair way, the path of Christ.

Resurrection Joy to you all

Tony Price

The Annual Church Meeting

This will be held at 7.30pm on Sunday, 27 April in the Youth Hall.

Vacancies exist for 1 Church Steward and 3 representatives to the Church Council, all of whom must be church members.

Please hand nominations to Tony Price or Ros Rumley, by Sunday, 13 April. These should be proposed and seconded by 2 church members and bear the signature of the nominee indicating their willingness to stand for election.

All members and friends of the church are welcome to this meeting, but only church members may vote.

FAMILY NEWS

Ron and Ruth Wagstaff have now moved to their new address, 2 Forest Close, Lickey End, Bromsgrove, B60 1JU. They have settled in nicely and would like to thank all friends for their good wishes and offers of help. Telephone number is unchanged (Bromsgrove 73436).

We were sorry to learn of the death of Mrs Gladys Hazelwood, a member of Women's Own. Our sympathies, too, to Mrs Ethel Lee on the sudden death of her husband, Ron.

Mrs Yoxall has had a fall, but is now recovering and is back home again.

Jim and Joyce Hutchens shared our Church Anniversary last month, and enjoyed being back with old friends. Thanks to all who shared in the work on that day.

Manse Plant Sale

Yes - we're having one again this year! After the winter we've had, we shall all need to stock up again. So get planting and pricking out and bring your pots and boxes along on Saturday, 17 May 10.00am - 12 noon. Profits shared between our Sunday School and the charity, Cancer & Leukemia in Children.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Don't forget the Catshill Churches' Group Fellowship evenings begin this month, when we share different aspects of our faith, and our denominational variety.

Tues. 15 April		Methodist Church	Baptism
Wed. 30 April		The Anglicans host an evening on	Holy Communion
Sat. 19 April		District Synod at Coventry	
Sun. 20 April	10.30am	Church Visitors'	Dedication Service.
Sun. 27 April	6.00	Local Preachers'	Reception Service for Carole Trigger
	7.30	Annual General Church	Meeting
Wed. 30 April	2.45	W.W. Easter offering	Dedication Service at Catshill
Sun. 4 May		Young People's Day	
	10.30	Birmingham Methsoc team	lead our Parade Service
	6.00	'Crows and Methodists'	by Bromsgrove Centre Workshop

DATES OF RAMBLES FOR 1986

Sat. 12 April	2.00	Sat. 23 August	
" 3 May		" 13 September	2.00pm
" 7 June	9.30am	" 11 October	9.30am
Mon. 23 "	7.00pm	" 1 November	
Sat. 19 July			

For further details see Peter Mobley.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

A guide to Community Action against Crime

Wherever you live, you are part of a community. Sadly, whatever the size of your community, you may be a likely target for the criminal.

The police do all they can, but they cannot win on their own. We can all help and we are being asked to become actively involved in crime prevention in our own neighbourhood.

You know who lives nearby and who you expect to see in the street outside, or in a neighbour's garden. If you see a stranger, or a strange car, you can make a note of it and let the police know of anything suspicious around your home.

The more difficult we make life for the criminal, the more likely it is that crime can be reduced.

Look out for further details and how you can share in NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH.

COVENANTED COLLECTIONS

The Inland Revenue department has tightened up its' procedures relating to covenanted collections. It is acceptable for recorded collections through the envelope scheme, including payments by bank standing orders and by cheque, to count as part or the whole of the amount contained in each deed of covenant. However, gifts of cash or cheques to other organisations within, or connected with, the Church are NOT acceptable as part of the covenanted amounts unless they are properly recorded as gifts from the individuals concerned and receipts are issued and can be produced as evidence of payment.

SITUATIONS VACANT

A parish looking for a Rector is reported to have received this letter:

"Gentlemen,

I understand that your parish is looking for a new Rector, and I should like to apply for the post.

I have many qualifications that I think you would appreciate. I have been blessed with power to preach and have had some success as a writer. Some say that I am a good organiser. I have been a leader in most places to which I have gone.

Some men, however, think that I am too old - at fifty. I have never preached at one place more than three years at a time. In some I have known my work to have caused riots and disturbances. I have to admit that I have been in jail three times, or was it four? - but not because of wrongdoing.

My health is not too good as I suffer from fits; however, I still get a good deal done. Generally, I have had to work at my trade to pay my way. The churches in which I have preached have been small, though situated in large cities. I am not on harmonious terms with the religious bodies, who have taken me to court, threatened me, and had me physically assaulted.

I am not too good at keeping records. I have been known to forget whom I have baptised. However, if you want me I shall do my best for you, even if I have to work to help with my support".

