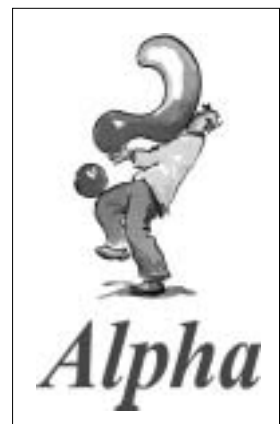


MAY/JUNE 2011



St. Mildred's Church Newsletter



MISSION STATEMENT

The call of God on our lives at St Mildred's is to make and equip disciples of Jesus Christ locally and globally in the power of the Holy Spirit.

About St. Mildred's...

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This issue of the St. Mildred's Newsletter was edited by Jo Beckford. Articles should be sent to Andrew Rogers by Wed. 22nd June for the July/August edition.



As a church, we are praying that the DNA of our life together will be mission - God's mission!

You are warmly invited to come and join us at St. Mildred's. In our worship (Sundays 10.00am and 6.30pm, Wednesdays 9.30am - Holy Communion) we mix traditional and informal. We follow the Anglican "Common Worship" format, but not too rigidly and we try to use a mixture of old and new; traditional and modern. In our teaching we aim to be faithful to the Bible.

Many of us have found, in the middle of our painful and pressurised world, a true sense of personal worth, and a confidence about the future through faith in the living Lord Jesus Christ. We value these things very highly and want to share them. It is our wish that those who visit us will find a genuine, warm welcome, discovering a reality that will bring hope, encouragement and inspiration in these difficult times.

There is no claim that we have 'arrived', but we do try to work at being a caring community. We are ordinary people from a wide variety of backgrounds, working at being a caring church family.

We meet together as a 'family' with facilities for everyone including, on Sunday mornings, activities for children and young people from 0 – 16yrs. The church is fully accessible. An induction loop is available for those with hearing difficulties.

Coffee and tea are served after the Sunday morning service. We hope that you will find it difficult to leave without someone saying "Hello!" Do join us! We look forward to getting to know you better.

We hope that our website: www.stmildreds.org.uk helps you to find out more about us, but please get in touch if you have any questions or suggestions. Please come and visit us so that we can welcome you in person!

Rob Writes...

The Vicar of St Mildred's, Rob Shimwell, writes ...

In the 21st century, there is a real dissatisfaction with the answers to life that we have fed on for so long – money, possessions, progress. People are longing for something extra, something which gives an answer to the hunger that they experience deep in their beings.

Something tells us that there is more to life than the things we experience every day, something that we're missing. The search is on for a spiritual answer to life that brings hope, satisfaction and peace.

Is Jesus relevant today?

When it comes to issues we all face – like ambition, money, stress, sex, fashion – Jesus always had something to say...

- Ambition ... what good would it do to get everything you want and lose you, the real you?
- Money ... life is not defined by what you have, even when you have a lot.
- Stress ... if you are tired from heavy burdens, come to me and I will give you rest.
- Sex ... anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart.
- Fashion ... the things that most people think are important are worthless as far as God is concerned.

Everyone has to face the questions which never seem to go away ...

What's life about?

Why is there suffering and pain?

Why do I feel so guilty?

What about growing old?

What happens when I die?

Christianity is based on Jesus, who spoke about all these things, who lived the same sort of life that we live, who died, and who is alive today. When we put our trust in him he comes to live with us by his Holy Spirit, we discover God's complete forgiveness, and we experience God's power so that we can change the way we live.

It's when relationships go wrong that we feel most unhappy. Discovering a new relationship with God our loving Father through Jesus Christ, his Son, sets so much right at the core of our lives.

That's why we came to see you. Many of us have found, in the middle of our painful and pressurised world, a true sense of personal worth; a confidence about the future; through faith in the living Lord Jesus Christ and a restored relationship with God. We value these good things very highly and want to share them.

A thread runs through the pages of this newsletter ... "Two ways to live" ... describing the message from the Bible at the heart of Christianity about God and his Son Jesus, about life and death, about the choice that we all face.

We want to welcome you to St Mildred's church. We hope that when you come you will find a genuine, warm welcome, and a reality that will bring hope, encouragement and inspiration in these difficult times.

Rob Shimwell



Journey of Faith..

ROB SHIMWELL

Rob was born on the 4th August 1946 in Hampstead, NW London. He was privileged to have wonderful Christian parents who also had 3 daughters. Rob was the 2nd eldest.

He was brought up in the Exclusive Brethren and accepted the Lord Jesus as his personal Saviour when he was just 9 years old. Life was strict! The Brethren didn't allow members to go to the cinema. The radio and TV were also forbidden along with many other things. Even the school Carol Service was not allowed, because it was to be held in an Anglican Church! Rob admired his parents because they took a stand disagreeing with so much of what was happening. As a result, his Mum and Dad were thrown out of the Brethren, which was extremely hard for them as they lost contact with all relations and friends. Thankfully, eventually many of them came out of the Brethren too so they were united again.

