

South Molton Baptist Church
News Sheet
March 2005

You armed me with strength for battle; you made my adversaries bow at
my feet.

Ps. 18:39

New Road, South Molton

www.southmolton.org.uk/baptistchurch

Email: smbaptist@hotmail.com

Minister: Rev. Andy Jarvis 574365

Dear Friends,

Wanted: mother. No experience necessary, no training given. **Hours:** 24-hour shift during whole life of child. **Terms:** Salary not available, but small government grant per child. Holiday and sick leave negotiable, but not encouraged. **Knowledge/experience:** The following would be a definite advantage: nursing, catering, philosophy, psychiatry, religion, counselling, finance, dressmaking, computer skills, media studies (including TV repairs), finance, arts, science, sport and taxi driving, and conflict management. (*'Situation Vacant: A Celebration of Mothers', Jan Power, Pan Books 1994*).

Being a mother is one of the most demanding jobs in the world. But of course it is not really a job – it is something, which, for millions of people around the world, is a way of life. If you saw such an advert in a newspaper, it wouldn't be very surprising if nobody applied. Yet, it's all too easy for us to forget what is involved in being a mother, especially when the tasks of motherhood, for many mothers, have to be squeezed into the gaps which are left after work is finished.

But what can we learn from the Bible about what being a mother involves? There's actually not all that much in the Bible specifically about motherhood. We have to look quite hard for clues. Luke 2. 41-51 the boy Jesus lost in Jerusalem, however, is quite revealing, if we look closely at it. What was it like for Mary to be Jesus' mother? She – and her husband Joseph – were not free from the kind of worries that any parent might have. What a nightmare it must have been to lose their child in a strange city. Luke tells us that Mary was anxious, worried – and that when she and Joseph found Jesus, they told him as much. The second thing is that Mary and Joseph did not understand Jesus when he told them that he had been in the Temple, and that they should not have worried about him. "Why were you searching for me?" he said. "Did you not know I had to be in my Father's house?" Thirdly, we can see Jesus already beginning to grow up. Mary and Joseph have to realise that he will soon become an adult, and will grow apart from them. He will have his own life to lead, and they will have to accept that he will no longer be their little boy.

Every mother will recognise these three things: anxiety, or worry, for their son, the fact that his parents couldn't understand him and the first signs that he was becoming an adult. They all show something of the **costliness of a mother's love**. Much of what a mother does is costly – not in terms of money, but in terms of what a mother has to go through. Mothers worry about their children because they love them – and that anxiety can be painful. When a mother can't understand, the child may feel frustrated – but she feels frustrated as well. And when the child begins to grow up, the mother will usually miss the little child she once had, and, from time to time, long to have that child back.

What is most impressive about Mary is the tenacity of her love. John 19:25 says 'Near the cross of Jesus stood...his mother.' She was there for him to the very end. Nature gives us a vivid picture of the steadfastness of a mother's love. Remember the ivy on the outside of church house? It had to be cut and wrenched away. Where we have not pulled it, it remains, despite having no root. Friends, we need to apply the same tenacity to serving Christ here in South Molton.

A mother and her only son once approached a Christian friend saying that she feared to pray 'Thy will be done' in the Lord's prayer in case the Lord took her child away or brought some other heavy burden into her already busy life as a single parent. The friend listened and asked, 'If your son came to you one morning and said that he was going to do whatever you told him to do that day, would you then ask him to do all the jobs round the house that you hate doing?' The mother replied immediately, 'No. I'd try and plan something nice for us to do together.' 'Then', said the Christian friend, 'Do you really think that God is less just and loving than you?'

When God called for the planting of this fellowship, for people to come and serve Him here, for them to give themselves wholeheartedly, for their gifts to buy the church house, was He doing so to drop us in it? Friends, as we appreciate our mothers and all those who care for and have nurtured us, let us recall both the tenacity and sacrificial nature of their love and be reminded of our heavenly Father, to whom we can say with all confidence, 'Thy will be done'. God bless you all in His service. **Andy**

March Events...

Holiday Club Prayer Meeting Tues 1st March
8pm at church

March 4th - Women's World Day of Prayer
Duke Street – 10.30am & 7.30pm

Sun 6th 10.30am **All-Age
Service for Mothering
Sunday**

Please pray for Andy on 5th, 6th March. He will be travelling to Peterborough to take the Sunday services, to speak about Home Mission and the work here, at Breton Baptist Church.

