

Keeping in Touch K.I.T.

Our Aim: To know Christ and make him known

No 84: Winter 2015



Prince of Peace

THROUGHOUT history most leaders have promised peace. The list is vast and includes well-known names such as Xerxes, Alexander, Napoleon and even Hitler. The entire Roman Empire believed that their purpose was to bring peace to the world. The British Empire, many centuries later, would define itself in the same light. Currently, the United Nations try everything they can to achieve peace in our deeply divided world.

Jesus Christ promised that he would give his peace to his followers (John 14:27). At face value this could easily be understood to mean his disciples would live calm, tranquil, trouble - free lives. That does not happen. However, he qualifies that his peace is unlike the regular peace you would expect.

At the beginning of Jesus' ministry he even declares: ***Do not suppose that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I did not come to bring peace, but a sword*** (Matthew 10:34). The paradox is made even more obvious when we consider that the ancient prophecy which predicts his birth declares very clearly: ***For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace*** (Isaiah 9:6).

Christian art has typically portrayed Jesus as a very gentle, fragile, harmless figure. This has led to the collective consciousness that disciples of Jesus should be passive and not engage in any conflict.

To have a clear image of Jesus we should probably start at the beginning.

Once upon a time Lucifer started a rebellion in Heaven. He challenged God and influenced a vast number of angels. ***Then war broke out in heaven. Michael and his angels fought against the dragon, and the dragon and his angels fought back. But he was not strong enough, and they lost their place in heaven. The great dragon was hurled down — that ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, who leads the whole world astray. He was hurled to the earth, and his angels with him*** (Revelation 12:7-9).

Most people would think that it was Satan who started the war. Read carefully. It wasn't. Jesus started the war. It was God who said at some point - ***enough is enough***.

It is worth mentioning that this war was a physical war. The biggest war this universe had ever seen and Jesus won. If you are experiencing the chains of injustice, the despair of loss, the shame of failure, the sting of betrayal or the pain of rejection you can be certain that the Prince of Peace will enter your conflict. Please understand, he will fight for you - not as a concept, but as a real, tangible, physical force. Don't give up because the Prince still says **enough is enough**.

During one of the Passovers Jesus entered the Temple and met the injustice of the money changers. He became indignant with the system of exploitation which was considered normal. It was then that the Prince of Peace took the time to arm himself with a whip of his own making (John 2:13-16).

What happens next could not happen if Jesus had been a fragile, passive observer of human injustice. He drove them out of the Temple. He turned over the tables. He used his muscles and divine authority to end the injustice, the Temple guards are not reported to have tried to stop him. After all, Jesus had been a carpenter most of his life and Jesus had muscles.

Once you rid your mind of a passive image of Jesus, the Prince of Peace emerges as the Lion of Judah and the ruler of the Universe. Disciples that understand this are constantly looking for opportunities to alleviate the suffering of others. They know that if the Prince of Peace will hear the cry of the oppressed, somebody's muscles will have to move.

I have been told that the British would rather mind their own business. They don't want to interfere in other people's lives. They are passive by nature. However, this is simply not the case and the world is better off for it.

When a young man stood in Germany to declare a wonderful future for the German fatherland, most churches and community groups in Germany applauded. Unfortunately most others did not realise the evil that was developing. The British people did notice and they were British enough to do something about it. We cannot imagine the world we would have if the British, and eventually others, had not joined forces in ending the oppression and genocide.

Understanding who the Prince of Peace truly is leads to a completely different discipleship: I suspect this generation is desperately looking for a new understanding of who Jesus is. Perhaps it is time for us to destroy the fragile image we have created of the mighty Prince of Peace.

Taken from a sermon by Pastor Sam Neves.

FOR IT pleased the Father that in him, i.e. Christ, should all fullness dwell; And, having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven. Colossians 2: 17 - 19.

KIT Flashback.

THE HARVEST FESTIVAL was held on October 3 in the tent. The photographs by **Jef Nascimento** show the lovely display. **Pastor Jacques** preached at the service. Afterwards the produce, already packed in small parcels, was ready to be taken by those present either for their own use or to give away.



GIVE PEAS A CHANCE! by Richard J B Willis MA MSc FRSPH

EVERY TIME that I travel on the M25 I see the exhortation of the title spray-painted on the wall of a bridge. Has it been misspelt, I wonder? Was it done by a frustrated vegetarian? Or, is it the work of a homespun philosopher? If the latter, there may be some point in drawing our attention to the matter.

A relatively new charity -- HENRY -- (Health, Exercise, Nutrition for the Really Young) has shown that training in the HENRY areas listed has resulted in 71 percent of practitioners of its programme continuing to use the health-risk

reducing principles up to five years after their training.