Rob told me he is so grateful for his Christian upbringing. He had a stable, loving Christian family. Every morning they had Bible reading and family prayers – long prayers! He did not like school particularly, for that meant he had to work! He loved music although the teachers kept telling him he couldn't do music all the time. He had to play team games at school which again he had to endure. He was happiest rock climbing, walking, skiing, mountain climbing... and he had always wanted to make music his career.

However, shortly before he left school in 1964, Rob was working in Hildenborough Hall, in Kent, with Tom Rees and God spoke to him through the words at the end of Mark's Gospel calling him into Christian ministry – "Go into all the world and preach the Gospel." It was then that he gave up the idea of music - a very difficult decision. He went to London Bible College (now the London School of Theology) for 3 years, and then taught Scripture at a prep school in Lindfield, Sussex, for 7 years, followed by 2 years Ordination training at Trinity College, Bristol. Rob loved teaching, but was always aware that there was something more for him to do.

Rob met Di in Lindfield whilst teaching, and during his

Ordination training he asked her out. They were married in July 1977. Rob was out of work after his training because of a confusion about a curate's job, but managed to get a job in EMI Recording Studios in Abbey Road, London, meeting people there such as Paul McCartney and Cliff Richard! At that time Di was doing her Nursing training.

Rob was ordained in Southwark Cathedral to serve as a curate in Richmond by Bishop Mervyn Stockwood in 1978. 4 years after his Ordination, Rob realised that faith had to be more than head knowledge and as a result, close friends prayed with both him and Di, for

...TWO WAYS TO LIVE..

1 God is the loving ruler of the world.

He made the world.

He made us rulers of the world under him.



You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honour and power, for you created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being.

Revelation chapter 4, verse 11

But is that the way it is now?

continued..

the gift of the Holy Spirit, and their lives, faith and ministry completely changed. They had some amazing experiences of God working to release and heal people who had been involved in a sect known as "Children of God". During a very difficult time in his ministry in Glasgow, two people were sent by God to help him. He knew neither of them. One was a man who God told to go to his address and tell Rob that he had been sent by God. He knew Rob's name and address and all about the situation he was facing. He brought Rob a powerful word of prophecy, prayed with him and then left. Rob had no idea who he was and has never seen him again. From that day the situation began to change for the better. The second person was a little American lady, named Pearlle. She turned up in church saying God

had sent her from Jerusalem to Glasgow to stand by them and pray for them. When Rob and Di told her that they were leaving Glasgow for the Wirral, Pearlle said that she knew and had already booked her ticket for a flight back to Jerusalem from Glasgow!!

Rob told me he is passionate about four things in life – family life, music, mountain climbing and Jesus, but not necessarily in that order. Rob and Di have 3 children – Jo, Tim and Matthew – all recently married –by Rob – to lovely Christians!

Between 1978 and 2011, Rob has served in six parishes – Richmond, Cullompton, South Cave, Glasgow, Upton and finally St Mildred's in Lee! Whilst serving God in the Wirral, we at St. Mildred's were praying hard for God to send the right person to be our vicar. At the same time, Rob and Di were on holiday in Greece, They were praying on their own and when they had finished, Rob told Di he felt God saying to him that it was time to start thinking about a move. Di was amazed as she had felt God saying exactly the same thing!

We have had 6 wonderful years with them, with Rob as our Vicar – teaching and guiding us, helping us all to grow in our Christian faith and we do thank him and Di most sincerely for all their leadership and love. I know they have been really happy and blessed with us – Rob often says God kept the best till last!

Rob said when he begun his ministry, they lived on a road leading down to the South Circular, and now at the end of his ministry, they are living again on a road leading down to the South Circular but on the other side of London!

Rob and Di, we are going to miss you so very much when you leave in September, but we will make the most of the next months and pray that when the time comes, you will have a very blessed retirement. God bless you both and thank you so much for allowing me to write your story!

Doris Parker

...TWO WAYS TO LIVE..

The first point of the Christian message is that God is in charge of the world. He is the ruler, the supreme president, the king. Unlike human rulers, however, God always does what is best for his subjects. He is the kind of king you'd like to be ruled by.



God rules the world because he made the world. Like a potter with his clay, God fashioned the world into just the shape he wished, with all its amazing details. He made it, and he owns it.

He also made us. God created people who were something like himself, and put them in charge of the world - to rule it, to care for it, to be responsible for it and to enjoy all its beauty and goodness. He appointed humanity to supervise and look after the world, but always under his own authority, honouring him and obeying his directions.

