

## THE NET

The Newspaper of i-church  
www.i-church.org

### Hand in Glove

Ash Wednesday is always special. This year it was a special day in many respects for me.

Since icw2100 on Wednesdays is one of my assigned times to lead worship, I had the privilege of leading an extra special service on February 21.

Ailsa had provided me with the set Ash Wednesday service used last year and there were opportunities for everyone in attendance to take an active part with readings and other major aspects of the service.

The Meditation part of the service (taken from Gene Edwards' "The Inward Journey", which can be found in the Ash Wednesday service thread in i-church worship) really struck me.

Mr. Edwards wrote about the seasons: "I have observed through the years that most Christians have little understanding of the word 'season'. Our Lord is a seasonal God; He comes, He departs. His faithfulness never changes, but His seasons do! There are seasons when the tree is green, there are seasons when it is dry, and seasons when, for the life of us, the thing looks dead. Now, does this mean you are serving some capricious God who comes and goes by whim? Or, could it be, that it is only through seasons that true growth may come?"

Here in far Northeastern Kentucky, we've had an amazing year of record-breaking climate. As a farmer, in 2006 I had to deal with record-breaking rainfall, record-breaking high temperatures in late summer and, at the



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An online Christian community based in the Diocese of Oxford, part of the Church of England.

beginning of 2007, record-breaking low temperatures in February.

Literally, I have been working here at my computer in the living room, wearing multiple layers of clothes, wrapped up in a quilt, a fleece blanket and a duvet, with bricks heated atop my woodstove placed on the floor to warm my feet....

But my hands were still cold. So cold that my fingers were going numb. Ash Wednesday week a gift showed up in my mailbox. A week earlier, Jennifer D had sent me a PM saying a package was winging itself to me. The package showed up and much to my amazed delight, it was a pair of handmade fingerless gloves (which I put on immediately!)

Indeed, seasons change. Some are much more pleasant than others. Then again, as Mr. Edwards wrote in his Meditation:

"We are all very subject to seasons; yet these seasons are there to make us eventually seasonless. There is only one way you are ever going to learn to triumph over all seasons, and that is to go through each and every season . . . many times. When you can reckon the sound of abundant rain and the hot blowing of a dry spell exactly the same, then you will be nearing the land of maturity." I would add to that, random acts of kindness out of the blue from people who see a need and don't think twice also help to move us all close to becoming "seasonless".

Thank you, Jennifer, for the gloves . . . they have helped so much more than you could possibly imagine. Not just keeping my hands warm enough to work at the computer . . . even more special to me was the thought that someone

thousands of miles away saw a need that I had and made the effort to help. Thank you Jennifer and everyone else here who have been there for me when I needed you (even when I didn't realize it).

I feel so blessed by being a member of i-church.

## Pastor's Letter Helen Walker

'A Jam Session with God.'

i-Church is having its own Lenten time. Reflecting on what has gone well or less well in our journey of being church, what should be let go of or built up. What new creations are waiting to burst forth?

Creativity has been significant lately; ideas for the future, designs for a new website, thinking about ways of being 'church', forty Lent videos have been made in i-Church for members and for the world. Thanks, Jon for the great idea and thanks to all who have contributed.

Last week, the 'Cutting Edge' projects (of which i-church is one) in the Oxford Diocese met. There seemed to be a question we all held in common. 'How do we build communities with God at the heart of them, and be 'church' in a way that resonates with people's lives and experiences and allows them creative freedom to express their faith?'

The leader of one Cutting Edge project said 'The spiritual life is like having a jazz 'jam session' with God.' It's got shape and form, but who knows what rich new music will come out of trying different things.



So the creativity of finding other ways of being community, of doing church, remains a challenge, and hopefully the new look i-church will have a new life still firmly rooted in Christ. Next week the first change will come into being, there will just be one type of membership, all one in Christ, as a broad and ecumenical church. So, if you are reading this as a non-member, 'watch this space' there will be lots to tell soon.

Lent, under the shadow of the Cross, is a good time to be reflecting about priorities, sacrifice, what it means to live as professed followers of Christ, what we give from, and receive into, our lives. It's also a good time for a 'go slow'. i-Church life is 24/7, immediate and often fast. Miss a day and you find that there has been a feast of 'new posts'.

