

## **THOUGHT OF THE MONTH JULY/AUGUST 2006**

John Donne wrote “No man is an island!” and that, of course is true of women too. We have an effect upon each other whether we realise it or not. Over the past few weeks I have heard of the death of several people I have known. They have been a part of my life’s experience and therefore have become to some extent part of me. The memory of them is stored away, perhaps to be brought out at a later date.

The late Rev. Phillip Moore is remembered with great respect and affection. His services were often thought-provoking and inspiring and he took interest in all aspects of our church life. He and his wife Jeannine played an active role in the setting up of the Lunch Club, which is still going strong, and many of our members recall with gratitude what he did for them personally. His memory will live on.

So too does the memory of Bill Bass. He was always cheerful, entertaining us with his singing with the Happy Wanderers and “Three Gendarming” with Douglas Gear and Graham Currie. Mention of the Happy Wanderers brings back memories of Jean Butland who also became part of us and remains that way as we recall happy times shared with her especially through her caring charismatic character and the music she provided for us.

Those of us who have lost loved ones of many years standing know that the loss involves losing part of ourselves, yet at the same time our loved ones live on in our thoughts and memories. We touch each other’s lives to a greater or lesser extent, for better or for worse. A neighbour died

recently, a sweet, unpretentious soul. I did not know her intimately, but she always greeted me with a smile and a friendly word. So there's someone else who had an influence on me.

Others have an influence on us and we have an influence on others. we inter-react and when we pass on from this world we leave something of ourselves in the hearts and memories of many other people. How will those we have dealings with remember you and me?

No wonder that so much of Jesus' teaching emphasises the importance of our relationships with other people!

*Bill Cox*

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## **HOME GROUPS - What, Why and Where?**

Early Methodism stressed the importance of class groups and they were a key reason for its growth. It made Methodism special.

### **What?**

Home Groups – are as the name states, fellowship groups that meet in people's homes! We usually will have a topic to look at and discuss, prayers, tea/coffee and a bit of a chat. However, that understates what they can do.

### **Why?**

Many weekday church meetings are about the organising of church activities. Important though they are, they are not exactly fun and they are rarely uplifting. This can leave the main Sunday service as the only time that people look to meeting their spiritual needs. This service is important as it brings the whole church together but it cannot do everything.

Some things you can get out of a house group:

- Fellowship and friendship – it is difficult, especially if you are new, to get to know other people in a church service. A home group can break down the isolation that can exist in a large formal group. A home group can create a supportive circle of friends.

- A chance to discuss and talk through issues, at length if need be, that interest you. Some of them can be on matters of faith, some about our church and sometimes other issues particularly relevant to you. Naturally, anything said is kept confidential.
- Exploration of our faith – it is very rewarding to deepen our understanding. However it is done at your own pace, with gentle encouragement and through shared experience and knowledge.
- Prayer – a chance to get closer to God with the issues that concern you.

*HAVE FUN!*

Home groups should not be tedious. It should be something that you look forward to. In addition to the regular meetings, we also have social events such as a shared meal.

**Where?**

There are three home groups at the moment, meeting at

Fred and Doreen Warren – 17 Woodville Road  
 Tim and Caroline Johnson - 27 Grand Drive, Raynes Park  
 Jane Smith - 183 Pembury Avenue, Worcester Park

Come and see any of the people named above about joining a home group. You will be made very welcome.

*Tim Johnson*

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“God calls us not to solitary sainthood but to fellowship in a company of committed men.”

*David Schuller*

Prayers travel faster when said in unison

*A Latin Proverb*

## **PENTECOST ~ “THE DAY THE SPIRIT CAME” AN ECUMENICAL GATHERING**



John Innes gardens, Mostyn Road, 11th June 2006, saw a gathering of folk from our Ecumenical Sharing Area, namely Martin Way Methodist, St James and St Mary’s C of E, St John Fisher and Merton (Wimbledon Chase) Baptist Church. This year about 80 people gathered at the Band Stand for this shared worship. The service was led by Rev Tom Kavanagh and the readings and prayers were shared by members of the Ecumenical team and the clergy. Our Bob Hamblin preached the address and members of Martin Way Band supplied the music for the songs. Once more another Sunday blessed by a beautiful afternoon and as an Ecumenical group that meet only on special occasions I think the sharing of the Peace is always special.

