

What's happening this week?

MONDAY	10.30am: Ladies Fellowship – the two Caroles
TUESDAY	2.30pm: Brighter Hour – Smiling is Allowed 6.00pm: Brownies
WEDNESDAY	10.00am: CHC - Bible Study 7.45pm: What's Next
THURSDAY	10.30am: Cuppa & Chat 7.30pm: <i>Behold the Man – Jesus of Nazareth</i>
FRIDAY	
SATURDAY	10.00am: Fund Raising Day - Coffee Morning/Bring & Buy sale

Dates For Your Diary

MAY		
18 th	Tuesday	Brighter Hour – Dorothy Emery
19 th	Wednes	Bible Study - Tony Rosser
20 th	Thursday	<i>Behold the Man – Jesus of Nazareth</i>
22 nd	Saturday	Church Spring Cleaning 10.00 – 1.00
22 nd	Saturday	Pentecost Evening of praise & worship with Jenny Robins & No Strings Attached
23 rd	Sunday	GO- KARTING - see Ian Grove
24 th	Monday	Ladies Fellowship – Pat P's Quiz Time
25 th	Tuesday	Brighter Hour – Tea Party
26 th	Wednes	Madeline's House Group 10.00 am
26 th	Wednes	Worship & Mission
27 th	Thursday	Cuppa and Chat
27 th	Thursday	<i>Behold the Man – Jesus of Nazareth</i>



JUNE		
1 st	Tuesday	Brighter Hour – Bank Holiday NO MEETING
2 nd	Wednes	Bible Study – Tony Rosser

Minister:	Rev Robert Readshaw	423761
Stewards:	Hannah Wilkinson-Jones	0121 602 3477
	Sue Batty	893431
	Doreen Price	828933
	Dave Walker	567042
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Church Telephone:		413513
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Church Web Site:- www.providence-methodist.org

Providence News Letter

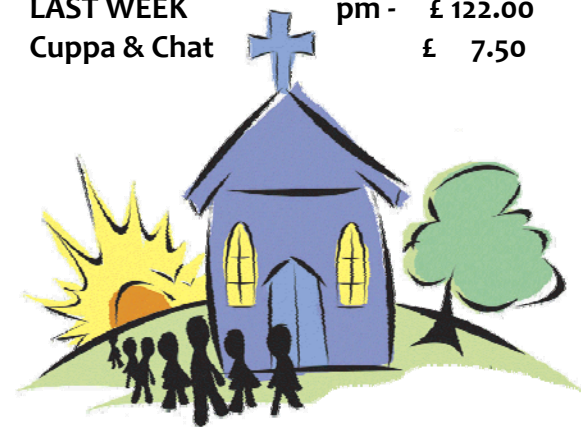
Sunday 9th May 2010

ROGATION SUNDAY

Services

	Today	Next Sunday
10.20am:	Worship Group	Worship Group
10.30am:	Rev. Peter Bradley	Rev Robert Readshaw Holy Communion
6.00pm:	Mary Cornell	John Sullivan
Stewards (am):	Dave and Hannah	Sue and Hannah
Door (am):	Barbara & Jean	Alan & Doreen
Stewards (pm):	Frank and Doreen	Dave
Door (pm):	Beryl & Norman	Geoff & Derek
Coffee:	Pat Cooke	Pauline
Flowers:	Tony Morris	

OFFERTORY	am - £ 174.00
LAST WEEK	pm - £ 122.00
Cuppa & Chat	£ 7.50



ROGATION SUNDAY

This Sunday was originally so called because of the words in the Prayer Book gospel for the day:

"Whatever you ask the Father in my name, he will give to you". (The Latin is 'Rogare' - to ask.) In the strictly biblical context, the chief thing to ask for is the spirit of God to enable us to be true children of God.

By the 17th century, the old Roman festival of 'Terminalia', or "boundaries", had been adapted by the church and served a practical purpose. In days before Ordnance Survey maps, there were not always clear lines of demarcation between the parishes, especially where there were open field systems. During the procession, boys were bumped on prominent marks and boundary stones, or rolled in briars and ditches, or thrown in the pond to ensure they never forgot the boundaries. The Victorians made it more civilised by beating objects rather than people, in the context of a service and procession.

In the Western Church, processions to bless the crops and to include "beating the bounds", developed from the old Roman rites of "Robigalia" ("robigo": Latin for "rust" or "mould"), when prayers would be offered to the deity for crops to be spared from mildew.

These rogation themes of blessing the fields and beating the bounds were commended in the 1630s by the poet George Herbert, that epitome of English country parsons. He said that processions should be encouraged for four reasons:

- 1 A Blessing of God for the fruits of the field.
- 2 Justice in the preservation of bounds.
- 3 Charity in loving, walking and neighbourly accompanying one another with reconciling of differences at the time if there be any.
- 4 Mercie, in relieving the poor by a liberal distribution of largesse, which at the time is or ought to be used.

Today the emphasis has shifted. A blessing on growing crops in fields and gardens, and on young lambs and calves remain. In the agricultural cycle, the main themes are seed sowing and the tending of the young plants and animals. This does not presuppose that all sowing takes place around Rogation. Sowing is done all the year round, as is the birth and rearing of the young, but it is convenient to fix on one particular festival as the time to remember these before God in a public way. Rogation takes place in the springtime, when there is a renewing of the earth. In this country, it follows Easter, the season of resurrection. Renewal and resurrection therefore are also underlying themes of this occasion.

FUND RAISING EVENTS

Our Church will be running a couple of fund raising events, starting this coming Saturday (15th May) with a Coffee Morning/Bring and Buy Sale. Then on Saturday 19th June (not the 5th as noted on last weeks newsletter) there will be further Coffee Morning/Bring and Buy Sale AND a Car Wash. Volunteers will be needed for both events, so if you can help in any way, please contact Chris. Please make a note of the dates and if you can, why not pop along and support our Church.

CORRECTION

On the newsletter dated the 25th April a donation from the Brighter Hour was noted as £25.00, this should have been shown as £50.00.

PLEASE NOTE - IMPORTANT: -

for operational reasons anyone using the church on a Saturdays between 9.00am and 3.00pm, please let Garry know at least 2 weeks prior to the date. If necessary please call Garry on 01384 565369.

GO-KARTING (SUNDAY 23RD MAY)

For those intending to go along to this popular event, please ensure you have your consent and indemnity forms completed and passed to me. As usual the full details are on the information sheet. **Thank You, Ian Grove.**

WORK PARTY – CHURCH SPRING CLEAN

Can you spare up to three hours on Saturday 22nd May 2010, to help spring clean our Church. Lots of help is required. Any assistance you can give would be greatly appreciated.

PENTECOST EVENING OF PRAISE AND WORSHIP

As part of this years Pentecost we will be having an evening of praise and worship on Saturday 22nd May starting at 7.30pm with Jenny Robins, supported by our very own No Strings Attached Puppet Ministry. Jenny as some will recall, joined us last Christmas morning and is a talented singer and evangelist. Please put this date on your calendar and come along to what promises to be a very enjoyable evening.

EVENING SERVICES

Evening services will return into the main church. To assist the preacher we are asked to sit in a block at the front of the church. Café worship will continue to be held in the Primary.

Remember In your Prayers

Please pray for all our friends who are not well or who need our support:

Pat Hackett, Pat, Frank, Eric and Beryl

Please pray for those from our fellowship who are in care and for those caring for them:

Elsie Noons who is a resident in Holly Lodge Rest Home.

Bessie Worton who is at Two Gates.

David Southall in Prestwood.