Giving up i-church for a day a week in Lent might be quite a discipline for some. In taking time away to wait and listen to the still small voice that would have us stop and stand and stare a while in this busy world, we might find Easter arrives not as 'another thing to be done' but as a joyful surprise, bursting with resurrection life in us and around us after a well spent Lent.

We put effort into doing Lent, not just because in many ways it's good for us in the contemporary 'I'll do what I like when I like' culture, which is so bad for building community, but because it's part of the church's rhythm. It makes Easter all the more vibrant and fresh.

So, I end leaving all kinds of things up in the air. Lent, a 'not yet' time, and an 'it will come again' time giving rhythm to our lives of faith and our mission to share the Good News of Jesus crucified and resurrected. Who knows what music that will create from us in the months ahead? May we listen and play with eager hope.



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## Ps & Qs

### PUZZLES & QUANDARIES ON THE WAY

#### **“Faith or Works or Grace - just how exactly are we to be saved?”**

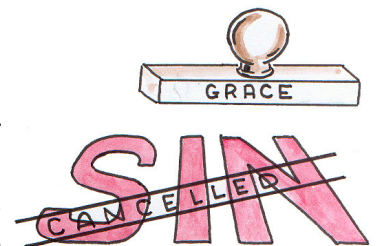
Welcome to a new column! I had thought to entitle it “Qs and As”, but that seemed far too ambitious - a retired jobbing parson is hardly going to have the theological and spiritual kit to answer questions which have nagged Christianity for centuries. So instead we have Ps and Qs, and my task is to try to shed some light on them.

Today’s question comes obliquely from an i-church discussion. The context was a puzzling reference to 5<sup>th</sup> century controversies about Grace, in the time of the Church Fathers who were responsible for framing Christian doctrine much as it still exists today.

The chief players in the Grace and Works drama were Saint Augustine of Hippo, and Pelagius. Augustine (not be confused with his namesake, Augustine of Canterbury who was sent to England in 597 AD by Pope Gregory the Great), was an African theologian, and Hippo was in what is now Algeria. Augustine’s mother was Saint Monica - a Christian, although it was many years before her son joined her in the faith - and she was a Berber. Edith Piaf’s grandmother was also a Berber, so there is a strong chance that she and Saint Augustine were cousins, albeit at many removes.

About Pelagius we know far less. He is said to have come from the British Isles, and curiously, the evidence dates his birth to 354 AD like Augustine. He was a monk and a scholar, and when he had moved to Rome by about 400 AD he had a great reputation as an ascetic - someone who controls and restricts the pleasures of the flesh to serve God more. Even Augustine once described him as “a saintly man”. Later he moved to Carthage, and then to Palestine where he may have perished - we just don’t know. He fades out of history in about 420 AD. We don’t even know what he wrote - by contrast to the acres of stuff we have of Augustine’s - because apart from one letter (which for years was anyway attributed to someone else) his work survives solely in quotations from his opponents.

So, why were they fighting? The topic was really what the Orthodox call “Anthropology”. By this, they don’t mean what people study in university today about the human being as an animal, but rather the nature of the human being in relation to God. Put simply, What does God think of us? Augustine and Pelagius were pretty much agreed on the answer - Not much! But on the details they differed. Augustine thought God didn’t think much of absolutely everyone. Pelagius thought that God didn’t think much of those who made no effort. So, in a nutshell, Augustine thought that our only hope of salvation was through God’s grace and baptism into Christ, and Pelagius thought the way was to avoid sinning, and freely to choose to obey God.



This led to a whole new lot of questions. Who gets God’s grace? If they don’t get it on merit, as a reward for doing good, why do they get it? Are we free to choose? If not, are we booked in to heaven or hell right from the start, before we’ve even done a thing? You can imagine all the consternation. Augustine has been accused of being a “predestinarian”, someone who believes that God does indeed fix our fate, and no free choice is possible. Pelagius interpreted this as a rather slack sort of teaching - it’s all been sorted out in advance, so carry on sinning! What Augustine actually said is that God *knows* who will freely choose to accept God’s grace, baptism, and eternal life, but just because God knows, our choices are not limited.