Children and adults alike need to pay attention to these vital areas of health as currently there is a debate as to whether or not obesity should be considered a disease. Were it to be labelled so, the Boorman Review estimated that around 60 percent of NHS staff are themselves overweight!

Clearly, what and how we eat affects us all and not just children, and so is of great importance to our physical and mental health. Sugar, one of the usual suspects, is receiving focus at the present time. A sugar tax has been proposed, with the estimation that 180,000 people would have considerable health benefits over the next decade if it was introduced. Traditionally, children do not go for vegetables as foods of choice. However, research at Worcester University shows that children eat more vegetables and fruit if they take school meals rather than bring lunch food of their own choice. Exercise and Nutrition are personal choices but subject to discipline if they are to succeed. So, Peas on Earth this Christmas might be a good place to start! Go on, Give Peas a Chance!

NEWS, NEWS, NEWS!

THE BIG EVENT for Stanborough Park church members since the last KIT was the reopening of our church on November 6. Everyone who was anyone was there, and the ribbon was cut by **Baroness Dorothy Thornhill**, the elected mayor of Watford, and **Pastor Ian Sweeney** the B.U.C. president. They are pictured below. The following day we had a thanksgiving service to thank God for a beautiful “new” church and for helping us to raise money to get it. **Pastor Raafat Kamal**, the T.E.D. president preached at that service. Sabbath evening we heard the results of the hard work undertaken by our church choir and orchestra. Under the direction of **J-Eun Ahn** they performed Handel’s Messiah, bringing our focus back to the biggest event in history - the birth, life and death of **our Lord**. The two soloists were **Corinne Cowling and Mark Bonney**. Their voices were exquisite, and a keen classical music listener I could find no fault with our choir and orchestra either. Pictured are the cutting of the ribbon, Pastor Kamal, and the soloist with J-Eun.



We can report three happy events which took place in September, October and November. On September 27, **Charlotte Rashleigh** married **Matthew Marshall** at Moor Close Chapel at Newbold. Apparently they hoped to marry at our church but we were still worshipping in the tent. Hopefully we’ll have a photo of them next time. On October 28, **Margaret and Llew Meredith** celebrated their Diamond Wedding, and on November 2, **Mary Standish** married **Nigel Hankin**. We are still waiting for a photo of Mary and Nigel and one of Charlotte and Matthew but **Dr Peter Bone** provided the lovely picture of our new diamond couple. Focusing on them for a moment, Llew and Margaret are life-long members of our church. As children they were neighbours, and pupils at Stanborough School. Later they married but stayed in Watford where they brought up their two daughters - **Corinne and Sharon**.

They are now proud grandparents of four grandchildren and eleven great grandchildren, and Llew describes them as *a great blessing and a pleasure to both of us*. The couple completed 62 years of denominational service between them before retiring. They love travelling and caravanning. They also enjoy reading and, of course, family.

Hearty congratulations to all the couples.

Comings and goings

LAST SUMMER, Pastor Sam Neves did not appear at church for many weeks. On holiday? I for one assumed so, but he wasn't. He was involved in evangelistic meetings across America. He has now been called to serve at General Conference level. Having known his wife, **Amy**, all her life, and Sam since he was a teen-ager we shall be very sorry to see them go though we realise many others will gain from their commitment to the church. On November 14, Sam and Amy's third son was dedicated to God by Pastor Jacques. Again I was wrong, he is not a redhead like his two brothers but is blond. The photo by **Jef** shows **Miles's** immediate family with **Joshua** on the left, and **James** on the right.. Grandparents **David and Caroline Swain** were on the platform too as was **Pastor Jacques** of course.



The other photo is of Sam's replacement in our ministerial team - **Pastor Geert Tap**. He is pictured with his wife, **Miranda**, and daughter **Melody**. Pastor Tap is Dutch and has served at the Central London church for four years. He is passionate about God, life, music, and his family. He plays the drums in a jazz group which plays hymns. Melody has a degree in Marine Vertebrate Biology and is doing post-graduate studies at

present. They were photographed whilst on holiday.

The Welfare Department welcomes gifts of food such as tinned vegetables, fruit and soup, dried pasta. Jars of pasta sauce, jam, honey and spreads etc.

The Williams Hall kitchen is due to be fitted over the coming weeks. However it needs to be equipped with pans, cutlery, utensils, crockery etc. If you would like to help equip it, please contact the WH Sub-Committee: **Cecilia Davison, Pat Walton, Audrey Balderstone or Lorna Annable**.

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