Those responsible for the appointment were, of course, indignant. They were not interested in any unhealthy, contenticous, trouble-making, absent-minded, ex jailbird as their Rector. They thought the application was an insult, and demanded to know the applicant's name.

He was finally identified as St.Paul!

With acknowledgements to Blackwell Church magazine.

WHAT HAVE THESE IN COMMON?

The President of the Conference - Methodist Homes for the Aged - Ben Nevis - National Children's Homes - Bert Bissell.

Mr Bert Bissell, of Dudley, is over 80 years of age. He has climbed Ben Nevis as many times as his age. He plans to climb it again on 28 May.

He has challenged THE PRESIDENT OF THE CONFERENCE to climb with him. The President has agreed.

Many Methodists might like to join in this historic climb. But we can't all do so.

However, we can all be associated with it.

The President has agreed that we invite our fellow-methodists to sponsor him on the climb. He has asked that any money raised should be split equally between

THE NATIONAL CHILDREN'S HOME - who are hoping to build a family centre in Bilston in the West Midlands.

and

METHODIST HOMES FOR THE AGED - who currently have special Appeals for the Wolverhampton & Shrewsbury District, and the Birmingham District.

If you would like to be associated with this, would you like to be sponsors? If so, please fix on whatever amount seems right to you, and resolve "If (when?) the President reaches the summit, I will contribute as sponsorship".

With the approval of the President, NCH and MHA, the scheme is being handled by Mrs O Dimmock, of 9 Clear View, Kingswinford, West Midlands DY6 9XQ

Please EITHER send her your cheques

OR pay money into The Midland Bank, for account No.402613 53069974, Kingswinford Branch, 23 Market Street, Kingswinford, West Midlands DY6 9JT. If you choose the latter, please ALSO send the customer's counterfoil to Mrs Dimmock at the address given above so that she knows where contributions have come from.

YOUTH WEEK - FRIDAY 9 MAY

"Open" Youth Club - ALL ages welcome - come and try your hand at pool, table tennis or darts. 20p Entrance. Refreshments available.

SATURDAY, 10 MAY

Teenscene invite you to a "Tramps' Supper" from 8 - 11pm. Only those looking like tramps will be allowed entry. Entrance £1 to include refreshments. All profits to help "Down & Outs" in Birmingham (Centre run by Rev. Tom Hodgson) Prize for best (?worst) dressed tramp!! Please buy your tickets early from Dave or Di Morgan, or any Teenscene member.

TEENSCENE NEWS

At a recent Teenscene meeting, we had a very interesting discussion on "Who is God" - and we tried to draw a composite heraldic shield which would pictorially describe our views of God.

The final picture we produced is on display in the porch, and if you have the time, you might look to consider it, and what it says to you. If you have the opportunity, why not discuss it with members of Teenscene - you never know who might discover what!?

We will give you a full explanation of the various segments in next month's Clarion.

TUESDAY AT EIGHT

On Tuesday, 11 March, we entered the world of journalism by kind permission of Jim Rutherford-Morgan of the Halesowen News) part of the Berrows Newspaper Group, and late of the Northfield Messenger). We heard most interesting stories from murder to myth. We were taken through the pros and cons of journalism, portrayed most fully, so any would-be journalist certainly went away having learned many tricks of the trade. Watch out, Ladies, you never know who you are talking to, so don't get your name in print! Having listened to all the stories, it's easier than you think!

Please ladies, can you all donate a packet of needles each, for Sister Strawford in Zimbabwe, for distribution to ladies running play centres in the Bush. We would be most grateful if you can help. Please bring your needles to the next Tuesday at Eight, or give them to Joan Mayo. Thank you.

Our next Tuesday at Eight is on Tuesday, 8 April when Mrs Mahoney will give a talk on Victim Support. A warm welcome is extended to all.

CAPTAIN'S GOLDEN OLDIES

By now, you will all have heard of this.

Many years ago, someone realised that there will always be ladies who made their Guide promise and wish to stay close to the movement and support it when they can but, because of family ties, are unable to be attached to a unit.

This was when the Trefoil Guild was formed. The Guild has to have one meeting a year; it may have more, depending on members themselves. If you are interested in helping to form a Catshill Trefoil Guild, please contact Sheila Collins.

PLAYGROUP

On 8 March we held our annual Spring Fayre. It was a very successful afternoon and we were delighted to find that we had raised £300 for Playgroup funds.

The two remaining weeks of term were spent preparing for Easter. The children made Easter cards, and nests covered with straw into which they put little chocolate eggs and a fluffy chick. Making the nests proved to be great fun - if not a little sticky. It made us wonder how the birds manage without two hands and a pot of glue! Eight of our children will be starting school on 9 April - Tina, Spencer, Steven, David, Christopher, Thomas, Kerry and Paul. During March we were invited to take these children into school for a morning. They met their new teacher, watched a PE lesson in the Hall, and played with the 'big' children in the playground.