And at that point the argument starts to become a little surreal. Both were serious, scholarly, as-

cetic men. Both cared deeply about the Gospel. Perhaps you might say that Pelagius was more moved by the parable of the sheep and the goats - it's what you DO that matters; Augustine more by S. John's line "I am the way, no one comes to the Father but through me". Famously, Augustine thought that unbaptised babies could not enter the kingdom of heaven (even the greatest Biblical scholars don't always read the book from cover to cover - see if you can square it with Mark 10:13-16). For all their furious differences - to be played out once more at the time of the reformation in the 1500s - both would have agreed that ultimately what saves us is love. Maybe they were both right that God doesn't think very much of us, but what little we are, he loves enough to send his son to get that message across. And when you start to do the sums, how can you possibly think little of someone you love? When it comes to the creation of humankind, I suspect God would join in with Augustine's cousin Edith - "Non, Je ne regrette rien" ...

*Further questions, long or short, are all welcome - please send them directly to me via i-church*

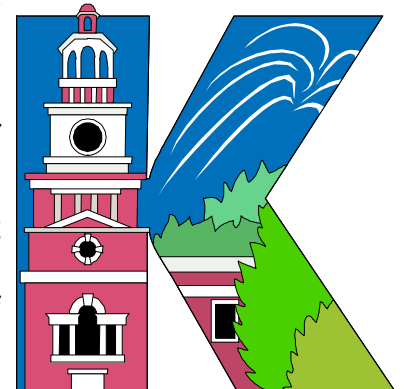
## Leaps of Faith

Paula Franke

The title of this article is, admittedly, somewhat misleading because on the surface it refers to more secular situations.

In the States, we celebrate Thanksgiving Day on the fourth Thursday of November every year. I celebrated that weekend with a roaring case of the flu. And the following Monday (despite the States' official 4th of July), I celebrated my own "Independence Day" by walking away from a newspaper job that I loved and worked very hard at, despite being sabotaged every step of the way by the newspaper's owner (who took many opportunities to hug me and cry on my shoulder saying "thank you for saving my newspaper").

In hindsight, end of November in Kentucky was probably not the wisest time to make my stand! And, the winter of 2006-07 will probably turn out to be one of the weirdest winters on record, especially in terms of temperatures. But I've covered that in my editorial this month. So on to the "leap of faith" point of this article.



I spent December 2006 continuing to look for new employment, to no avail. Although I had excellent qualifications for every job, the successful candidates were always at least 20 years younger than me. So I started thinking "outside of the box".

For more than six years, I ran the on-line newspaper version for my previous employer (and for the last two years, paid for it myself because the owner couldn't be bothered). During those years, I listened to email comments and learned what the website visitors preferred. For several years I believed that, if given the opportunity, I could run a successful local newspaper. But I haven't had the financial wherewithal to pursue that dream.

In early January 2007, I decided that (since I was apparently "too old" to be hired by anyone else) I would just "hire" myself and launched a web-based newspaper of my own: The Lewis County Beacon <http://kentuckygrown.com/beacon.html>

With nothing more than word-of-mouth advertising and a handful of homemade business cards, the online newspaper is an astonishing success with close to 3,000 hits in the first five weeks! And, while I'm still a bit leery of approaching local advertisers before the site is built up as nice as I'd like it, advertisers are now approaching me. And, other website design opportunities have arisen (with one contract in hand as I write this) and computer consulting jobs are coming in.

Leaps of faith are very, VERY scary! I'm not the first or only person in i-church to give up walk off



the "financially safe" path in life to pursue a different, but more satisfying road (hi Peter!) It is indeed something that some of our family and friends who cry out "what on earth are you thinking???"

Right now, I'm working harder than I ever did before in my life, but I'm much less stressed than ever before and enjoying what I do.

My newspaper's name "The Beacon" was my husband's idea. I like it: a shining light marking the way. As Jesus is for the greatest leap of faith.



## The Bible Recording Project

Ailsa Wright

Last August we made a beginning on recording the Bible using the voices of i-church members. Several people volunteered to do chapters and those which were actually recorded were made available here: [http://www.phil-wright.net/mp3\\_Bible.html](http://www.phil-wright.net/mp3_Bible.html)

We started with Mark's Gospel as it's the shortest one. We still have five chapters to do in order to complete it. We have since made a beginning on the other Gospels, Acts, and Psalms. It may be ambitious but the hope is to have 150 different voices recording Psalms. This is sure to require us to use family and friends to help us out.