At the end of the service, before the final closing, the Rev Tom paid a moving and lovely tribute to Bob and Janet Hamblin for all they’ve done in this area and the circuit that has benefited people of all ages and he wished them well in their pending move to Devon.

Sadly this year clashed with a Methodist Church event, but we hope for better planning in 2007. We also plan to extend the invite to other churches next year and then follow the service with a picnic. Why not join us next year and enjoy the fellowship.

*Derek Heaton*

## **A PARABLE FOR TODAY**

*Based on Matthew 13:1-19 and 18-23*

A new manager was appointed to a football club. The appointment was featured extensively in the press and everyone was encouraged to support the team as it was hoped that they would do well.

Some people, however, were cynical and rejected the manager. They talked amongst themselves and expected the team to perform no better than previously. After all, how can a new leader really change the way a team plays?

Others, although agreeing with it was a good appointment, went to the opening game and a home defeat saw them vowing never to return to watch such rubbish.

Quite a few went to the first few games but soon got tempted away by other attractions or were put off by the cost of following the team.

But the loyal supporters bought season tickets and followed the team resolutely through both good and bad games. They were rewarded when their team reached the Cup Final. As season ticket holders, they were able to get great seats and they celebrated as their team won a victory that will never be forgotten.

Those who refused outright to accept the new manager missed the fact that his coming was good news and didn't give him a chance. Their cynicism destroyed their judgement.

Those who attended the first match had accepted that the coming of the manager was good news but as soon as something didn't quite go as they hoped, the commitment disappeared.

Those that went to the first few matches but then found other things to do were just fair-weather supporters. They claimed to be supporters when the team was doing well but weren't supportive when the results went badly.

The season ticket holders on the other hand were committed to their team through rain and shine. They put the team first and were grateful to the manager for the results he got out of the team. For them, the final victory celebrations will last forever.

Taken from 'Street Parables', a book by Keith Tondeur

## **IN MEMORY OF BILL BASS**

Our father, Bill, died peacefully on Thursday, 15th June, having recently celebrated his 94th birthday, at the nursing home near Maidenhead to which he moved earlier in the year. He enjoyed receiving the Newsletter and hearing about Martin Way. He is



now reunited with Ivy, who died almost three years ago. His funeral was at Easthampstead Crematorium in Wokingham on 28th June.

*Jennifer and Barbara*

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I first met Bill in November 1964 when this tall friendly gentleman came up to me on my first ever visit to Martin Way Methodist Church and made me feel welcome. His first words were to encourage me to come again in the new University term and perhaps join the choir. This was typical of Bill. His warmth and friendliness were immediate and much appreciated by this ‘stranger’ from the north. He and Ivy helped bring Valerie and I together through a subsequent visit to an overseas missions rally in London. During the coming years our friendship blossomed within the church choir. Bill remained faithful to this for decades. His favourite solo was ‘Lead Me Lord’.

Bill had many other responsibilities at Martin Way, including the Sunday School, Church and Communion Stewardship and being a Class Leader and Property Steward. Indeed, he held most offices over half a century of faithful and active service at Martin Way. In addition he prepared the newsletter for many years and was a member of the gardening team. He would often offer lifts in his ‘yellow peril’ car to anyone in need and visit the sick regularly. He was a real pillar of the church and we were proud to be his friends. He sang with great energy in the Choir, the Men’s Choir, Happy Wanderers and the West Barnes Singers, renewing his interest in G&S from earlier years when he was in an opera group. He had other

talents too, in bowls and in membership of Merton Arts Society. He was also green-fingered and his greenhouse grapes were a treat. Even the local trees greeted him occasionally by knocking off his hat as he walked underneath them.

It was his humanity (and his jokes) that endeared him to us all. He and Ivy were a formidable team until an operation and ill health left Bill unable to look after himself. With sadness, but great wisdom, Ivy decided that they should both go into the Methodist Home in Wallington. When Ivy died, Bill was left alone. His dignity and fortitude were an inspiration. He struggled on in spite of deafness, poor sight and co-ordination difficulties. He loved to have visitors and of course Jennifer and Barbara and family. He remained very alert in spite of his loneliness and loved to listen to music on tapes of the concerts he had taken part in. Last year he moved to a Nursing home to be nearer to his family.