On the last day of term we painted some pictures with yellow paint, and collected lots of yellow things together to make a yellow "corner" for the Church on Easter Day. We also made some Easter bonnet biscuits which we enjoyed with our mid-morning milk.

WOMEN'S OWN

Our first meeting in March was the normal "Sale Table" meeting and the second week, the postponed AGM, turned out to be a historic occasion, but I will return to that. At our third meeting we welcomed back Mr Gordon Fry from the Salvation Army. He had just returned from being the road manager for Aston Fields Middle School Choir during its tour of Holland. His vivid descriptions had us all on tour with them.

To return to the AGM, Mrs Kings retired from her position as Secretary of the afternoon meeting for young ladies. There was no way that she could have envisaged that, over 50 years later, she would just be retiring, having held the post uninterrupted for all those years.

This record breaking feat was acknowledged by the presentation of a cut glass rose bowl, and many votes of thanks. But we are not losing her to the 'back benches' as she is to stay on the committee as assistant secretary.

I would like to point out that Women's Own is not a Catshill Methodist closed shop - we have members from all denominations; some local and some living far away in Marlbrook. So, if you are free at 2.45 on a Wednesday do come and join us. I can assure you of a warm welcome and an afternoon of fellowship.

RANGERS

We have "been keeping on the right side of the law" during the last two months. We have visited Bromsgrove Police Station to see an ordinary station in action. We certainly did that! We must have chosen one of their busiest nights. PC Twentyman had arranged for us to see a couple of videos, fortunately which were excellent and helped drown the protesting noise of some of their "visitors". Following this, we went to Police HQ at Hindlip and saw the contrast between the local station and a computerised centre of modern technology. We - they, also went round the Black Museum. Di and I just rubbed the colour back into their cheeks when they came out. Our third brush with the law was a PRACTICAL! demonstration of self-defence. An excellent evening, ending in a few bruises! Creep up behind any of the girls at your own peril!

Another active evening was when we were introduced to Yoga. I had envisaged quiet, peaceful meditation. Oh dear! Mrs Ely had other ideas. It wasn't until I saw the photos that Di took that I realised just what agonies we suffered, but we also had many giggles.

A much quieter evening was provided by Mrs Trigger and Mrs Yarrington. On what must have been the coldest night of the year, Sue and Carol took us through the stages of childhood from birth to school days.

Changing nappies held fewer delights than playing with construction toys. The girls hope to gain their Child Care certificates in the near future. We finished this session with a debate on Duty to God, which was diverse, deep, wide and thought provoking - Just what the Ranger programme tries to be.

DIVISION OF SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

A DSR evening was held on 28 February where a video of the work of the Probation Service in Hereford and Worcester was shown. We saw how the Service is trying to handle young offenders (mostly male) who have been put under a supervisory or community order, rather than suffer a jail sentence.

Some of the work they are required to do indicates that, for many of them, their waywardness is due to lack of direction, perhaps boredom, and frequently, mixing with the "wrong sort". We saw these young offenders doing a variety of community work, involving shopping for the disabled in Redditch, assisting at schools and centres for the handicapped, and doing general jobs like painting or gardening, for the elderly.

One of the encouraging aspects of the film was that many of these people decided to continue working for the less fortunate after they had completed their "sentence". I, for one, always considered community work as a punishment - an easy option for the offender. They have their normal freedom as long as they carry out their required hours. However, after seeing this film, my attitude has changed. I now see it as a "teaching of the real values of life" rather than a punishment. Some people might call it rehabilitation - but I don't like that term very much.

I'm sure all the audience found something in the film, or following discussion, of interest or encouragement. If there was a criticism, it is that they made the sentences appear too enjoyable rather than punishment and at least one of the audience (it would be unfair to mention Rachel by name!) thought she might like to try it without bothering to commit a crime!

Our thanks to Adrian Quinn and Peter Williams for showing the film and answering the questions openly, and to David Gittins for arranging the evening.

MCOD Bicentenary - Visit to Trentham on 21 June

This should be an exciting day, with workshops, mission trail, World bazaar, bandstand, prayer vigil and commissioning service included. The £2 advance booking fee per person includes admission to all parts of the grounds, 2 free rides and a souvenir programme. This should be paid to John Barber by 20 April, on which day the booking form will be completed and posted. There will be 2 picking up points - Bromsgrove 8.30am and Catshill Church 9.00am. The departure from Stoke-cn-Trent will be at 5.00pm. The cost of the coach is £2 per person, payable on the journey.