When the first recordings became available they were greeted with great interest as it was the first time we had heard the voices of those with whom we converse regularly, either through the forums or in Live chat. It is really wonderful to be able to fill in the picture of what someone is like by listening to their voice.



We currently have recordings from the UK with a variety of regional accents, the USA, Australia and China. It would be wonderful to have many more people helping with the recording so that we can have a truly worldwide contribution from our worldwide church.

Several people were concerned about the technical aspects of this project. It is fair to say that not everyone who joins i-church is necessarily a technical whiz kid. However, we do have plenty of those who are happy to give advice to those who find all this stuff a bit scary. Explanations can be given by posts in the forum or by phone as a step by step talk through. Details of a simple recording program that is free to download is given here: [http://www.phil-wright.net/recording\\_project.html](http://www.phil-wright.net/recording_project.html) with

step by step instructions for loading it into your computer.

It is hoped that eventually we will be able to offer recordings of the lectionary readings for the week on our external website so that people can load them on to their MP3 players and listen wherever they are.

If you have volunteered to record a chapter/chapters but have not yet done the recording, please could you try to make some progress on this. If you hit a snag contact Phil and he will help you. If you have volunteered but now feel you cannot do the recording I would be grateful if you could let me know. If you have done some recordings and would be prepared to do more that would be wonderful. If you have friends who would record a psalm I would be very grateful. And finally, if you have not had a go but would like to do so, please give it a go. I can do it and I am definitely no techie! You can see which chapters are not yet covered by looking at the threads in the i-church worship forum.

# Vision Results

Russell Dewhurst

Here is a summary of the decisions made by the Vision sub-committee and agreed by the i-church Council about the way ahead for i-church.

## 1. IDENTITY

i-church's identity is more that of a "church" than a "monastery". It therefore seems unrealistic to expect every member to develop a Benedictine spirituality and rule. There will be one or more small groups for those wishing explicitly to grow in Benedictine spirituality: otherwise the Rule of Life will be optional for everyone. We hope to develop links with more organizations, including Benedictine ones. We consider the Anglican identity of i-church is central and should remain so, but i-church will remain completely open to non-Anglicans as members.

## 2. MEMBERSHIP STRUCTURES

We believe it is important to "open up i-church to the world." Therefore we propose that some additional forums be created that are open to all visitors to the website (without having to become members). There will also be live chat worship services open to the whole world (we aspire to a weekly public service). This new aspect of i-church will require members to help with moderation.

Anyone in the world will be able to visit the public areas of i-church for as long as they like. If they wish to join, they will have an initial period of up to 3 months' 'Guest membership'. If they wish to continue with full membership of i-church, then sometime before the end of that period they will complete a covenant form, offering time, treasure and talents, and will sign a membership roll.

As a result of this, we propose a change in the structure of membership. The current distinction between Individual Member and Community Member categories will be removed, and all will be considered members.

Current Members will also be expected to make the transition to the new style of membership, but we are still working on the details.

Small group membership will be optional for all members. There will be many different kinds of group (we hope the current Pastoral Groups will continue as now if their members wish it-- they will simply be renamed Fellowship Groups, or FGs).

## 3. PASTORAL CARE

We propose that there will be a list of "companions" authorised to give one-to-one listening/support. The details and procedures for this will be carefully documented.

## 4. FINANCE

We will endeavour to raise sufficient funds to continue to employ a half-time Web Pastor. In the long run this has to be through members' giving, which each member covenants to i-church. A number of other potential grant-making bodies will be approached.

## 5. TECHNICAL

We will look for a Lead Technical member whom Russell should introduce to all the technical aspects of i-church, with full expenses paid etc. We will look for an individual in charge of the public website. Russell will take a "sabbatical" from active i-church involvement to implement the changes. There will also be a publicity group.

# What do we celebrate?

By Fan Wang



Last night when people in my neighbourhood, in the city, in several Asian countries, and perhaps also joined by overseas Chinese in many parts of the world were celebrating Chinese New Year Eve with firecrackers and fireworks, with food and drink, with greetings and good wishes, my thoughts were evoked with the fears I saw in my cats' eyes, who apparently were afraid of loud sounds of this kind. I thought of people suffering from wars and armed conflicts. The bangs coming to their ears are not to celebrate, but to kill; they do not just bring fright, they bring death; they do not just take away peace, they take away lives; they do not just last over the holidays, they are there every day as long

as the fights last. This is not a nightmare which disappears as one wakes; this is unspeakable terror.

