

THE NET

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

Issue #4

October 2006

© i-church 2006

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

Harvest time

As this edition of "The NET" hits the streets we'll be celebrating our Harvest Festival of Thanksgiving at the B&M (bricks and mortar) Church I attend. There are a variety of events planned; a chance for people to meet the new vicar, celebrate the place of the parish church in the life of our town (Godmanchester), and to give thanks to God for all his many gifts to us.

Many Churches, at least in Britain, will be celebrating, or have recently celebrated, their Harvest Festival. It's one of our oldest known festivals and dates back to pre-Christian times, when the lives of the people depended far more on the success of the crop. The tradition of celebrating Harvest Festival in churches is a much more recent phenomenon, and can be traced back to 1843 when the Reverend Robert Hawker invited parishioners to a special thanksgiving service at his church at Morwenstow in Cornwall. The custom of decorating churches with home grown produce led on from this service.

Whilst thinking about all of the above, I got to thinking about i-church. The limitations of the environment our Church is based in may well make holding a full blown Harvest Festival somewhat difficult; but we do have a great deal to be thankful for. I'd like to mention just a few of the many things we can thank God for about i-church.

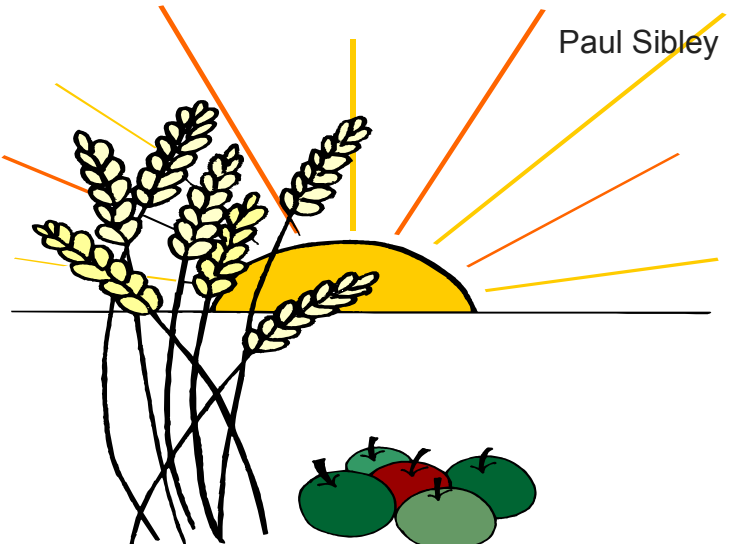
- *Worship.* We are fortunate to be able to offer an act of worship four times a day (more details of service times can be found elsewhere in "The NET"). It's quite a feeling, knowing you're in Chapel with people from all around the world. Plus, the pews are comfortable, and the coffee's good.
- *Prayer/Pastoral Support.* Both available and given at any time of the day or night. And in some ways easier to ask for through email; personal message; a message left in the forums; or in the Chapel or Cafe.

In this Issue

Pastor's Letter (Helen at the keyboard)	page 2
Happy Birthday	page 3
Bible recording project	page 3
Wordsearch—for fun	page 4
St Mary the Virgin, Harmsworth	page 5
More worship times	page 6
Open House Tuesdays	page 7
Northern UK meet	page 7
Recipe—dandelion jelly	page 8
How to join i-church	page 8
Halloween	page 8
Fund raising day	page 9
10.31 seconds of fame	page 9
Christmas is coming	page 10
God's wife	page 10
Forum tip	page 11
Calendar, Service Times	page 12

- *Fellowship.* i-church is always open. There's very often someone around at all times of the day or night; and if there isn't, it won't be long before someone else is online. It's quite a special feeling; one of the advantages of being a worldwide, 24/7, Church.
- *Study.* There are always a number of topics being discussed at some depth in the forums. It's an area of the forums I tend to read a lot, even though I generally don't add much. I often come away feeling as though I've understood something better.

These are just a few of the many things I'm personally very grateful to i-church for; a few of the many reasons I give thanks to God for leading me to i-church.



Pastor's Letter

October: Christmas already?