You can see this represented in the illustration above: God is the ruler (the crown) and humanity is created to live in and rule God's world under God's loving authority.

It all sounds rather ideal - God in heaven, people ruling the world according to his directions and everything right with the world. But everything is very obviously not right - with us or the world.

Parents and Toddlers...

Our Parent and Toddler Group is open every Tuesday during term-time from 10.30am to 12noon in the morning and from 1.30pm to 3pm in the afternoon.

We welcome children under the age of five with their parents, grandparents or child-minders. Our sessions are structured so that children can try painting, sticking, sandwich making and many other crafts. There is a climbing frame and train set with a separate area for young babies.

Our group is very friendly and many find support in all kinds of ways. Cost per session is £1.50 per family. Kay and the team look forward to welcoming you and your children to the group.



St. Mildred's Church Hall
Every Tuesday
(during term-time)
10.30am to 12noon
and 1.30pm to 3pm

Contact Kay Nicholls
for more information:



020 8851 9227



...TWO WAYS TO LIVE..

2

We all reject the ruler - God - by trying to run life our own way without him.

But we fail to rule ourselves or society or the world.



There is no-one righteous, not even one: there is no-one who understands, no-one who seeks God. All have turned away.

Romans chapter 3, verses 10-12

What will God do about this rebellion?

Services at St. Mildred's...



10am: Morning Service

- Holy Communion is on the first and third Sundays of the month.
- A Parade Service with our uniformed organisations is on the second Sunday of the month.
- A crèche is available during all morning services for children under 3 years old.
- For children of attending parents (3yrs +), Koolkidz takes place during all services, except for Parade services.

...TWO WAYS TO LIVE...

The sad truth is that, from the very beginning, men and women everywhere have rejected God by doing things their own way. We all do this. We don't like someone telling us what to do or how to live - least of all God - and so we rebel against him in lots of different ways. We ignore him and just get on with our own lives; or we disobey his instructions for living in his world; or we shake our puny fists in his face and tell him to get lost.

However we do it, we are all rebels, because we don't live God's way. We prefer to follow our own desire, and to run things our own way, without God. This rebellious, self-sufficient attitude is what the Bible calls 'sin'.

The trouble is, in rejecting God we make a mess not only of our own lives, but of our society and the world. The whole world is full of people bent of doing what suits **them**, and not following God's ways. We all act like little gods, with our own crowns, competing with one another. The result is misery. The suffering and injustice that we see around us all go back to our basic rebellion against God.

By rebelling against God, we've made a terrible mess of things. The question is: what will God do about it?



6.30pm: Evening Service

- A smaller and more informal service.
- Holy Communion is on the second Sunday evening of the month.

You are most welcome at all of our services.



Contacting Us

Where are we?

On St. Mildred's Road (the South Circular), opposite the end of Birch Grove.

How to get in touch?

Call **020 8857 5205**, or if you have access to the internet, email us through our website, www.stmildreds.org.uk.

The church is also open from 10 to 11am on Saturday mornings, for enquiries about weddings, thanksgivings, or other matters.

Xstream Fridays...



Every Friday night 35-50 children take over the church for 90 minutes of madness including games, quizzes, prizes, drama, craft, football, cooking, challenges, DVDs and much more.

The group is divided into teams who compete throughout each term to win as many points as possible.

Central to all we do is a focused slot about our awesome God. This year, through talks, discussions, quizzes, stories and DVD clips, we have looked at God's Big Story that runs through the Bible, what God is like and what Easter is all about.

...TWO WAYS TO LIVE..

3 God won't let us rebel forever.

God's punishment for rebellion is death and judgement.



Man is destined to die once, and after that to face judgement.

Hebrews chapter 9, verse 27

God's justice sounds hard. But...

St Mildred's Church

For 7-11 years olds

Every Friday, 6.30- 8pm
(during term-time)

Cost: 50p

Contact our Youth and Children's Worker,
Lizzie, for more information:

lizziep85@hotmail.com
07834807305



Horizon Group...



St Mildred's Church

10.30am- 12.30pm

2nd Friday of the month

...TWO WAYS TO LIVE...

God cares enough about humanity to take our rebellion seriously. He calls us to account for our actions, because it matters to him that we treat him, and other people, so poorly. In other words, he won't let the rebellion go on forever.



The sentence God passes against us is entirely just, because he gives us exactly what we ask for. In rebelling against God, we are saying to him, "Go away. I don't want you telling me what to do. Leave me alone." And this is precisely what God does. His judgement on rebels is to withdraw from them, to cut them off from himself - permanently. But since God is the source of life and all good things, being cut off from him means death and hell. God's judgement against rebels is an everlasting, God-less death.