I thought of separated loved ones, who cannot meet when families and friends reunite. The distance in space or in time might be due to work, finance, illness, death, or just reasons not in our own control. Indeed on my way shopping for food today (there are people working on all holidays in China and New Year's Day is not an exception), I met a psychiatric patient I have known for years, but just by face. The story goes that he went into this state after his son had been sentenced to capital punishment and executed with a bullet. He is often seen in the neighbourhood smoking cigarette ends people have disposed of and mimicking the gunshot that might have ended his son's life—criminal or innocent I have never been told. He was, wrapped in his winter clothing, lying on the pavement alone around lunch hour on the first day of the year of the pig (according to the Chinese calendar) in which people traditionally wish to receive much good luck. His good luck today was that the sun shone warmly, rather contrary to the weather forecast, and that no one cared to disturb or deride his dream.

I thought of those disadvantaged, or indeed endangered by social injustice that is still active today. I thought of cruelty to animals that our Creator gave us before we came into being. He wanted us to be responsible for His Creation (Gen 1:26-28, MSG), but did we rule over the animals in love as God rules us? They give us wool to warm us, sacrifice to feed us, offer us faithful companionships, the kind that puts me to shame, but did we always treat them with the mercy they deserve?

I thought of many good old days I wasted in self-pitying. I thought I had faith but too often I did not love as the Lord taught. I was selfish but kept finding excuses for myself rather than confessing. When I failed to offer the poor enough help and blamed the government in doubt instead of joining charities with belief, I thought I had wise judgement? And I forgot this: am I to judge?

I used to feel called to think, "What can I do?" and find many negative, upsetting answers. Recalling one of the Archbishop of Canterbury's sermons, preached at York Minster and podcast (so perhaps we still can use technology to do more good than evil) from his website, I started to really understand "not I but Christ". Maybe it is now time I asked "What does God want me to do?" or even "What will God do?"

One thing I am sure of, that is, human will destroys but God's will establishes. Whose will do we listen to, ours or His? So long as there are wars, terrorist activities and hatred in the world, we do not only put ourselves and our brothers and sisters in pain; we put our Lord in agony, just as we did at Calvary.

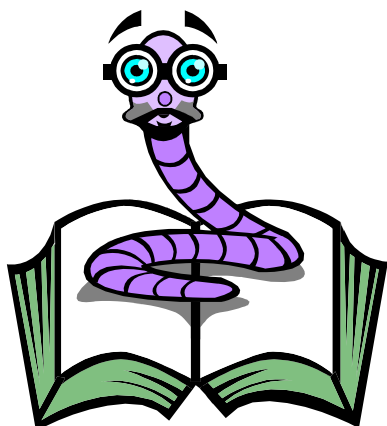
On the contrary, if we listen to God's will, then our celebration makes real sense. We pray for His kingdom to come, but when the kingdom of heaven is near, will we be scared as the Pharisees and Sadducees were? In another word, do we have the courage to pray for His will to be done? We

have all known the cost of this in the Gospels, but we must not be afraid. We now say “peace be with you”, but then we will know it is. Now our celebration and rest will come to an end, or will even be interrupted, or ruined, but then they are eternal. We will work *towards* it, though we cannot work *for* it, until we have built Jerusalem in our green and pleasant land. This is God’s will; I believe we have been promised. This we celebrate.

## Book Review

### FREEDOM FIGHTERS

Edited by Robert Frost



satellite TV station.

Robert Frost is director of Share Jesus International, an interdenominational ministry. He is also the leader of the Easter People Christian Conference, directing a large mission programme each summer. He has written many books, and directed ten stage productions. On the Sunday morning Chat Show, on Premier Radio, he plays the host, as well as hosting programmes on an international

This is a book that asks us to look at the effect of political correctness in the Church today, and it’s effects on the life of the church.

It is a series of articles by various people: a police inspector, a teacher, a political observer, university chaplain, a barrister, youth worker, and towards the end an overview by a legal historian, a missiologist and a philosopher. What do all these people have in common? They are Christians from the evangelical side of the spectrum.