Revd Helen Walker : Assistant Pastor

with particular responsibility for the Individual Members of i-church.



The very nature of being a global church means that whilst some are moving towards autumn, harvests coming to an end, festivals being prepared, others are looking at the hopeful signs of spring, lambing over, calves to be cared for. Those of us who live in some UK cities, notice the year moving on in other ways. The new school year began; freshers and returning students mean my neighbourhood has resumed its term-time multi-cultural flavour, extra busyness in the supermarket, on the buses etc.

And of course, in September, Christmas Catalogues landed on my doormat – from church as well as charities. The shops started stocking up, not just with cards, paper, Christmas decorations, but even with food.

For a quarter of the year the commercial world is pressing us to buy, buy, buy, to celebrate for a day or two. For many it will be a hollow day, for others a family day, for some a religious feast, for others just another day because their faith festivals are celebrated at other times. I'm already hearing, even partaking of discussions about what to do, where to be at Christmas and what's it all about. The commercialism gets me down. Swimming against tides is hard work!

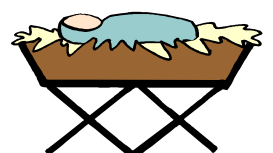
Looking back, September has been a time in i-church, and for any community of commemorating and celebrating, of sorrow and of joy, of death and new life. In our prayers and thinking, the sorrow at remembering the fifth anniversary of 9/11, being aware of the rising death toll of lives blown up in Iraq, the worsening situation in the Sudan, Afghanistan, the stresses and strains of the Middle East, children serving in war zones, illness, distress, and the death of loved ones. In our prayers and thinking there has also been joy at the birth of a son, and of twin grandchildren, wedding anniversaries, birthdays (our calorie free virtual cakes are a wonder to behold!), and an influx of new members all from a brief 10.31 seconds (yes someone really did time it) mention of an 'internet church' on Songs of Praise.

The programme didn't mention our name as such, but within two hours the first eight folks had joined up and by 9pm, five were worshipping in our Live Chat Chapel. In the following days more have arrived to enrich us. So many things have left me wondering at the hunger for God that seems to exist 'out there'. All these September things have set that line from 'O little town of Bethlehem' running through my mind, my thoughts... 'Be born in us today.'

This is indeed what we celebrate at Christmas, but it is a prayer, a hope, a longing, a desire for each day. 'Jesus, be born in me today, be born again in me today'. No need to wait for Christmas to pray that prayer, to let that new life flourish as we engage with the world around us in whatever way we can and in whatever state we find it. No need to fear that whatever we do is not enough, or our smallest efforts futile. There is a danger in succumbing to helplessness, but we have seen that from helplessness, a babe in a manger, came a world of possibilities, for love and peace, generosity and healing, engagement with the structures and authorities around us. Christ made a difference and goes on making a difference but as Teresa of Avila (1515–1582) said in her poem

'Christ Has No Body'

Christ has no body but yours,
No hands, no feet on earth but yours,
Yours are the eyes with which he looks
Compassion on this world,
Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good,
Yours are the hands, with which he blesses all the world.
Yours are the hands, yours are the feet,



Yours are the eyes, you are his body.
Christ has no body now but yours,
No hands, no feet on earth but yours,
Yours are the eyes with which he looks
Compassion on this world.
Christ has no body now on earth but yours.



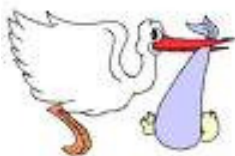
So, we try and take one day at a time 'Today's trouble is enough for today.' said Jesus. Looking forward, in October or any month, we endeavour to do what we can to live in the way he entrusted to us. That is, to live with love for God, and for our neighbours whom we are to love as we would be loved.

Christ Jesus, be born in us today,
that in hope and faith we may be your body on earth today.

Happy Birth Day

Ailsa Wright

It's a BOY



On September 14th at 2000GMT a very special service took place in the Chapel at the request of Peter Watkins. At that time it was early morning on September 15th in Australia and Peter knew that his son would be born that day (as he was arriving by section). The service took as its theme: A new day, a new life in Christ and was created and led by Helen.

