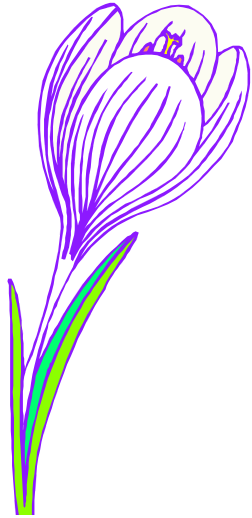


THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST JOHN THE BAPTIST, PINNER

PINNER PARISH REVIEW



March 2010

MINISTERIAL LETTER



1. Coming Clean

By the time this is published, we shall already be some two weeks into Lent. But what is Lent all about? It is nearly always described as a time of penitence: not, I would suggest, a time for masochistic flagellation, but a time of 'coming clean'. We need to 'come clean' because it is only thus that we can be sure that the "I" we present to God is the same "I" that God sees. Nothing is hidden. It is a truly difficult exercise – it is one of the reasons that we are given the story of the temptations and the forty days in the wilderness. Jesus was exposed to the most terrifying temptations – testing, yes, but in the end it showed what kind of person he was. Not only did Jesus realise the great strengths he had, but his Father knew also. We know from psalm 139 that God knows us, but if we expect his forgiveness we need to be entirely open with him. For "From him nothing is hidden" – so the only ones that we are trying to hide things from are ourselves.

2. Knowing God

We know that God knows us. But how well do we know God? Or do we simply believe he is unknowable? Or ... what? How can one get to know God? One possible answer is 'by meeting him'. That in the physical sense is perhaps difficult, but there are other ways. We could start with reading, beginning with the bible. The bible is a series of accounts, recorded by humans, of how God has revealed himself, in creation, by intervention in human affairs, in battle, as judge, as Saviour, as shepherd, as loving Father, as friend and most mysterious of all, as the Trinity.

Lent is a good time to find out more – perhaps through a book that itself is an exploration, like Henri Nouwen's "The Return of the Prodigal Son", inspired not only by Nouwen's personal calling, but by the Rembrandt painting in St Petersburg, itself inspired by the story in Luke. Here we have a story in words that are recalled as being from Jesus himself and in one man have become a potent visual image – so art combined with words and human thought – and prayer? Talking with God? Talking with each other about God – or singing? How often do we hear the word 'transported' when referring to music?

God we believe is present in all these things. It is for us to find something to engage with, something to help us know God better. There is no 'little box' we can put God in – whatever we learn, there is more. Jesus' time during the forty days was spent in prayer and contemplation, getting to know, to be at one with, his Father.

3. Growth

"Lent" is an old word for "spring", and spring is the traditional time when growth occurs, that miracle of God's creation that happens each year. We know only too well that if we dig too deep in the autumn we disturb the bulbs that are already half-way up – but it is the time when the deciduous trees turn from bare brown to green and small seeds are encouraged by light and warmth. Of course, it only works calendar-wise in the northern hemisphere, but the symbolism is wonderful and is picked up in our liturgical green.

We have suggested two ideas – "Coming clean" and "Knowing God". Growth is a third – growing as Christians, living our life in a way that we believe God would want us to. If we can learn a little bit more about God, it will help us to grow more God-like, more Christ-like and perhaps leave us more open to the Spirit. Perhaps, like the seed in the good soil, it will enable us to put down "roots" and produce real growth. Perhaps we should allow the Spirit to be that warmth-providing sun, the Spirit that gives life to seeds, us and ideas.

*Nick Ridge
Reader*

YOUTH PAGE

If you happened to walk into the Church Hall on the evening of Sunday 21 February you'd have seen pancakes-a-flipping! During our Sunday night SNIP meeting we cooked, flipped and ate pancakes. Luckily (and amazingly) none of them ended up on the floor, although a few came pretty close. Lots of people had a go at cooking and flipping them and many more enjoyed eating them! Well done to the top pancake flippers Catherine Almond and Becca White! The prize for worst pancake flipping definitely goes to Howard Lush (see photos below!)



It's been great to hear lots of the children have given things up for Lent. They range from sweets, chocolate, crisps, cake and biscuits (good luck to those brave ones!) to salt, snacking and broccoli! One child told me they've given up doing homework for Lent. I'll keep you posted on how that one goes!