This is a terrible thing, to fall under the sentence of God's judgement. It is a prospect we all face, since we are all guilty of rebelling against God.



Is that it then? Are we all destined for death and everlasting ruin? If not for God's own miraculous intervention, we would be.



The Horizon Group is the new group at St. Mildred's for the over 60s. The theme is different each month, with a wide mixture of quizzes, speakers, music, board games and nostalgia.



The morning is always accompanied by tea, coffee and delicious homemade cakes. Our focus is on fun and friendship. Each meeting concludes with a brief time of reflection.

We look forward to welcoming new members from our local community!

Please check the church website for confirmation of dates and contact information.

Diary...May-June 2011

DAY	DATE	WHAT'S ON
Sunday	8 May	10am - Parade Service <i>Margaret Gill, Iris Gibbs & Barbara Hawgood on Back of House</i> 6.30pm - Holy Communion
Monday	9 May	9.30am - Morning Prayer in Church
Tuesday	10 May	7pm - Archdeacon's visitation and installation of Churchwardens at Southwark Cathedral. Homegroups meet
Wednesday	11 May	9.30am - Midweek Communion Homegroups meet
Thursday	12 May	Homegroups meet
Friday	13 May	10.30am-12.30pm - Horizon Group 6.30-8pm - Xstream Fridays (Club for 7-11s)
Sunday	15 May	10am - Holy Communion <i>Sarah Hudson-Davies, Chris Coutts & Jenny Phillips on Back of House</i> 6.30pm - Evening Worship 6.15pm - Nameless Group (Youth Homegroup for 14-18s)
Monday	16 May	9.30am - Morning Prayer in Church 7pm - The Grid (11-16s Youth Group)
Wednesday	18 May	9.30am - Midweek Communion 8pm - Prayer meeting in Church
Friday	20 May	6.30-8pm - Xstream Fridays (Club for 7-11s)
Sunday	22 May	10am - Morning Worship (Tear Fund) <i>Jane Green, Charlie Green & Alice Thomas on Back of House</i> 6.30pm - Evening Worship 6.15pm - Nameless Group (Youth Homegroup for 14-18s)
Monday	23 May	9.30am - Morning Prayer in Church 7pm - Sofa Club (11-14s Youth Homegroup)
Tuesday	24 May	Homegroups meet
Wednesday	25 May	9.30am - Midweek Communion Homegroups meet
Thursday	26 May	Homegroups meet
Friday	27 May	6.30-8pm - Xstream Fridays (Club for 7-11s)
Sunday	29 May	10am - Morning Worship <i>Viv Golding, Paul Nicolson & Jean Hems on Back of House</i> 6.30pm - Evening Worship 6.15pm - Nameless Group (Youth Homegroup for 14-18s)
Monday	30 May	7pm - The Grid (11-16s Youth Group)


DAY	DATE	WHAT'S ON
Wednesday	1 June	9.30am - Midweek Communion 8pm - Prayer meeting in Church
Sunday	5 June	10am - Holy Communion <i>Margaret Gill, Iris Gibbs & Barbara Hawgood on Back of House</i> 5pm - Parish Visiting (starts with prayer at 5pm) 6.45pm - Nameless Group (Youth Homegroup for 14-18s)
Monday	6 June	9.30am - Morning Prayer in Church 7pm - Sofa Club (11-14s Youth Homegroup)
Tuesday	7 June	Homegroups meet
Wednesday	8 June	9.30am - Midweek Communion Homegroups meet
Thursday	9 June	Homegroups meet
Friday	10 June	6.30-8pm - Xstream Fridays (Club for 7-11s)
Sunday	12 June	10am - Parade Service <i>Sheila Samuels, Adam Bland & Kat Bland on Back of House</i> 5pm - Parish Visiting (starts with prayer at 5pm) 6.45pm - Nameless Group (Youth Homegroup for 14-18s)
Monday	13 June	9.30am - Morning Prayer in Church 7pm - The Grid (11-16s Youth Group)
Wednesday	15 June	9.30am - Midweek Communion 8pm - Prayer meeting in Church
Friday	17 June	6.30-8pm - Xstream Fridays (Club for 7-11s)
Sunday	19 June	10am - Holy Communion <i>Stella's Homegroup on Back of House</i> 5pm - Parish Visiting (starts with prayer at 5pm) 6.45pm - Nameless Group (Youth Homegroup for 14-18s)
Monday	20 June	9.30am - Morning Prayer in Church 7pm - Sofa Club (11-14s Youth Homegroup)
Tuesday	21 June	Homegroups meet
Wednesday	22 June	9.30am - Midweek Communion Homegroups meet
Thursday	23 June	Blood Transfusion Service in church from 1pm Homegroups meet
Friday	24 June	6.30-8pm - Xstream Fridays (Club for 7-11s)
Sunday	26 June	10am - Morning Worship <i>Jose Fernandez, Annette Beckford & Joyce Heelan on Back of House</i> 5pm - Parish Visiting (starts with prayer at 5pm)
Monday	27 June	9.30am - Morning Prayer in Church 7pm - The Grid (11-16s Youth Group)
Tuesday	28 June	8pm - PCC meet in Church
Wednesday	29 June	9.30am - Midweek Communion 8pm - Prayer meeting in Church
Friday	1 July	6.30-8pm - Xstream Fridays (Club for 7-11s)

20s and 30s...