The service began with a chance to look at a beautiful sunrise over the Sea of Galilee as we listened to a piece of music called Sunrise 2 in which Peter played the didjeridu. We then shared a joyful contemporary psalm called 'One in him' with Alleluia as our response. The reading was 2 Corinthians 5:17-end – 'if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation'. This was available in audio form recorded by me and was also written on the screen by Phil for those without audio capability. Helen then shared a meditation called 'Dawning of a new life in Christ' in which she looked at life from baby James' point of view as he faced his special day. After a time of personal prayer Helen and I offered a prayer of blessing for Peter, Vicki and their family. The whole service was a wonderful celebration of life and a very moving time.

For most of those who attended the service, their day was drawing to a close. For Peter and Vicki their big day, James' birth day, was just getting underway. Peter had promised to give us news as soon as he could. At 1247GMT the announcement finally came that James had been born at 5.30pm AEST (0730GMT) weighing in at 4kg or 8lb 10oz. The message was accompanied by a lovely photo of James lying in mum's arms. It was wonderful to finally see him.

Bible Recording Project

Ailsa Wright



Extra recordings have been coming in slowly for the Bible Recording Project, details of which can be found in 'i-church worship' sub forum. There are plenty of chapters that still need to be recorded so if you wish to volunteer please do so. Everything is explained for those who lack experience of this (we are not all techies!). It would be really good to have a variety of accents available to represent our worldwide church.

It is hoped that soon we can begin to record the readings for each Sunday so that they can be listened to as well as read. This will take quite a lot of planning and organisation but once underway should allow us to provide a subscription service for those who want to listen on their iPods. This service should be available to both members and non-members. Hopefully this will be appreciated by many and will form part of our outreach as a church. It is something we can work on together and it uses our talents to help others.

Wordsearch

Another biblical wordsearch—just for fun, no prizes for correct answers; if you want you can phone a friend. Enjoy.

The Cost of Being a Disciple

Jesus told a story about a man who started to build a tower. The problem was, he hadn't thought about how much it was going to cost and he ran out of money before the tower was finished. Everyone laughed at the man for his silly mistake.

Jesus said that many people make the same mistake when it comes to following Him. People are very happy that God has paid the price for the wrong things they've done and has forgiven them for free, but they forget that there's more to following Jesus than being forgiven. There is a life to live - a life for God, with all that we have and all that we are being given over to Him. This is what being a disciple is, it means that we 'discipline' ourselves to follow Jesus and do what He tells us.

The man started to build something he couldn't finish, but let's not be silly like him. Instead, let's really think about what it means to be a disciple of Jesus and then, if we're really serious about it, let's give everything to Him and follow His way.

N E V I G R O F X R N
Z Y L I Q U V A L M D
I G N I H T Y R E V E
G M G F F L P G M J D
Y Z A X O E T J Z L I
E M U N G L Q F I E S
N J L U R S L U X E C
O D N E P A B O K R I
M I W V I V Q V W F P
K O F I N I S H O I L
T E M N K Z W B Z S E

Build
Tower
Money
Finish
Disciple
Forgiven
Free
Follow
Everything
Life

Produced by QuickSearch Word Search Maker - Software Copyright 2001-2003 (familyinterest.com ltd) Level M

"I hope you didn't take it personally, Reverend," an embarrassed woman said after a church service, "when my husband walked out during your sermon,"
"I did find it rather disconcerting," the minister replied.
"It's not a reflection on you, sir," insisted the churchgoer. "Ralph has been walking in his sleep ever since he was a child."



St. Mary the Virgin, Harmondsworth

Christine Shilling



We have been featuring pictures of members' B&M churches in The NET (B&M is our acronym for bricks and mortar church). In this issue we go one better; Christine Shilling has provided us with photographs and some background into her church, St Mary the Virgin at Harmondsworth, a wonderful Grade II* listed building.

Christine's church is near Heathrow airport but whether or not the planned expansion goes ahead, their protest has been successful in shifting the proposed route of the 3rd runway. Hence the church WILL remain – a living presence of God's work in this community throughout the centuries.