Minister's Conference

Please note that Andy & Helen will be away at the SW Baptist Minister's Conference at Sidholme, Sidmouth from Monday to Wednesday afternoon 7th – 9th March. The speaker is Mark Greene from the Institute for Contemporary Christianity.

Special Church Meeting Thurs 10th
8pm at church to discuss and pray about the use of Church House. This will also be designated a day of prayer and fasting.

Welcomers Workshop at the church 10-12noon on Sat 12th March. It is an opportunity for all those who serve as welcomers and stewards already, and for those who would like to in future, to come and share good practice and experience so that we might be even more effective in this important ministry.

Deacon's Prayer Breakfast Sun 20th
8.30am (please note change from usual week)

Deacon's Meetings Mon 14th at Andy's and 28th at Judy's
7.30pm

Coming Soon!

Celebrating Diversity The 2005 Baptist Assembly at the International Convention Centre, Birmingham. Sat 23rd Apr 11.30am-9.30pm Cost £25. See posters for more details.

Shekinah Bi-Monthly Youth Celebration for 11+ at Roundswell Community Centre in partnership with Soul Survivor Dates 23rd Apr, 25th June, 24th Sept and 26th Nov, when Mike Pilavachi will be the speaker.

South West Alpha Conference 10-11th March 2005 in Yeovil with Nicky Gumbel. Please let Andy know if you would be interested in going.

Bringing Home the Prodigals with Rob & Dianne Parsons Fri 4th March Riverside Leisure Centre, Exeter. 7.30-10pm Tickets 6 pounds. Please let Andy know if you would like to book a ticket.

N Devon District of Baptist Churches Spring Celebration at Christchurch, Bear St., Barnstaple 7.30pm Mon 18th April Speaker: Mr David Morgan, SW Baptist Assoc Evangelism Enabler

Christian Resources Exhibition 10th -13th May Sandown Park, Esher, Surrey

March 2005

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>We also begin a series called ‘...One Another’, where we consider the characteristics of our corporate life that identify us as the Body of Christ. The aim of the teaching is to remind, inform and call us to live together in such a way as to build each other up and help one another towards spiritual maturity.</p>						
<p>6 10.30am All-age service for Mothering Sunday</p> <p>6pm Gal 5:13-26 Serve one another</p>	<p>7 12-2pm Lunch Time Prayer</p> <p>7.30pm Deacon's Meeting @ Andy's</p>	<p>8 5.30pm Dance Club</p> <p>7.30pm Music Practice</p>	<p>9 6-7pm Truth Trekkers</p> <p>7.30pm 2H2H Music practice</p>	<p>10 8.00pm Special Church Meeting</p>	<p>11 9.30-11.30am Mini-Trekkers</p>	<p>12 10-12pm Welcomer's Workshop</p>
<p>13 10.30am Speak to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs Eph 5:19</p> <p>Communion</p> <p>7pm 2H2H ‘Death by Chocolate’.</p>	<p>14 12-2pm Lunch Time Prayer</p> <p>7.30pm Deacon's Meeting @ Andy's</p>	<p>15 5.30pm Dance Club</p>	<p>16 6-7pm Truth Trekkers</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18 9.30-11.30am Mini-Trekkers</p>	<p>19</p>
<p>20 10.30am Palm Sunday Admonish one another Col 3:16-17</p> <p>6pm Forgive one another Eph 4:17-32</p> <p>Communion</p> <p>Deacon's Prayer Breakfast 8.30am</p>	<p>21 12-2pm Lunch Time Prayer</p>	<p>22 5.30pm Dance Club</p> <p>Music Practice</p>	<p>23 6-7pm Truth Trekkers</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25 GOOD FRIDAY</p> <p>10.00 March of witness (starts @ Baptist Church)</p>	<p>26</p>
<p>27 10.30am Easter Day...Love one another as I have loved you 1John 4</p> <p>6pm Submit to one another Eph 5:21-6:9</p>	<p>28 7.30pm Deacon's Meeting @ Judy's</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p>		

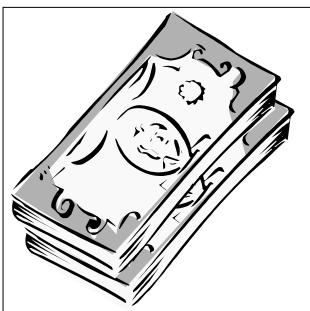
Notices...