St Mildred's
20s AND 30s

The 20s and 30s Group meet monthly for various social activities, mainly involving food of some sort or other!!!

If you are interested in joining us for any of the events then please email Jo Beckford:

 jobeckford@googlemail.com



The dates for the forthcoming events are:

Saturday May 14th

TRIP TO THE SEASIDE

Thursday June 16th

CRAZY GOLF

Saturday July

2ndAFTERNOON TEA

Thursday August 18th

BBQ

Thursday September 22nd

CHEESE AND WINE

Saturday October 15th -

SETTLERS CHAMPIONS HIPS

...TWO WAYS TO LIVE..

4

Because of his love, God sent his Son into the world: the man Jesus Christ.

Jesus always lived under God's rule.

Yet by dying in our place he took our punishment and brought forgiveness.



Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God.

1 Peter chapter 3, verse 18

But that's not all...

Sham Marriage Crackdown..

The Church of England is to tighten scrutiny of applications to wed in an effort to prevent sham marriages.

New guidance will be issued to clergy and legal officers in the Church of England by the House of Bishops agreed with the UK Border Agency (UKBA) and with the backing of Immigration Minister Damian Green.

If a vicar is not satisfied that an intended marriage is genuine, he or she will have to make this clear to the diocesan legal office responsible for granting the licence.

Clergy will have to report a couple "immediately" to diocesan legal officers if they insist on having banns read rather than applying for a common licence under the guidance.

Vicars have also been urged to contact the police immediately should they feel they are being threatened or pressured to carry out a marriage.

The Rt Rev John Packer, Bishop of Ripon and Leeds, said: "The House of Bishops is clear that the office of Holy Matrimony must not be misused by those who have no intention of contracting a genuine marriage but merely a sham marriage."

Mr Green said: "The UKBA already works very closely with the Church not only to investigate and disrupt suspected sham weddings but also to provide advice and support. "Increasing enforcement action has resulted in 155 arrests across the country and would-be fraudsters should remember that a marriage itself does not equal an automatic right to remain in the UK."

The guidance comes after the Rev Alex Brown was jailed last September for four years for his part in Britain's biggest sham marriage fraud to help hundreds of illegal immigrants stay in Britain.

He told the BBC Radio 4 Today programme: "Because we take marriage seriously, we do want to ensure that people are actually genuine in their marriage and we are not being used to con clergy. It comes from clergy who have in some cases been very suspicious of a particular couple and haven't been quite sure what to do about that.

"In many cases, they have done exactly what we are encouraging them to do now and looked to a registrar, a lawyer in the diocese, for a licence. We are making that more general in order to seek to prevent sham marriages."

He added: "Some clergy, in some parishes, in cities are being asked on a fairly frequent basis (to conduct sham marriages) and therefore they need a way to help distinguish between sham marriages and genuine ones."

(Source: The Independent 12.4.11)

...TWO WAYS TO LIVE..

Because of his great love and generosity, God did not leave us to suffer the consequences of our own foolish rebellion. He did something to save us. He sent his own divine son into our world to become a man - Jesus of Nazareth.

Unlike us, Jesus didn't rebel against God. He always lived under God's rule. He always did what God said, and so did not deserve death or punishment. Yet Jesus did die. Although he had the power of God to heal the sick, walk on water and even raise the dead, Jesus allowed himself to be executed on a cross. Why?

The Bible rings with the incredible news that Jesus died as a substitute for rebels like us. The debt that we owed God, Jesus paid by dying in our place. He took the full force of God's justice on himself, so that forgiveness and pardon might be available to us.

All this is quite undeserved by us. It is a generous gift, from start to finish.

But that's not all...



The Grid..

St Mildred's Church

For 11-16 years olds

Every other Monday,

7 - 8.30pm

(during term-time)

Dates for this term:

16th May, 30th May,

13th June, 27th June,

11th July

THE

GRID

A space to relax, play games, chat and investigate how Jesus is still relevant.

This is no normal youth group as right at its heart is our aim to introduce everyone who comes to Jesus and challenge them to get to know him better.



Contact our Youth and Children's Worker,
Lizzie, for more information:



lizziep85@hotmail.com
07834807305

...TWO WAYS TO LIVE..