The first and longest part of the book, to my mind, loses much of its potentially strong message in the evangelical tones of discrimination that are continually showing through, marring much of the information that is given. However the book is saved in the last part, the legal historian, the missiologist, and the philosopher, academics that try to avoid the evangelical smokescreen of the other contributors.

If, as I was, you are looking for a real overview of PC in our church culture then you may well be disappointed, but there is certainly enough here, for the reader who perseveres to the end, to cause a good deal of heart searching, leading, hopefully, to a long look at the church and congregation we are part of.

Not a book I would recommend without reservation, but for the determined reader probably worth the effort.

Freedom Fighters - editor Robert Frost  
Publisher Authentic Media, Milton Keynes - 2005  
ISBN 1-85078-613-5

Knowledge is exploding at such a rate—more than 2000 pages a minute—that even Einstein couldn’t keep up. In fact, if you read 24 hours a day, from age 21 to 70, and retained all you read, you would be one and a half million years behind when you finished.



## Recipe by Jayne

Lamb stew with Rosemary - (that is the herb Rosemary )

### INGREDIENTS:

2 tablespoons plain flour  
1/4 teaspoon salt  
1/4 teaspoon freshly ground pepper  
12 oz lean stewing lamb, cut into 1-inch cubes  
2 tablespoons of a good quality cooking oil  
16 oz tinned chopped tomatoes plus liquid  
6 oz fresh mushrooms, quartered  
1 clove garlic, crushed  
1 bay leaf  
3/4 teaspoon minced fresh rosemary  
1 tablespoon chopped fresh parsley  
3/4 cup frozen peas, thawed (fresh peas if in season-pre cook))  
2 cups dry rice to be steamed. (If boiling rinse thoroughly with boiling water when cooked to ensure rice remains fluffy)

### TO PREPARE:

Mix flour, salt and pepper, and coat lamb cubes, keeping the remaining flour. Heat oil in a large pan over medium heat. Add coated lamb. Saute 5 to 10 minutes, or until lamb is browned evenly. Add reserved flour and stir to blend. (As ordinary flour tends to \*lump, add a little at a time, extra oil may be added if required.) Add tomatoes, mushrooms, garlic, bay leaf, rosemary, and 1 tablespoon parsley. Bring to a boil. Reduce heat to medium-low. Cover and simmer 30 minutes. Remove bay leaf. Stir in peas. Cover and let rest 5 minutes.

Serve over the steamed rice and garnish with remaining 1 tablespoon parsley.

(Can also be served with boiled potatoes, and carrots. )

SERVES: 4

## Lent Discussions

Ailsa Wright

The first of six discussions on the topic 'Faith in Adversity' was held on Tuesday February 27th. The topic this time was looking at families. Richard started with a vignette about the experience he had had of not saying grace before meals in his mother in law's home, even though she did. He wondered if we are doomed to be strangers to our families if they don't share our faith. We shared our experience of this, which was pertinent to me as I was a Christian long before Phil and am still thought of as odd by my parents who have no faith. We discussed about having children who may not share our faith and what value there was in bringing them up with faith. There was a difference of opinion about this depending on the experience of each person. We also looked at how Jesus seemed to be rejected by his family and deserted by them when he was crucified, except for Mary whom John tells us was there. We can see in Jesus' experience something similar to what we may find in our own lives.



Future discussions will look at Relationships on March 6th, Illness on March 13th, Bereavement on March 20th, The World on March 27th and The Church on April 3rd. Do come and join in if you can. It is not heavy Bible study but a sharing of experiences of living out our Christian faith.

# Video Project Update

Jon Burdon

The i-church Video Meditation project has been an interesting way to do something new. Youtube has become the main site, because it is much easier to upload, and there have been quite a few technical problems relating to myspace. The viewing statistics for <http://www.youtube.com/profile?user=ichurchvids> make some interesting reading (probably out of date by the time you read this:)

over 220 channel views (the page where all the videos 'live'.)

32 videos now uploaded - we are on target to make 40

1700 video viewings

176 hits on the most popular video

5 videos have had over 90 hits

6 users have subscribed to our site, meaning they are tracing our progress, and we can easily contact them.

Each video seems to have more hits each day, which is exciting to see. The best way to view the videos is to use the 'playlist' feature for each week. This is available on the website. The video at the top represents the Monday video, and the last on the Saturday video.