Exterior view of tower

The tower is of 15th Century origin and built of brick on the upper two stages and flint at the lower. There is a ring of 6 bells in the belfry, four bells were cast in 1658 and two in 1892.

The **Font** is a plain octagonal font of Purbeck marble dating from the 12th Century. It is now in a baptistry at the foot of the tower and was last used in May 2006 during a confirmation service. A smaller more recent font on the chancel steps is used for baptisms.

Norman archway

This is a highly decorated early 12th Century door on the south wall of the church. It is likely to have been relocated from the west end of the original church. The doorway is made of limestone and has been ranked by Professor Pevsner as next to that of the nearby Harlington church as the most elaborate piece of Norman decoration in Middlesex.

The semi-circular stonework has three patterns. The outer pattern is a zig-zag or double chevron moulding. The middle one is of beak heads and the inner one of roundels of geometrical patterns.



The Nave roof (below) dates from the 15th Century.



The roof in the **North chapel** is a miniature hammer-beam roof of three bays (below, right). It is the only example of its type in a Middlesex church.

It is thought that this roof was built to the design of William Wyse – known to be in Harmondsworth in 1399. Wyse was the man responsible for the woodwork for Winchester College or Cathedral.

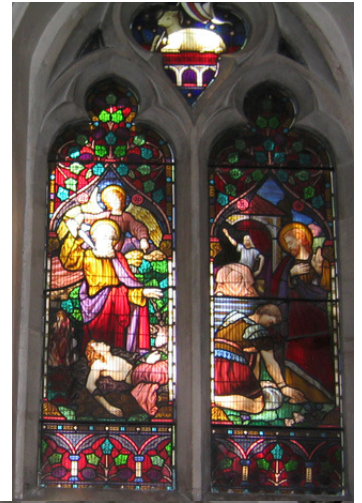




The **Chancel Window** depicts the Crucifixion, Christ walking on the water and Christ calming the waters installed in memory of Walter de Burgh (who died in 1861). Depicted here are examples of the stained glass windows which adorn the church aisles and chancel.

The chancel behind the altar has a three-bay sedilia and piscine – both of around 15th Century origin.

The altar is of late 19th Century origin – made of oak with a painted depiction of the Annunciation on the central panels.



The **Pews** at Saint Mary's 'are of sufficient rarity nationwide to be regarded as of national significance.' They are low box pews dating from the 16th Century. The pews were made from great sections of wood – the whole back and seat being cut out. Saw marks can still be seen.

The church and the nearby Manor were granted by William I to the Abbot of a Benedictine monastery just outside Rouen in Normandy in 1069. The Abbott installed two monks on the site.



Before the Reformation worship at St. Mary the Virgin church was Roman Catholic. Since 1986, when the last vicar retired, all appointed clergy have been priests in charge and currently the priest in charge has a full time post as chaplain at Heathrow Airport.



Here you can see the votive candle stand where people make their prayer requests, and a beautiful large flower arrangement which brightens up this part of the church.

Our thanks to Christine for sharing these details of her church. It was founded in 1067, just a year after the Conquest, so is an 11th Century building and some of the features are very rare.

Information source : London Diocesan Advisory Committee for the Care of Churches
Photographs © Christine Shilling 2006

More worship times

Ailsa Wright

In September two extra worship times have been added to the week. On Tuesdays and Fridays at 1130GMT either a midday office or a Celtic style service take place, currently led by Ailsa or Wil. As usual this time will not be convenient for everyone but being early morning in the USA and evening in Australia it is possible for participants from a wide variety of places to attend.

Russell has said on several occasions that the Chapel is there to be used at any time, by individuals or groups. There is no need for a formal arrangement to be made to meet for worship. There is certainly no need to be some kind of expert to be involved in i-church worship either. Personally I am really glad that we have this sacred space available for use by members of i-church.

Regular worship times continue to be 0200GMT, 0800GMT and 2000GMT at the moment. However, the clocks will change at the end of October in the UK and this will open the question of what should be the regular worship times in the months of November to March. This is likely to be discussed on the forums in order to reach a consensus.