5

God raised Jesus to life again as the ruler of the world.

Jesus has conquered death, now gives new life, and will return to judge.



In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

1 Peter chapter 1, verse 3


Well, where does that leave us?

Youth Homegroups



Meets Alternate Mondays

7.00- 8.30pm

 liz z iep85@hotmail.com



...TWO WAYS TO LIVE..

God accepted Jesus' death as payment in full for our sins, and raised him from the dead. The risen Jesus is now what humanity was always meant to be: God's ruler of the world.



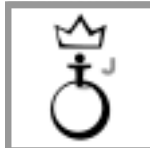
As God's ruler, Jesus has also been appointed God's judge of the world. The Bible promises that one day, he will return to call us to account for our actions.



In the meantime, Jesus offers us new life, both now and eternally. Now, our sins can be forgiven through Jesus' death, and we can make a fresh start with God, no longer as rebels but as friends. In this new life, God himself comes to live within us by his Spirit. We can experience the joy of a new relationship with God.



What's more, when we are pardoned through Jesus' death, we can be quite sure that when Jesus does return to judge, we will be acceptable to him. The risen Jesus will give us eternal life, not because we have earned it, but because he has died in our place.



Well, where does all that leave us? It leaves us with a choice of only two ways to live.



THE GROUP WITH NO NAME
homegroup for 14-18s

Meets Sunday Evenings
6.15 - 8.00pm

 liz z iep85@hotmail.com



The Alpha Course...

Alpha is an opportunity for anyone to explore the Christian faith in a relaxed setting over ten thought-provoking weekly sessions and one all-day session half way through.

Some of the subjects covered are:

- Who is Jesus?
- How do I read the Bible?
- Why did Jesus die?
- How do I pray?
- How can I resist evil?



You would be most welcome to attend.

What people say about Alpha:

"Many claim Alpha has changed their lives and appear genuinely happier for the experience."
(Time Magazine)

"My brother Philip was killed in the July 7 London bombings. It affected me deeply, I was a complete mess and didn't know where to turn. I felt desperate when I first went on Alpha, but that has gone now...I have gained a bit of peace and I've got some faith back in God and in humanity in general."
(Caroline, Buckinghamshire)

We will be holding our next Alpha course at St Mildred's in Autumn 2011,

Invitations and more information will be sent out nearer the time.

Contact David and Kay Nicholls for more information:

020 8851 9227



Uniformed Organisations

Beavers, Cubs, Scouts (boys 6+) and Rainbows, Brownies, Guides (girls 5-15) meet in the Church Hall at various days and times during the week. For further details, see www.stmildreds.org.uk

...TWO WAYS TO LIVE..

6 The two ways to live

A. Our way:

- Reject the ruler - God.
- Try to run life our own way.

Result:

- Condemned by God.
- Facing death and judgement.



B. God's new way:

- Submit to Jesus as ruler.
- Rely on Jesus death and resurrection.

Result

- Forgiven by God.
- Given eternal life.



Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God's wrath remains on him.

John chapter 3, verse 36

Which of these represents the way you want to live?

Missions...

Worship Band Coordination

I have now handed over the worship band leadership and co-ordination to Matt Shimwell who has kindly agreed to take on the role - thank you Matt. Please would service leaders now contact Matt about music for the services for Sundays when the worship band is playing either by email (matthew@shimwell.org) or phone (07875 490708). Thank you.

Dan Robinson

In our quest to share Jesus Christ as Lord we believe mission in all its forms is vital. We therefore partner six organisations through regular giving, prayer and, where possible, practical help.



www.tearfund.org
Overcoming Global Poverty



www.covenanthome.co.uk
Giving needy children a home, education & a future

...TWO WAYS TO LIVE...

We can continue in our rebellion against God, and try to run our lives our own way without him. Sadly, this is the option that many people persist in.



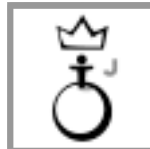
The end result is that God gives us what we ask for and deserve. He condemns us for our rejection of his rightful rule over our lives. We not only have to put up with the messy consequences of rejecting God here and now, but we face the dreadful prospect of an eternity of separation from him, without life or love or relationship.



For those of us who have realised that our situation is hopeless, there is a lifeline. If we turn back to God and appeal for mercy, trusting in Jesus' death and resurrection, then everything changes.



For a start, God wipes our slate clean. He accepts Jesus' death as payment for our sins and completely forgives us. He pours his own Spirit into our hearts and grants us a new life that stretches past death and into forever. We are no longer rebels, but part of God's own family as his adopted sons and daughters. We now live with Jesus as our ruler.