## Outside Interest

There are many other youtubers out there doing something like us, and it's good to network with other Christians online. We are getting some great advertising for free!

One youtuber writes "I love your Lenten videos. My church (in Munster, Indiana, US) is interested in using several of your videos in our Lenten services." She has been sent some files to use in church services.

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## How to join i-church

Not everyone who reads The NET is a member of i-church, and if that applies to you, please read on . . . It is great to find you reading our newspaper. Hopefully reading these pages will whet your appetite to find out more about us.

If you go to our main website, [www.i-church.org](http://www.i-church.org) you will find lots of information about i-church, what we do, when we do it etc and if this sounds like the kind of church you would like to belong to, please do ask to join.

We have members in the UK, Europe, The United States, Caribbean, South America, Africa, Asia, Australia and New Zealand. We are very much a world wide broad church, and there is usually someone around, somewhere in the world 24 hrs a day.

Whilst we are formally part of the Church of England, we have members of many denominations and varied churchmanship. It is our diversity which makes i-church such an interesting place to be. And you can be a member of both i-church AND a more conventional bricks and mortar church at the same time.



## Staying in Oxford?

If you are visiting Oxford, and you need somewhere to stay then read on. i-church member Matt Clayson has fixed up a special deal at the Hotel where he works.

Double/Twin room    £90 (based on 2 sharing)  
Single                    £80

All prices include tax at the current rate and full English breakfast. Dinner is available for £20 extra per person in our Library Restaurant.

To book, either PM/email Matthew Clayson, check out the web site (<http://www.lintonlodge.com>), telephone +44 (0) 1865 553461 or send us a fax on +44 (0) 1865 559327.

All enquiries must be directed to Matthew Clayson or Karen in Reservations (or you won't get the special rate!). Bookings are subject to availability.

## Poem

### Where is the end of the tunnel?

Jill Bunyan



Where is the end of the tunnel?  
Where the end of the storm?  
Tossing and turning on seas of emotion  
Frustration and fear cover all.

Where is the peace that you promised?  
Where the provision we claimed?  
I'm scared Lord and tired of fighting,  
Tired of the pressure and pain.

It seems just so easy to go Lord,  
Walk through the door....get away;  
Leave behind all the worries and cares,  
Buy some time...be just 'me' for a change.

Not a wife or a sister or mother,  
Not a daughter, a neighbour a friend.  
Who is 'me' Lord? - I think I've forgotten;  
'Me' has got lost on the way.

Show me the end of the tunnel,  
Calm the waves of the storm,  
Take the fear and frustration,  
The pressure and pain.

Give me your peace by your Spirit.  
Lord, help me become 'me' once again.



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## A Dog's Life

C. S. Lewis



Lying at your feet is your dog. Imagine, for the moment, that your dog and every dog is in deep distress. Some of us love dogs very much. If it would help all the dogs in the world to become like men, would you be willing to become a dog? Would you put down your human nature, leave your loved ones, your job, hobbies, your art and literature and music, and choose instead of the intimate communion with your beloved, the poor substitute of looking into the beloved's face and wagging your tail, unable to smile or speak?

Christ by becoming man limited the thing which to Him was the most precious thing in the world; his unhampered, unhindered communion with the Father.

## Forum Tip

Phil Wright

This month I will explain how to answer forum posts with multiple quotes. Suppose someone has posted a long post with a number of points you want to answer or comment on in turn. How can you do this?

Suppose there is a posting with 3 different ideas or points in it; like this

point 1 - I think i-church is a brilliant concept

point 2 - I wish more people could discover i-church and join us

point 3 - but some of the things I see here are a bit complex - how can I learn to do them as well?

First, click on the Reply button    A new box will appear that looks like

**[quote name='Phil Wright' date='Feb 27 2007, 11:43 AM' post='44365']**

Suppose there is a posting with 3 different ideas or points in it; like this

point 1 - I think i-church is a brilliant concept

point 2 - I wish more people could discover i-church and join us

point 3 - but some of the things I see here are a bit complex - how can I learn to do them as well? **[/quote]**

Note the {quote} and [/quote] pair around the original text. Now move your cursor to the end of where you want to add your first reply, say after point 1. Type [/quote] where you want to start your answer, and then type in your answer. At the end of your answer, type [quote] to resume quoting from the original. Note that the [quote] . . .[/quote] must go in pairs or your response will be a jumble of text! This is one of the more common mistakes made on the forum boards, I use the “Preview Post” button to make sure my reply looks OK.