Open House Tuesdays

Ailsa Wright

Open House at 1900GMT is proving to be popular still and to offer a variety of discussion topics. The guidelines suggest half an hour of discussion in Chapel followed by half an hour of chat in the Café before returning to Chapel for the regular worship time at 2000GMT. In practice, the discussion has taken the full hour or most of it, with a brief time for chat initially and afterwards before the worship begins. About a dozen people attend as a rule, some staying the whole time and some popping in for part of the time. Not all choose to stay for worship; for some sitting at the computer for an hour is enough and others have to rise early for work or have other things to do.

During September there have been four Open House sessions, each led by a different person. On 5th Paula took a second look at John 6:1-14 – the feeding of the 5000. This had been discussed in a worship session some time earlier and proved fruitful so Paula felt it might be good to revisit it. On 12th Ailsa picked up the theme of one of the forum threads which asked if it is right to ‘inflict’ religion on children. Proverbs 22:6 tells us that training a child in the way it should go will ensure that it goes that way in life but the forum discussion did not seem to endorse this view. On 19th Helen introduced Matthew 8:5-10, 13 – the story of the centurion’s servant. The emphasis of the discussion was authority, humility and faith.

On 26th September Russell took a look at the i-church, past present and future. He gave a brief outline of how i-church began and the people involved in setting it up. He looked at the difficulties of dealing with the initial 700 enquiries when it had only been anticipated that perhaps 30 members would form the church. He then moved the discussion to the strengths and weaknesses of i-church as seen by those present. The group was well placed to comment as it included those from the early days of i-church up to those who had joined in the past week. The 24/7 nature of i-church was agreed to be significant for many and the level of support and activity. The depth of relationships and sense of community matter a lot too. There was a debate about how helpful belonging to a pastoral group is and whether we should emphasise the Rule of Benedict. The worship was well thought of although the times it takes place are not convenient for everyone – an acknowledged difficulty with a worldwide church. People were encouraged to look at other times for worship, either formally planned or informal meetings that ‘just happen’. Looking forward to the priorities for the next year or so it was inevitable that finance should feature. However, there was agreement that this should not dominate the future agenda. Social action initiatives were mentioned and the funds that we have available to give to charities. It was felt that we needed to find how we are unique and how we add value to the spiritual lives of members and develop those areas. All in all it was a very good meeting with lots of food for thought.

Anyone can volunteer to lead an Open House. It does not have to be about the Bible. It can be about anything that interests the leader and might interest those who wish to attend - the more variety the better.



Northern UK Meet

Phil & Ailsa are hosting a gathering of i-church folk at their home near Wakefield, in West Yorkshire. It will take place on **November 11th**, and visitors will be welcome at any time during the day. Food will be available throughout the day. The weather may not be as sunny as in the picture (left) but you can be assured of a warm welcome, and if the distance is too far for a day trip, Phil & Ailsa may well be able to put you up, if not at their home, at nearby friends. Those who can stay over will be welcome to join them at their B&M church on Sunday morning.

Have a look in the “Social Club” forum for more details and put the date in your diary if you can.

Recipe by Jayne

DANDELION JELLY

Use 1 quart blossoms (picked early in the morning without any of the green parts).

Boil blossoms with one quart of water for 3 minutes.
Drain off 3 cups of liquid. Add:

1 sachet pectin
4 1/2 cups sugar
1 tsp. lemon, lime or orange essence (If you have the real thing available better still)
Boil about 3 minutes stirring briskly all the time.
(Remember sugar loves to stick to the bottom of the pan.)

Tastes like honey.

How much is a quart of dandelion blossoms? Such measurements always have me flumuxed, however I go on the principle of compromise and fill a two pint jug, pressed lightly down.

Make sure you do not get any of the leaves into the water, as they can give the jelly a rather bitter taste, a nasty bitterness at that.

So set that alarm for the dawn, grab a cup of coffee to fortify yourself against the chill morning airs, and go hunting those blossoms, but be warned, bending down to pick that number can leave you with an aching back.



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, 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.

Halloween

A recent discussion in the forums has been about Halloween. A member asked if he should play with his band at a concert being advertised as 'A celebration of Halloween'. Would this be appropriate for a Christian or not?