My fondest memories, which I will treasure all my days, include his singing of ‘Grandfather’s Clock’, ‘Isle of Capri’ and ‘the Hippopotamus Song’, all from memory at the age of ninety, while travelling around Wallington in a wheelchair! His ‘Carol Singers’ song at Christmas years ago, has never been bettered. We shall all miss him dearly as a kindred spirit, who brightened our lives and was always there when needed.

God Bless you, Bill.

*Valerie and Graham Currie*

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“The final heartbeat for the Christian is not the mysterious conclusion to a meaningless existence. It is, rather, the grand beginning to a life that will never end.”

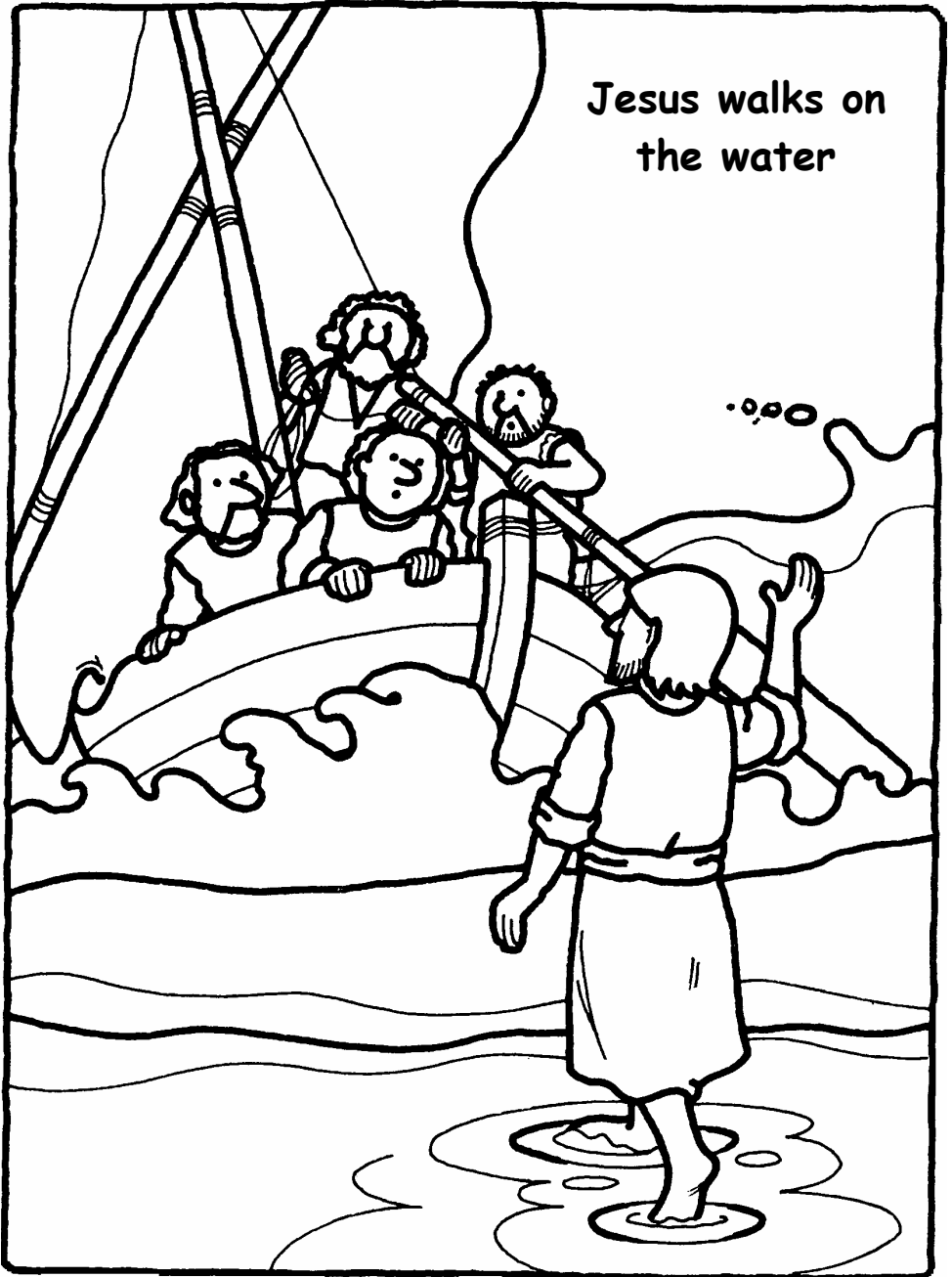
*James Dobson*

“God does not intend us all to be rich or powerful or great, but He does intend us all to be friends.”