The two ways to live could not be more different, and they present you, the reader with some choices.



www.globalconnections.co.uk
The UK network for World Mission



www.opendoorsuk.org
Serving Persecuted Christians Worldwide



www.nehemiahproject.co.uk
Transforming broken men into role models



www.awm.org/uk
Representing Christ to Arab World Muslims

Two ways to live..

Which way do you want to live?

If your answer to the question is 'my own way', then you probably don't believe some or all of the message we have been outlining. Perhaps you do not believe that God is going to judge rebels, or that you really are a rebel. If that is the case, then please think carefully. It would be a good idea to investigate thoroughly the claims that have been made here, because if they are true, the consequences are life and death.

Perhaps you could get hold of a modern translation of the Bible and read about it for yourself (Mark's Gospel is a good place to start). Or you could talk to a Christian friend, or someone at St. Mildred's about it.

However, if you know that you are a rebel against God, and would prefer to live his way, the next obvious question is:

What can you do about it?

1. Talk to God

The first thing to do is to talk to God. You need to admit before him that you have rebelled against him, that you deserve punishment, and that you're asking for mercy on the basis of Jesus' death in your place. You'll also need to ask God to help you change from being a rebel to being someone who lives with Jesus as their ruler. You could pray something like this:

*Dear God,
I know that I am not worthy to be accepted by you.
I don't deserve your gift of eternal life.
I am guilty of rebelling against you and ignoring
you. I need forgiveness.
Thank you for sending your son to die for me
that I may be forgiven.
Thank you that he rose from the dead
to give me new life.
Please forgive me and change me, that I may live
with Jesus as my ruler.
Amen.*

2. Submit to Jesus

The second step is also fairly obvious. Having prayed the sort of prayer above, you will want to start putting it into practice - that is, actually submitting to Jesus. There will no doubt be all kinds of areas in your life in need of change. You'll need to get rid of old rebellious habits (like greed, anger, selfishness and so on) and start some new ones that please God (like generosity, kindness, love and patience).

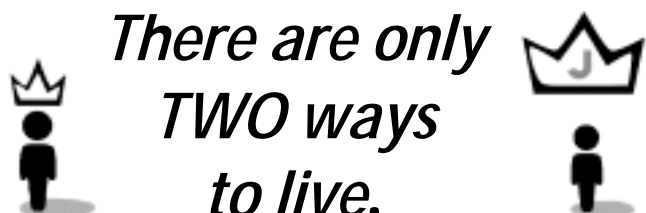
The second step will go for the rest of your life, but God will be with you all the way. He'll keep speaking to you (through your reading of the Bible); he'll keep listening to you and helping you (as you pray to him); he'll empower you to change and live his way (by his Spirit who lives within you); and he'll provide brother and sisters to encourage you along the way (as you start going to church and meet other Christians).

3. Keep trusting

The third thing you have to do is also ongoing. You need to keep putting your trust in the right place. It's only because of Jesus (and his death and resurrection) that you can be forgiven and put right with God. You'll need to keep coming back to this again and again, because as you start to live God's new way, you will still fail and do the wrong thing. We all do. We all need to keep looking back to the death of Jesus on the cross as the only grounds for our pardon. We must never stop relying on him - and him alone - as the means by which we are forgiven and granted eternal life.

If you know full well that you have not yet taken these steps, and that you are still an unforgiven rebel, then you need to do something about it. You are at a fork in the road. It's the choice that we all face.

There are only
TWO ways
to live.



Revolution in North Africa..

The early months of 2011 were a tumultuous period for several nations in North Africa. In January a revolution in Tunisia brought down the long-standing autocracy of President Zine al-Abidine Ben Ali. A few weeks later the world watched in astonishment as a largely peaceful uprising toppled the dictatorship of President Hosni Mubarak in Egypt. Immediately afterwards a violent rebellion broke out against the authoritarian rule of Colonel Muammar Gaddafi in Libya. Smaller-scale unrest was witnessed in Algeria and Morocco, and in various countries of the Middle East.

The dominant reaction in the West to the spread of revolution was one of enthusiasm; some commentators even spoke of an "Arab spring" in North Africa and the Middle East. It was widely believed that the resulting political changes would be for the better, leading to the establishment of real freedom for the region's peoples - including its Christian minorities -and of Western-style democracy. An important reason for this optimism was the apparently secular character of the revolts: they appeared to have little or no religious dimension, and certainly not to be Islamic revolutions on the Iranian model.

If this were so, the uprisings would indeed be good news for the Christians of these nations. For years they have suffered discrimination in many areas of life, restrictions on their freedoms by the authorities, and outright violence from the Muslim majorities. If the twilight of the old regimes really did herald the dawn of freedom, Christians could hope at last to take their place as equal members of society and to practise and share their faith in peace and safety.