The general opinion seems to have been that this would be fine, though a personal choice. It is simply a party with nothing sinister about it. Several of our American members have shared their memories of Halloween from childhood where the culture is somewhat different from that in the UK.

The connection with the occult has caused some concern. We have had the opportunity to learn something of the Pagan links of this day, Samhain, and the need to show respect to other religions and not mock their festivals.



Do you have any views about Halloween? If so do send in your points to the Editor for publication next time.

Fund Raising Week

Phil Wright

In issue 2 of The NET we announced that the period **October 27th to November 5th** is designated i-church fund raising week. The idea is for members will run some kind of event in their own locality to raise funds for us, and at the same time promote i-church.

There is nothing to stop you roping in your friends or family—in fact this would be a good idea!

So far, not many people have said “yes, I’ll be doing . . .” I do hope this is because you are still thinking about what you might do. A read of The NET August edition may refresh your mind with some ideas to have a go at.



Here (above), you can see that card making is very much in progress in the Wright household, a veritable production line is under way. Daughter Zoë has been roped in to add her artistic and creative talents to the pot. These will be sold at a coffee morning when friends and neighbours will be invited round. Callers to our house who have spotted the cards have already placed advance orders!

(Any cards left unsold from our coffee morning will be available to those who are able to come to our Northern UK meet on November 11th)

So, please do let me know (treasurer@i-church.org) what you are planning to do so I can both encourage and acknowledge your efforts.

Anything we can raise will make a great difference to the viability of i-church in the future. We are very much like B&M churches in this respect; fund raising is a key part of the necessary task of providing the income we need to provide i-church to all.

But fund raising can and should be fun rather than a chore. So, dig out all those unwanted goods and let’s get fund raising!



10.31 seconds

Here in the UK, Songs of Praise is for many people a programme not to be missed. But on September 17th the Sunday Service came, not from a Cathedral or regular church, but from a number of modern and different expressions of church.

Having been warned that i-church may well feature, I sat in front of the telly to watch. We watched Lighthouse, a church project working with prostitutes in Hull, a church in Hereford running a late shift on Saturday nights for party revellers, a glimpse of a BMX church and then there was the familiar home page and a reference to a new “internet church”. Wow, that’s us!

But it was no sooner there than it was gone. No interviews with Russell or any members, just shots of a computer screen. I rewound the recorder and watched again. It was short! I got out a stop watch, and watched it again. 10.31 seconds said the stopwatch! And we were not even called “i-church”!

“How many people are going to see that for a paltry 10.31 seconds and be able to do anything?” I wondered. Disappointed, a little later I went into the i-church chapel.

Wait a minute, there were five new people in chapel! And they all said, “I saw you on Songs of Praise so I found your website and applied to join.” What, after a 10.31 seconds glimpse of i-church on the TV they were able to track our website down, read all about us, apply to join and become members—all in three hours!

Well, yes! Thanks to Helen being on hand to fast-track any applications we gained five new members in time for chapel and over the next few days we gained a dozen members who cite Songs of Praise as the place they heard about us. Amazing!

Which got me wondering. If we can gain a dozen or so members because we have had 10.31 seconds of glory on the TV, how many members would we have gained if we had had a decent slot, with interviews etc?

Maybe it’s just as well, we may not have been able to cope with the rush! So, well done to our newest members who came here after Songs of Praise for having keen reactions!

Christmas is coming!

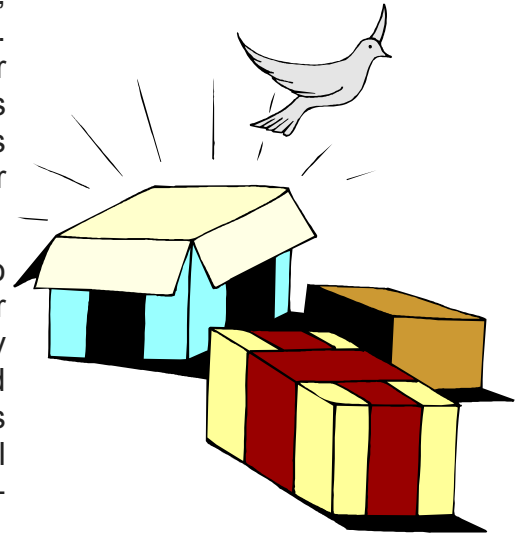
Jayne Tite

Yep shopping madness is upon us. What to get who, and how to stay within budget. All those Christmas cards, working out the menu, and wondering if dear old aunt Aggie will be as annoying as she was last year.