*Ralph Waldo Emerson*

## PUZZLE CORNER 1

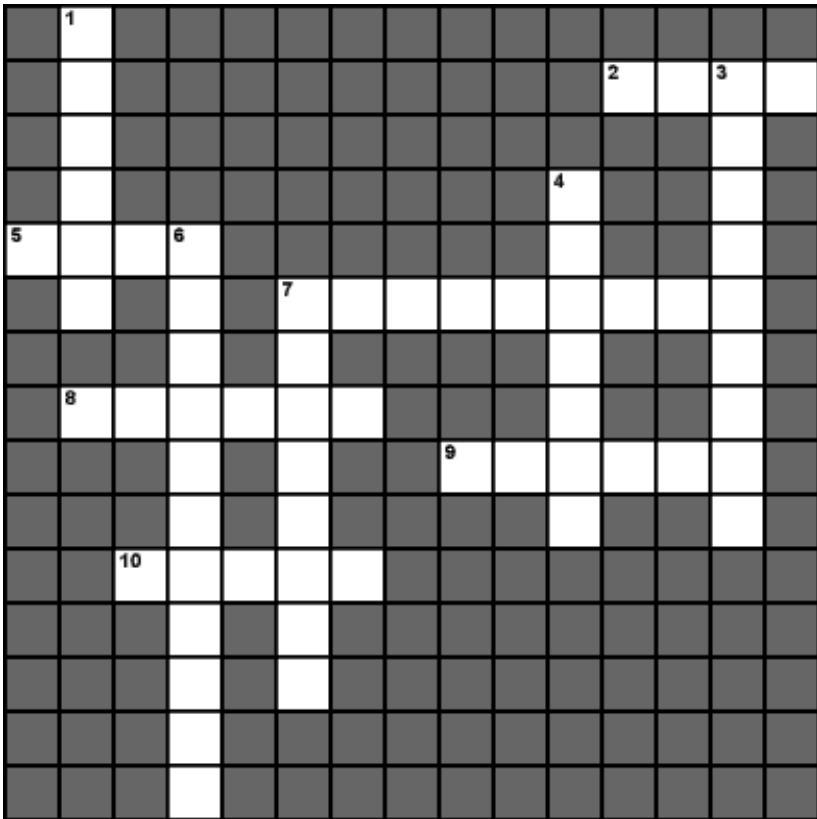
As Summer is here we have more puzzles and colouring pictures for you!





## PUZZLE CORNER 2

Bible themed crossword based on Mark Chapter 5 (NIV)



### Across

- 2 Where did the evil spirit go to on leaving the man?
- 5 How did Jesus leave the region where the evil spirit man lived?
- 7 What are the ten cities?
- 8 Who was the synagogue ruler?
- 9 How many years had the woman suffered from bleeding?
- 10 What did Jesus say had cured the bleeding woman?

### Down

- 1 What was the man with an evil spirit?
- 3 What region was across the lake?
- 4 How did the pigs die?
- 6 How did Jesus address the little girl? (7,4)
- 7 What relative of the synagogue ruler was ill?

### PUZZLE CORNER 3

And something for the Sudoku fans

		9					8	3
				4				1
8	7				2		4	
				7			6	
	5	2	1		9	7	3	
	3			6				
	1		6				5	9
5				3				
2	8					4		

#### Sudoku Rules

Each 3 x3 box,  
each row and  
each column must  
contain all the  
numbers 1 to 9

**EASY**

**HARD**

6			1		3		9	
					5			7
	1	3		9				
1		6			7	8		
8								3
		2	5			1		6
				6		4	8	
9			7					
	6		8		9			2

## **WORLD MISSION CONFERENCE**



Methodist for World Mission (MWM) is the name for a fellowship of lay people within Methodism committed to the world mission of Jesus Christ. It celebrates diversity and promotes mutual partnership between people of different cultures and ages from all parts of the world who are rooted in the Christian faith.