Your completed reply will look something like the box on the right. Notice that I have not got any empty lines between the [quote] or [/quote] and the text that immediately follows. A new line will automatically be inserted for you, so there is no need to add your own—and if you do the end result will look too “spaced out”. Again, use “Preview Post” to see what your end result looks like and remove any unwanted spaces.

You can also remove any parts of the original post that are not relevant to your reply. This is also a good idea—you may only want to respond to a part, or a couple of parts, of a very long posting—an repeating all of the original post is inappropriate, and takes up space (and reading time) on the system.

The final result should be something that looks like this ! (see right). It does take a bit of time to get the hang of it, but with practice you will soon be making multiple quote responses on the boards!

**[quote name='Phil Wright' post='44365' date='Feb 27 2007, 11:43 AM']** Suppose there is a posting with 3 different ideas or points in it; like this

point 1 - I think i-church is a brilliant concept**[/quote]**my first answer is xxxxxxxxxxxxxx**[quote]**point 2 - I wish more people could discover i-church and join us**[/quote]** my second answer is yyyyyy**[quote]**point 3 - but some of the things I see here are a bit complex - how can I learn to do them as well? **[/quote]** and finally, I agree, but with practice it becomes much easier!

QUOTE(Phil Wright @ Feb 27 2007, 11:43 AM)

This topic describes how you can respond to a posting which contains a number of separate points; and you would like to answer or comment on them separately (but within the same reply).

Suppose there is a posting with 3 different ideas or points in it; like this

point 1 - I think i-church is a brilliant concept

my first answer is xxxxxxxxxxxxxx

QUOTE

point 2 - I wish more people could discover i-church and join us

my second answer is yyyyyy

QUOTE

point 3 - but some of the things I see here are a bit complex - how can I learn to do them as well?

and finally, I agree, but with practice it becomes much easier!





## Finances

One fairly common question I get is "I don't live in the UK, so how can I make a regular financial contribution to i-church. After all, I can't set up a Standing Order, can I?" It is a fair question.

It is true that in order to set up a regular payment to i-church you need a UK bank account. (And if you are in the UK, the details on how to do this are at <http://www.i-church.org/roll/giving.php>.) If you live outside the UK and have a credit or debit card you can contribute online. To do this visit <http://www.i-church.org/cms/giving> on our external website and make a donation. I will confirm when I receive your payment so you know it has got to us safely - but this can take quite a while - better still email me at [treasurer@i-church.org](mailto:treasurer@i-church.org) to warn me to look out for the payment.

If you don't have a credit card, but would still like to give something, email me and I'll tell you off-line how you can make a contribution. Thank you to all those who have given generously, your contribution really does help keep i-church viable.

## Humour

Be very careful when buying potting mix.

At a gardening centre I told the young assistant I needed some potting mix. "Over there," she answered, "in 28 pound bags."

"I couldn't possibly handle one of those," I said.

"No problem. I'll get my husband to carry it to the car for you."

"That's no good," I replied. "If I took a 28 pound bag home, I'd have to take your husband too."

She smiled and said, "It's a deal!"

### March Calendar

Birthdays as per Calendar on members' forum (in March there are 13 birthdays to celebrate).

March 24th Deadline for The NET—do send your items in for publication!

### Worship in i-church

There have been some alterations in worship times in the last couple of months. The current times are shown on the right. There is always the opportunity to offer extra worship times. These need not be daily but could be weekly, fortnightly or monthly.

There are a wide range of worship styles on offer so there should be something that appeals to almost everyone. There are still opportunities for new Leaders to come forward—this is not as daunting as it may sound and a number of people have started a new ministry in worship through i-church. This really is a place where every member ministry is encouraged and flourishes.

### Service Times

Keep this guide by your computer to help you remember when all the service times are. There is space for you to write in the local equivalent times:

<u>Worship</u>	GMT
Mon to Sat	09:00
Sunday	10:00
Daily	21:00 & 22:00
As advertised	12:00
<u>Open House—Tuesdays</u>	
Study	20:00
Chat	20:30
Worship	21:00

You can now get services in your local time on the member Home Page. Check it out.