Join us on 14 March for our Mothering Sunday
SPACE service
at 9.00 am in church

Elise Allanson

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

The Limits of Parenthood



I gave you life but I cannot live it for you.
I can teach you things but I cannot make you learn.
I can give you directions but I cannot be there to lead you.
I can allow you freedom but I cannot account for it.
I can take you to church but I cannot make you believe.
I can teach you right and wrong but I cannot decide for you.
I can give you love but I cannot force it upon you.
I can teach you to share but I cannot make you unselfish.
I can teach you respect but I cannot force you to show honour.
I can advise you about friends but I cannot choose them for you.
I can advise you about sex but I cannot keep you pure.
I can tell you about the facts of life but I cannot build your reputation.
I can tell you about drink but I cannot stop you getting drunk.
I can warn you about drugs but I cannot prevent you from using them.
I can tell about lofty goals, but I cannot achieve them for you.
I can teach you about kindness but I cannot force you to be gracious.
I can warn you about sins but I cannot make you moral.
I can love you as a child but I cannot place you in God's family.
I can pray for you but I cannot make you walk with God.
I can teach you about Jesus but I cannot make Him your Lord.
I can tell you how to live but I cannot give you eternal life.
But until the day I die I shall love you and pray for you.

LENT PROJECT

In aid of Bisee Books



On 12 April 2008 five girls, including Emily Sadler from Northwood, died in a tragic accident during their gap year when travelling to join a community project in Puerto Lopez in Ecuador. In their memory, the girls' families formed BISEE Books to make a constructive contribution to young children's education in Ecuador.

BISEE Books and The Book Bus Foundation will work together to implement the Book Bus project in Ecuador. Making full use of the memorial reading corners erected during the families' visit to Puerto Lopez in April 2009, the Book Bus in Ecuador will become a regular feature in local schools.

The aim is to encourage literacy by instilling a lifelong love of reading in young children. Through storytelling, artwork, music and a host of other media, charity volunteers interpret the stories with the children. The BISEE Book Bus provides a mobile library service that promotes literacy within schools in underprivileged communities in Ecuador. At each school the Book Bus leaves a reading corner and bookshelves stocked with children's books. Books are selected to suit age groups from 5 to 18 and there is a section for teachers and parents. Here are some more reasons why reading to children is so important:

- Children who like to read are more likely to stay in school and go on to pursue secondary education
- Reading improves the attention span
- Reading improves the skills that are fundamental to sequencing of events, problem solving and critical thinking skills
- Reading to children stimulates their imagination, which encourages creativity
- Reading stories is fun

Achievements in 2009

The 5 families who founded BISEE Books set up 5 Book Corners in Puerto Lopez in April 2009. These Book Corners set the scene for the BISEE Books project in 2010 when a new Book Bus will begin visiting schools throughout Ecuador. The BISEE Book Bus was purchased in October 2009 and operations commence in February 2010.

The Book Bus Foundation has already worked with 500 children a week at 9 schools in Zambia during 2009.

The Appeal

Objective

The plan is to incorporate 25 schools from the Amazon, Andes and coastal regions of Ecuador into our BISEE Book Bus programme in 2010.

Activities

Each school will receive 12 visits from the Book Bus and its volunteer crew who will give story-telling sessions, arts and crafts workshops and assisted reading classes.

Output

The literacy of at least 2500 children will be improved during the year. At the end of each school's 12 visits the BISEE Book Bus will donate a fully stocked Book Corner to inspire the children to read for life.

Budget

Each book corner costs from £300 including secure storage and a starter pack of books. Our budget for 25 book corners is £7500.

Your support

We need to raise at least £7,500. Gift aid therefore is very important so please complete the address label on the donation envelopes.

*For information contact any member of the
Missions and Charities Committee:*

Eileen Ormandy, Peter Wilson, Paul Wright, Helen Hutchins

RELIGIOUS DICTIONARY

E is for Eucharistic Prayer



The word Eucharist comes from the Greek *εὐχαριστία*, (*ewe-ka-ris-tia*) meaning "Thanksgiving". It is the central act of worship of the church, and there are four accounts of its origins in the Last Supper (Matthew 26:26-28; Mark 14:22-24; Luke 22:17-20 and 1 Corinthians 11:23-25). It is recorded that it was celebrated by the early Christian community in Jerusalem (Acts 2:42 & 46) and by St. Paul (Acts 20:7). Mosaics from Tiberias and Tagha in Israel show us 1st century images of the Bread and Wine, depicted with a cup and plate.

Each Eucharist is a record of the story of salvation, through Word and Sacrament, but at the heart of the liturgy is the Eucharistic Prayer, known in the Orthodox world as the Anaphora. As the word implies, the major theme is thanksgiving. The prayer's origin is probably to be found in the Jewish prayers of thanksgiving, and until well into the 3rd century the President at the Eucharist (at that time almost certainly the bishop) would have improvised a prayer, but including the Anamnesis, the words of remembrance as said by Christ at the Last Supper. Early church writers such as Hippolytus in this Apostolic Tradition, and Polycarp have given us forms of service from the 4th and 5th centuries, and later the great prayers of St. Basil and St. John Chrysostom were written, and which are still used today (see Common Worship Prayers F and G).

Eucharistic Prayers contain within them three parts, separated by the Sanctus and Benedictus and then the Declaration of Faith ("Christ has died....."). The first part, the Preface, changes with the seasons of the church year while the second, the Anamnesis, contains the invocation of the Holy Spirit (known as the Epiclesis) over the bread and wine (elements) before the words of Institution are said, "Who in the last night.....". The third part sums up the prayer, calls to mind the communion of Saints and ends with a Trinitarian Doxology, and hymn of praise "By whom, and in whom, ...".

