



Jan-Mar 2008

Newsletter

Thought - "Here again so soon..."



There's a tendency at this time of year to find yourself looking out of the window wondering where the day went – it's 4 o'clock and so dark that it feels like you missed tea. You may also be wondering how we got around to winter again so quickly, especially when we never really found our way into summer.

If you cast your mind back, you were probably thinking something like this last year and the year before and so on... On one level it's a bit depressing, suddenly being reminded of the passing of time – your life moving on so quickly that years blur into one.

On another level, this might just be the time when you wonder whether there's anything different you should be doing, anything more you could be doing, any challenges, changes, improvements which could be around the corner, if you only look up for a moment to see.

Changes can be uncomfortable, but despite our natural inclination to want things to stay the same, changes actually keep us alive! Something like 80% of our cells reproduce on a daily basis, giving us a new set of skin, bones, organs, etc. I like to think that we can do this with our personal lives too.

In a letter to the new Greek Christians in Thessaloniki, the apostle Paul tells people how they should change by *"living in peace with each other, warning those who are idle, encouraging the timid, helping the weak, being patient with everyone. Making sure that nobody pays back wrong for wrong, but always trying to be kind to each other and to everyone else"*.

His closing words are a challenge to everyone who claims to have changed because they follow Jesus: *"Be joyful always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you."*

So what would you change this year? There's a good chance we will be here again next year on a dark evening, looking out of the same window. Wouldn't it be nice to be able to look back on 2008 and be amazed at the profound changes that had been made in our life?

In Focus - Old Trafford Community Choir ...

Community choir rehearsals take place in the Bethel church, from 7.30 to 9pm, on the second and fourth Sundays of each month.

Q: So who's it for? **A:** Anyone who is interested in singing and who lives in the Old Trafford area. You don't have to be a member of the church.

Q: What if I can't read music? **A:** It doesn't matter; we will learn each piece step by step so everyone can enjoy learning and singing songs with no pressure!

Q: Will I have to come to church services? **A:** From time to time we will perform some of the pieces we have learned, either as a concert or as part of a church service. It's up to you whether or not you want to take part in these performances.

Q: How do I know if I'll like it? **A:** Come along and try it! There's no joining fee and all the music is provided free of charge.

The Old Trafford Community Choir will be singing at the Carol Service at the Bethel on 23rd Dec at 6:00 pm. Rehearsals will start again in the new year, on Sunday 13th January at 7.30pm. See you there!

Sunday evening Services at 2:45 1st Sunday of the month and 6:00 pm at other times.



What's On?

(At Henrietta St. unless otherwise stated)

DATE	SUBJECT	DATE	SUBJECT
6-Jan	Receiving gifts that last (2:45)	24-Feb	What do Christians do? - Baptism
13-Jan	Bible Baddies - Judas (Betrayal)	2-Mar	What do Christians do? - Communion (2:45)
20-Jan	Lives changed by Jesus	9-Mar	Guest Speaker
27-Jan	God is...	16-Mar	Palm Sunday, a mother's perspective
3-Feb	"God loves you" (Even if you don't get any cards)	23-Mar	Family Easter Sunday Service
10-Feb	What do Christians do? Prayer	30-Mar	God's perspective on this week's news
17-Feb	Can Jesus give your life a new direction		

Regulars:

- Sunday
 - Breaking of Bread Service 10:30 a.m.
 - Youth Church 2:45 p.m. (From Kids aged 3 up to Adult Discussion Group)
 - Evening Service 2:45 p.m. or 6:00 p.m. (See above for details)
- Tuesday
 - Junior Youth club 6:45 p.m.
- Thursday
 - "The Bible Course" 7:15 p.m. at Chorlton Adult Education Centre.
 - "Playtime" Parent & Toddler group 10am-12pm (Term time only)
 - Bible Class 8:00 p.m.
- Friday
 - Senior Youth Club 7:30 p.m.

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