Well here in i-Church we have devised our own particular Christmas torture in the form of an exchange of gifts between members. It works like this:

Those who participate are given the name and address of a member to send a Christmas present to, with a maximum value of approximately £10. These presents are sent across the globe, but if someone does not want to send outside their own country they only have to say so. The pairings are made by the co-ordinator, and are sent out in good time, (October) to allow for purchase and posting via surface mail. There is no particular theme, however it is good to remember who's birthday we are celebrating. It is the Love God has for us in sending His Son that we can pass on to those we send gifts to, so hopefully there will be some reflection of this in our choice.

The £10 limit is set so that people won't feel they have to splash out when they can ill afford to, or indeed hold back for the same reason. Cost of postage also being a factor, it may well be that there will be some taking part who cannot afford exorbitant overseas postage, that's fine, just let me know. It is not too late to join in, just send your name and snail mail address to me at <mailto:enyaj@xtra.co.nz> , or PM me via i-church.



If you want to see how we got started on this look up the subject *Christmas cometh*. (Enter those words in the search box at the top of the i-Church home page.)

A very merry October to you all, yeah I know it's autumn down there in the North, but up here in the southern Pacific it's Spring, well at least the daffs tell me it is, as do the calves and the lambs. And for all you people who are celebrating a non-birthday this month, a happy non-birthday to you all.

Arohanui

God's wife

A little boy about ten years old was standing before a shoe store on the roadway, barefoot, peering through the window, and shivering with cold. A lady approached the boy and said, "My little fellow, why are you looking so earnestly in that window?" "I was asking God to give me a pair of shoes," was the boy's reply.

The lady took him by the hand and went into the store and asked the assistant to get half a dozen pairs of socks for the boy. She then asked if he could get her a basin of water and a towel.

He quickly brought them over to her. She took the little boy to the back part of the store and, removing her gloves, knelt down, washed his little feet, and dried them with a towel. By this time the assistant had returned with the socks.

Placing a pair upon the boy's feet, she bought him a pair of shoes. She tied up the remaining pairs of socks and gave them to him. She patted him on the head and said, "No doubt, my little fellow, you feel more comfortable now?"

As she turned to go, the astonished lad caught her by the hand, and looking up in her face, with tears in his eyes, answered the question with these words: "Are you God's wife?"

Forum Tip

Paul Sibley

Using 'Board Settings' to save bandwidth

It's all too easy for those of us with speedy broadband connections to forget that not everyone is so fortunate -- many still have to use much slower dial-up connections. It is possible to change a few things in the 'Board Settings' of the forums which can help to make pages open a little quicker, which in turn could enhance the forum experience for those on slower connections.

At the top of the forums click on the 'My Controls' link. Then, in the left hand 'Menu' of the page that opens, look down to the bottom block, 'Options'. One of the options in there is 'Board setting'; click on that and you'll be presented with a new right hand panel that should look something like the image below:

Welcome to your control panel

Time Zone

Your base time zone
The time (including your current adjustment) is: Sep 22 2006, 01:53 PM
(GMT) Casablanca, Dublin, London, Lisbon, Monrovia

DST Correction

Auto correct DST?
(If selected, your DST setting is automatically adjusted when you next load the board index)

Board Display Settings

Do you wish to view members signatures when reading topics? Yes

Do you wish to view images in posts, such as smilies and posted images? Yes

Do you wish to view members avatars when reading topics? Yes

Do you wish to get a board notification when you get a new personal message? Yes

Number of posts to show for each topic page Use forum default

Number of topics to show for each forum page Use forum default

Personal Messenger Options

Disable your personal messenger?
If you disable your personal messenger, you will not be able to make or receive personal messages. No

Posting Settings

Open Fast Reply automatically when available?
This function requires cookies No

Type of text editor to use when posting
Rich Text Editor requires either IE6, Mozilla or Firefox Standard Editor

It's the 'Board Display Settings' section that can be of some assistance in saving bandwidth. So let's go through the options.