Sadly, however, the widespread positive response to recent events is misplaced, even naive. North African and Middle Eastern concepts of freedom and democracy, shaped by centuries of Islamic domination, are simply not the same as Western ones. So, for example, when political leaders commit themselves to support "freedom of expression", they do not intend to include religious freedom in this, and their Muslim audiences do not understand them to do so.

Nor can religion be separated from politics in any Muslim context, where the two are inseparably connected. For most of the people involved in them, the Tunisian and Egyptian uprisings are not "secular" revolutions; they are profoundly religious events, waiting to be led by the strongest religious players.

The best organised and funded groups among the rebels in Tunisia and Egypt are the Islamist movements, such as the Muslim Brotherhood, who are aiming to play a leading role in the future government of their countries. There is already significant evidence of their growing influence in the post-revolutionary fervour:

- The return of Islamist leaders Rashid al-Ghannoushi and Yusuf al-Qaradawi to Tunisia and Egypt respectively, amidst great public enthusiasm; the latter led a million people in prayer in Cairo's Tahrir Square
- The appointment of an Islamist judge to head the committee drawing up Egypt's new constitution
- The sudden and sharp upsurge in anti-Christian violence in Egypt, described elsewhere on this page, involving not only Islamist militants but also the Egyptian authorities

The outcome of recent events in North Africa and the Middle East is impossible to predict with confidence at this stage. But the essentially religious character of political events in Tunisia and Egypt, and the presence there of powerful Islamist groups, raises grave concerns for the future of Christian communities in those countries. If Islamism does seize control of the various revolutions, whether slowly or suddenly, it will impose a much stricter Islamic character on politics and society, threatening the very survival of Christianity across the entire region.

Source: Barnabas Aid, May/June 2011

The Back Page

THINGS ARE NOT AS THEY SEEM...

A Christian minister in Canada had a phone call to tell him that his son had been very seriously injured in a mountaineering accident. The young man was rushed to hospital by helicopter after falling several hundred feet down a steep mountain face, and the doctors held out little hope. After spending several hours at his bedside, his father set off home. He stopped to pray overlooking his home city, and it was there that he heard God speaking to him ...

*Things are not as they seem.
There is more going on
than meets the un-aided senses.
There is a God.
A Living God.
A good God.
A faithful God.
A powerful God.
A reigning God.
An ever-present God.
There is never a time
when this God is not good.
There is never a time
when this God is not faithful.
There is never a time
when this God is not powerful.
There is never a time
when the God of the Bible is not
on the throne of the universe.
There is never a time when the God
we meet in Jesus is not present.
It is a promise:
I will never leave you or forsake you*

Who to Contact in St Mildred's

<i>Vicar</i> Rob Shimwell	020-8857-5205 <i>(day off Friday)</i>
<i>Honorary Curate</i> Marion Barber	020-8690-6035
<i>Readers</i> Stella Mitchell David Nicholls Kay Nicholls	020-8463-0198 020-8851-9227 020-8851-9227
<i>Youth and Children's Worker</i> Lizzie Peto	07834-807305 020-8265-9428
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<i>PCC Secretary</i> Helen Robinson	020-8857-7227
<i>Prayer, Healing Ministry</i> Pauline Leslie	020-8697-3962
<i>Safeguarding Officers</i> Marion Barber Di Shimwell (CRB checks) Iris Gibbs	020-8690-6035 020-8857-5205 020-8297-0758
<i>Keyboard/Band</i> Marion Barber Stella Mitchell Janice Nash Matt Shimwell (Band)	020-8690-6035 020-8463-0198 020-8857-5141 07875-490708
<i>Homegroup Co-ordinators</i> Andrew Rogers Alison Coutts Paul Nicolson	020-8265-9432 020-8698-8495 020-8302-6541
<i>20s and 30s</i> Jo Beckford	020-8425-2025
<i>Parents & Toddlers</i> Kay Nicholls	020-8851-9227
<i>PCC Treasurer</i> Janet Lynch	020-8698-0723
<i>Covenants etc</i> Chris Coutts	020-8698-8495
<i>Koolkidz</i> Barbara Page Angela Hedges	020-8778-8842 020-8516-3170
<i>Hot Totz</i> Carol Bates	020-8857-0465
<i>Fair Trade</i> Lesley Cooper	020-8319-3165
<i>Guides</i> Alison Glenn	020-8300-2908
<i>Brownies</i> Denise Stone	01689 869 308
<i>Rainbows</i> Karon Fowler	020-8318-4270
<i>Scouts</i> Martin Butcher	020-8698-6139
<i>Cubs</i> David Brooks	020-8852-8359 07785 117570
<i>Beavers</i> Sally Henry	07747 086 918
<i>Directory Amendments</i> Pat Hutchins	020-8473-4579