From the 2<sup>nd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> June I had the privilege of attending the **World Mission Conference** in The Hayes, Swanwick, a beautiful venue in the heart of Derbyshire. The theme was ‘Reinventing the Wheel’. As there are many models and expressions of God’s mission in the world today, the Conference aim was to bring together a diverse range of people-in-mission, swap stories and strategies, break down stereotypes, seek the Holy Spirit’s guidance and learn to appreciate and challenge one another.

It was fascinating to hear varying stories from all over the globe, how some missionaries work with limited resources and in difficult situations. Most of them expressed a love for the people and the country to which they were called, felt that they are where God has placed them and although they found the work challenging at times, said that they would not have it any other way. Each session started with prayer from a different World Church participant and likewise grace before meals was said in different languages.

The Keynote Speakers were The Rev Dr Caroline Wickens and The Revd Canon Dr Graham Kings. Both presentations complemented each other although neither knew beforehand which part of the scriptures they would be expounding. The Rev Dr Caroline Wickens who worked as a Methodist Minister in the UK before joining the United Church of Zambia Theological College as tutor, then St Paul’s United Theological

College, Kenya. She spoke on the 'Word' and its significance in different parts of the world where people meet, greet and gather. (Acts 2:10). The Revd Canon Dr Graham Kings, Vicar of Islington, previously founding Director of the Henry Martyn Centre for the study of mission and world Christianity in the Cambridge Theological Federation and Vice-Principal of St Andrew's Theological College, Kabare, Kenya led the Plenary session. His discussions of graphic depictions of the 'Word' focused on the many facets of art; including paintings and sculpture which he was able to show on film. As many of the pieces shown were from his own collection, one can only conclude that his Vicarage is an Aladdin's cave of a museum.

It was difficult to choose from the many varied Seminars. I opted for **Baptist Mission Service (BMS World Mission)** although Baptist is a misnomer as there are no denominational ties, and **Christian Outreach Resource Development (CORD)**.

BMS provide training for missionary personnel, advocating that the workers visit the country where they are planning to go, to get an idea of the conditions and what to expect before deciding on their mission. BMS match people and their skills to countries, although if people feel called to a specific ministry BMS try to accommodate.

CORD is a Christian charity that for 40 years has been involved in helping to rebuild the lives of individuals and communities damaged by conflict. At the moment 'Aid to the Darfur crisis' is their biggest programme, supporting more than 70,000 Sudanese refugees, who have fled the conflict in neighbouring Sudan, and the local Chadian host community. Life in a refugee camp which was shown on film, is harrowing, overcrowded, lacking in privacy and with nothing to do.

Thomas Brecon's prayer sums up the response to what was a thought provoking and enlightening Conference.

*Give us grace, O Lord, to be not only hearers of the word, but doers also; to be not only lovers of your gospel, but those whose lives are transformed by it; to be not only those who profess our faith, but those whose lives proclaim it, day by day; through Christ our Lord. Amen*

*Gwen Wildman*



## FAIRTRADE RECIPES

### A cool drink for Summer

#### Fairtrade Banana and Orange Smoothie

*Makes 2 large glasses.*

- 1 large Fairtrade banana
- juice of 2 Fairtrade oranges (about 150ml)
- 200ml white grape juice
- juice of ½ lime (1 tablespoon)
- 2-3 ice cubes

Put all ingredients in a blender and whiz for approximately one minute until smooth.

Tip: Freeze peeled, chopped bananas and blend straight from frozen in a powerful blender. You will not need the ice cubes and the drink will be ice-cold with a creamy texture.