Do you wish to view members signatures when reading topics? On the i-Church forums you aren't going to save a great deal of bandwidth by altering this setting -- people only use small text signatures. On some forums, though, people add huge image files into their signatures. Changing this setting to 'No' would stop all signatures from being displayed.

- **Do you wish to view images in posts, such as smilies and posted images?** Changing this setting to 'No' would mean that all images linked to elsewhere on the internet, and smilies/emoticons, would show up as just a clickable link. You can view the image by just clicking on the link. Unfortunately, there seems to be one of those rather frustrating limitations of the software which means that the setting that should be most effective for reducing bandwidth isn't as useful as it could be -- attached images, those that people have uploaded to the forums through the posting area, do still show in the post. It should be possible to just display a thumbnail of attached images; but that's a setting that would affect everyone; if there was enough call for such a change to be made, we could look into it.
- **Do you wish to view members' avatars when reading topics?** The 'avatars' are the small pictures under people's names to the left of the posts. Again, you wouldn't save a huge amount of bandwidth by changing this -- most people only have small, static images. But I have seen forums where people add animated images that have been rather large file sizes.
- **Do you wish to get a board notification when you get a new personal message?** This one isn't a bandwidth saver; it refers to the small pop up (My Assistant) notification that appears when someone has sent you a personal message.
- **Number of posts to show for each topic page** The forum default is set at twenty posts for each topic page. Set at less, there would be less scrolling and text to read to the bottom of the page, but more pages to load to read all of the topic. Set at more, and you would have longer pages. I find the forum default about right, but you may want to experiment with this setting.
- **Number of topics to show for each forum page** The forum default is thirty topics being shown in the forum page. There aren't many forums, though, that are busy enough to be displaying that number. The number of days to display topics from is set in such a way that there aren't long lists of topics that no one has replied in for ages being shown. You could, if you wanted to, ensure that a very limited number of topics are shown on a page using this setting.

None of these settings will save a huge amount of bandwidth on their own. But using them all, you may feel it's worth experimenting with the settings to try and speed loading times up a bit. It does depend very much on your system as to how successful you might be.

October Calendar	Service Times																						
<p>Birthdays as per Calendar on members forum (this coming month, there are 11 birthdays to celebrate)</p> <p>October 24th Deadline for The NET</p>	<p>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:</p>																						
<p>Worship in i-church</p> <p>The numbers of members attending at least one worship session in a month has sharply increased of late. In September 41 separate individuals have attended at least once and many people are attending a service at least twice a week.</p> <p>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.</p>	<table border="0"> <tr> <td><u>Worship</u></td> <td>GMT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mon to Sat</td> <td>08:00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sunday</td> <td>09:00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Daily DIY</td> <td>11:00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Daily</td> <td>20:00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mon to Fri</td> <td>02:00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Tues, Fri</td> <td>11:30</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2"><u>Open House—Tuesdays</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Study</td> <td>19:00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Chat</td> <td>19:30</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Worship</td> <td>20:00</td> </tr> </table> <p>You can now get services in your local time on the member Home Page. Check it out.</p>	<u>Worship</u>	GMT	Mon to Sat	08:00	Sunday	09:00	Daily DIY	11:00	Daily	20:00	Mon to Fri	02:00	Tues, Fri	11:30	<u>Open House—Tuesdays</u>		Study	19:00	Chat	19:30	Worship	20:00
<u>Worship</u>	GMT																						
Mon to Sat	08:00																						
Sunday	09:00																						
Daily DIY	11:00																						
Daily	20:00																						
Mon to Fri	02:00																						
Tues, Fri	11:30																						
<u>Open House—Tuesdays</u>																							
Study	19:00																						
Chat	19:30																						
Worship	20:00																						