CHURCH HOUSE

Help on the decorating front has been generous and sustained. With the help of the community punishment team, most of the decorating is complete. Thank you and well done to Gill and her team. Unfortunately, help with the wiring and doors has been less forthcoming and so we have had to postpone the carpet laying until the first week in April, though the vinyl will be laid on 1st March. There is still plenty to do for the disabled access slope and retaining walls, but we need a drier spell of weather before we can dump the spoil at Robin's farm. We also need a trailer/tractor & trailer to get the spoil out to Whitechapel. Do see Bob or Hedley if you could help. We cannot open the building until the work is done!

All the cash in the bag offering on the last Sunday of each month will be given to the building fund.

Also, assuming an annual budget expenditure of £44,200, our monthly target for giving is £3683.33 or £850 per week.



Photocopier

The church has purchased a photocopier. Eventually it will reside in the office in the church house but until then it will be at Andy & Helen's. If you need to do photocopying for any church activity, do call round

What brings us into a right relationship with God? The answer of the New Testament is instant and constant. It is the answer of blind Bartimaeus – a vital faith. A vital faith springs from a consciousness of need. Bartimaeus was blind and he knew it. He was a beggar, and he knew that a deep sense of need is nothing to be ashamed of, it is something to be proud of. It tells of our kinship with God. It says we have a destiny beyond the seen and temporal. It proclaims that we are citizens of two worlds. A vital faith lays hold of Christ with strong vigour, and it seizes every opportunity, and the response of Jesus to blind Bartimaeus as to everyone who calls, is immediate and all sufficient.

Daniel Russell

Foes in plenty we shall meet,
Hearts courageous scorn defeat!
So we press with eager feet
Up and on!

Ever onward to the fight
Ever upward to the light,
Ever true to God and right-
Up and on!

John Oxenham

From George

Calling All Squirrels!

Have you any curtain lining, striped material or felt that you have kept for a rainy day?

Well that day has come; Sunday school needs your treasure for a craft activity.

Please give your buried treasure to Glo or Kara, who will put it to good use. Thanks.

2H2H

(TOO HOT TO HANDLE)

TACKLING RELEVANT ISSUES FOR THE YOUTH OF
TODAY!

SUNDAY 13TH MARCH 7.00PM
SOUTH MOLTON BAPTIST CHURCH



REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE

	Flowers	PA	Stewards	Coffee	Cleaning (Week Commencing)	Door am	Door pm
6 th	Pat		Steve Bedford & Richard Tucker	Graham & Sheila	Carol Gains/Sue, Colin & Saskia Adams	Ken & Rachel	Carol
13 th	Pat	John & Steve	Tony Powell & Hanson Hammet	Marge & Joan	Marge Clements & Joan F.	Hanson & Pat	Ken
20 th	Rachel	Phil & Steve	Peter & Jacki	Wendy & Marilyn	John & Sue Tricker	Carol & Marge	Pat
27 th	Rachel	John & Sharon	Tony Powell & Steve Bedford	Doris & April	Volunteers Needed	Tony & Jill	Hanson

House Groups

Graham and Shiela
Grantham
2 Poltimore Close
WEDNESDAYS 7:45

Simon and Judy Friend-
Jan and Elsbeth's House

(Please ask for details if
interested)

Ken and Rachel Williams
24 Parklands

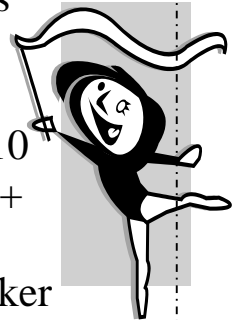
True Steps Dance Club

Tuesday Evenings

5.30-6.30 Ages 7-10

6.30-7.30 Ages 11+

Please see Jane Tricker



**Advance Warning -
The April news sheet deadline is Wednesday 23rd March. Please give your items to
Dave or Sharon Webber**