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### PUZZLE CORNER ANSWERS

Solution to the KJV  
Bible themed  
Crossword from last  
month's Newsletter

S	H	E	K	E	L		A	P	P	E	A	R	E	D		
H		X		A		B		A		N		A		O		
E	P	H	E	S	I	A	N	S		C	U	B	I	T		
A		O		T		K		S		H		B		I		
R	A	R	E			M	E	D	I	T	A	T	I	O	N	
E		T		N		R		O		N				G		
R	A	I	S	I	N	S		N	A	T	H	A	N			
S		N		N						E		S		P		
		A	G	R	E	E	D			T	O	R	C	H	E	S
T						T		R		I		S		T		A
A	T	O	N	E	M	E	N	T	S		B	A	A	L		
U		M		E		A		T		A		R		T		
G	L	E	A	N				M	I	L	L	S	T	O	N	E
H		G		T				E		E		I		T		R
T	E	A	C	H	E	R	S			R	A	S	H	L	L	Y

## CHURCH DIARY FOR JULY

Sun	2	10.30 am 6.30 pm	All Age Worship led by Bob & Janet Hamblin Communion Service led by Rev Robert Teasdale
Mon	3	2.45 pm	Fellowship
Tue	4	10-12noon 8.00 pm	Coffee and Chat Time for Prayer
Sun	9	10.30 am	Communion Service led by Rev Michael Meech
Mon	10	2.45 pm	Fellowship -
Tue	11	10-12noon 8.00 pm	Coffee and Chat Time for Prayer
Fri	14	12.30 pm	Luncheon Club
Sun	16	10.30 am 4.30 pm	Praise Service led by Bob & Janet Hamblin Circuit Service at Stoneleigh
Mon	17	2.45 pm	Fellowship
Tue	18	10-12noon 7.30 pm	Coffee and Chat Men's Supper Club – Fran Hibbert - <i>Merton Vision: the Guardian Centre</i>
Sat	22		Church Summer Camp at Swanage until 29th July
Sun	23	10.30 am	Morning Service led by Rev Barrie Tabraham
Mon	24	3.45 pm	Fellowship
Tue	25	10-12 noon 8.00 pm	Coffee and Chat Time for Prayer
Weds	26	10.30 am	Morning Communion
Fri	28	12.30 pm	Luncheon Club
Sun	30	10.30 am	Morning Service led by Rev Michael Meech

*Please refer to the Website ([www.martinway.org.uk](http://www.martinway.org.uk)) or Weekly Notice Sheet for any additional information*

# CHURCH DIARY FOR AUGUST

Sun	6	10.30 am	All Age Worship led by Tony Loft/Dr Arthur Miller
		6.30 pm	Communion Service led by Rev Charlotte Elvey
Tue	8	10-12noon	Coffee and Chat
		8.00 pm	Time for Prayer
Sun	13	10.30 am	Communion Service led by Rev Barrie Tabraham
Tue	15	10-12noon	Coffee and Chat
		8.00 pm	Time for Prayer
Sun	20	10.30 am	Morning Service led by Paul Tabraham
Tue	22	10-12noon	Coffee and Chat
Sun	27	10.30 am	Morning Service led by Rev Charlotte Elvey
		6.30 pm	Circuit Service at Stoneleigh
Tue	29	10-12 noon	Coffee and Chat
		8.00 pm	Time for Prayer
Weds	30	10.30 am	Morning Communion

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We wish all of those who celebrate a birthday during these months a very

*Happy Birthday*

and especially to:

**Jessica Haze on 26th July**

**Emily Bacon on 5th August**

**Rebecca Smith on 11th August**



# **HELPERS URGENTLY NEEDED!!!**

## **OCTOBER-DECEMBER ROTA**

I wanted to write and thank everyone for all your help when I devise the quarterly rota. Due to the fact I am getting married in September I will be unable to do my job for the October-December rota.

I am asking if anyone would **PLEASE OFFER** to do this job for just the Oct-Dec rota [I'm NOT giving up my job!]. Please come and see me if you feel you can help me – thank you

Abby Loft [8543 9093]

## **SUNDAY CLUB**

Help over the summer to give the regular leaders and helpers time off and HELPERS are also needed from September – the more we have the less the workload!

Contact Janet Fernando [8544 0956]

## **JUNIOR CLUB**

Helpers are required from September desperately – the club is thriving and it would be shame if it had to close due to lack of helpers.

Contact Anne Conquest [8942 7147] or Pete Boyd [8542 2377]

## **TWO ALPHA COURSES STARTING IN SEPTEMBER**

We are planning an afternoon and an evening course. More details to follow but please give these courses prayerful thought.

Items for the **September Newsletter** should be with Andrew Fox, (email: roife@aol.com) by **Sunday 20th August** at the latest