BOYS BRIGADE

Pride of place this month goes to our Top of the Form team which just cannot be ousted from the BB's national competition. The team has qualified for the final, which comprises a group of 5 teams, by being the top-scoring runners up in the 4 semi-final sections. The semi-final was held at Wylam-on-Tyne, where we experienced a wonderful weekend of hospitality and fellowship and achieved second place in the main event. During the weekend we met an old friend of Catshill Methodist, Ivor Hayward who will, doubtless, be remembered by many. Our best wishes for the final go to the team who are Richard Cook (Captain), Robert Bird, William Kett and Andrew Marsh.

Our Bible Knowledge Quiz team was narrowly defeated in the Battalion Competition. Twelve teams took part and our team was Simon Mitchell, Stephen Judd, Andrew Mayo and Nicholas Ray.

On 22 February, the Dudley male voice choir, known as The Gentlemen Songsters, presented a concert in our Church. To echo the appreciation of the capacity audience, this was one of the best evenings of entertainment which Catshill has experienced for a very long time. Their magnificent and exalting performance was uplifting and the enjoyment was shared by performers and listeners alike. The evening was arranged by our Friends Association. Congratulations to them for their initiative and enterprise.

On Thursday, 27 February, our Company Section was visited by representatives from Dr Barnados, who showed a video film and gave an interesting talk about the work of their organisation. During the following week, Dr Barnardos envelopes were delivered to every house in Catshill and £175 resulted from this exercise. A good job well done in a joint effort.

A Fete meeting was held on 14 March, when good progress was made. The next meeting will be held on Friday, 11 April in one of the Church rooms at 7.45pm. Please come along - you will be most welcome.

BB Cross Country

On 15 March, some members of the Company Section entered the Battalion cross country competition. The team, complete with last year's trophies, arrived in plenty of time at the new venue, Warley Park.

As usual, the meeting was split into junior, intermediate and senior races but we did not enter the junior event this time.

The new course caused confusion as all three sections shared part of the same route, branching off where appropriate. Some junior boys ended finishing over the intermediate/senior finishing line!! And one lad was sent on an extra lap!!!

All our team ran well. The first three over the line for us in the intermediate race were W Kett, N Rawlins and A Marling. The first three in the senior race for us were T Rumley, C Brown and A Russell.

In the final result, our intermediate team came third and our seniors came fifth. It had been an enjoyable event with a good result - but not good enough to bring back the cups. Still, there's always next year.

BB FETE

The BB Fete will take place on Bank Holiday Monday, 5 May.

If you have any items, such as games, books, cakes, etc., for any stall, please hand them to any officer. Thank you.

On Sunday, 16 March, our Bible Class assisted at Lickey End Morning Service.

On Friday, 4 April, Mr & Mrs J Stephens and 13 Company Section members represented our Company when HRH Princess Margaret visited Bromsgrove to open the new Council offices.

BB Forthcoming Events

- 9 April Visit to Hunters Hill
- 11 April Fete Meeting 7.45 - Church Room
- 18 April Juniors and Anchor Boys visit to Redditch Leisure Centre
- 19 April National BB Brass Band Championships - Doncaster
- 19 April Junior Section's Festival - Halesowen
- 20 April Our band leads the annual Scouts St George's Day Parade - 2.00pm
- 27 April Bible Class again invited to Lickey End
- 3 May TOP OF THE FORM final - organised by the Manchester Battalion.
- 3 May ANNUAL DISPLAY - 7.00pm in the Church
- 5 May BB Fete - Catshill Meadow - 2.00pm
All welcome - come and enjoy yourselves.
See posters and Church Notices for details.
- 9 - 11 May Weekend camp at Chew Magna

ABOUT THIS CHURCH

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

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

MID-WEEK EVENTS

Monday	5.45pm	Brownies
	7.00pm	Guides
	7.45pm	House Fellowship/Bible Study (alternate weeks)
Tuesday	9.30am	Pre-school Playgroup
	2.00pm	Mums and Toddlers Club
	7.15pm	Rangers
	7.45pm	House Fellowship/Bible Study (alternate weeks)
	8.00pm	Tuesday at Eight
Wednesday	9.30am	Pre-school Playgroup
	2.45pm	Women's Own
	7.00-7.30pm	Quiet Time
	8.00pm	Choir Practice
Thursday	9.30am	Pre-school Playgroup
	10.30am	Neighbourhood Ladies' Coffee meeting (alt. weeks)
	1.30pm	Pre-school Playgroup
	6.30pm	Boys' Brigade (Juniors)
	7.45pm	" " (Company)
Friday	9.30am	Pre-school Playgroup
	6.00pm	Boys' Brigade (Anchor Boys)
	7.45pm	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: 74164