There are in fact two Epiclesis, the first over the elements and the second over the people. In the western Church the Epiclesis comes before the words of Institution, whereas in the Orthodox Church they come after (listen for the difference when Prayer G is used at Midnight Mass). In the Book of Common Prayer there is no Epiclesis, which is important as it is the work of the Holy Spirit within the Eucharistic Prayer that is the manifestation of the will of God, not the individual Priest.

Whatever terminology we use, the 3-fold Eucharistic Prayer lies at the heart of the Eucharist and if you ever wonder why we have the Liturgy of the Word and then the Sacrament, the answer lies in John 1:14.

Fr Paul

A FEW PUNS

Two antennas met on a roof, fell in love and got married.
The ceremony wasn't much, but the reception was excellent.

A man walks into a bar with a slab of asphalt under his arm and says:
"A beer please, and one for the road."

Two Eskimos sitting in a kayak were chilly,
so they lit a fire in the craft. Not surprisingly it sank,
proving once again that you can't have your kayak and heat it too.



VENABLES AWARDS

Sunday 7 February



These Awards were inaugurated in memory of Vaughan Venables, a former Churchwarden, as an encouragement for the Junior section of our choir.

The Awards are in the form of silver cups which are engraved with the winner's name and passed on to the next winner, plus a music shield which is kept. This year Timothy Storey, a professional organist and choirmaster from Woodford, listened to each chorister singing a hymn/psalm/anthem and attempt some sight singing.

The successful choristers this year were Millie Lawrence (Senior), Sofia Pettersen (Junior), Charles Forth (Surplice), Arthur Garvey (Probationer) and the Pothen Award for progress went to Lucy Cooper. The presentation in the hall concluded with thanks to the parents for their invaluable support in ensuring their youngsters can attend choir regularly.

Michael Turvey

CONCERT IN CHURCH

Amici Chamber Choir



The Amici Chamber Choir is performing a concert of music from Central Europe in church on Saturday 20 March at 7.30 pm. The main work of the concert is Dvorak's Mass in D major. Written in Czechoslovakia in 1887 the mass is scored for soloists, choir and organ and contains some beautiful soaring melodies highly suited to the words of the Latin mass.

The rest of the concert is devoted to sacred works by Polish composers dating from the sixteenth to the twenty first centuries. These range from 'Adoramus Te' by Zielenski, one of the earliest known Polish renaissance composers, to a setting of the 'Nunc Dimittis' written in 2007 by Pawel Lukaszewski whose music has been described as radiant and accessible.

Tickets are £12 (£10 concessions, under 19s free) and are available on the door or in advance from Herga Music, Wealdstone, 8861 1590. Further information from:

www.amicchamberchoir.org.uk

*Help us during these days of Lent,
to come close to you and to listen to your voice.
Give us strength to overcome the temptation to please ourselves
and live life without you.
Teach us your way, for Jesu' sake.*

PARISH CHURCH HISTORY

The North Aisle

The black floor slab in the north Aisle is the only one now remaining indicating the family burial vaults which formerly occupied much of the underfloor area. It is thought to be the stone by which the crypt was finally sealed in the 1850s when such interments ceased.

AN ENCOUNTER WITH ...

*This month we encounter Sarah Hullyer
and her sons*



How many years have you worshipped at St John's?
18 months

Do you go out to work or volunteer in any way? If so, what do you do?

I work part time as a paediatric nurse and also play the piano at Thomas' old primary school. I have been a volunteer for Home-Start for 5 or 6 years and until moving to Pinner I was a Rainbow leader

Tell us about your family

I have been married to Paul for 16 years and we have 2 boys – Thomas who is 12 and Toby who is 3 years old

What is your favourite radio or TV programme?

Desperate Housewives!

With Thomas I have really enjoyed Merlin and my favourite programme to watch with Toby would be I Can Cook or Charlie and Lola

What was your favourite theatre trip?

With Thomas it has to be The Lion King or War Horse and with Toby it would be Charlie and Lola's Best Bestest Play

Where was your best holiday and why was it the best?

Capetown; it has beautiful scenery, interesting history, welcoming people and it was a holiday spent with good friends

What gets you 'hot under the collar'?

People who are rude and/or selfish

If you were stranded on a desert island, what

- ❖ **three books would you take with you?**
(the Bible and Shakespeare are already there)
Lord of the Rings trilogy – JRR Tolkien (which I have not got around to reading yet!)
The Time Traveller's Wife – Audrey Niffenegger
Long Road to Freedom – Nelson Mandela
- ❖ **three pieces of music would you take with you?**
(we have provided a clockwork CD player!)
Symphonie No. 5 by Widor
Adagio for Strings by Barber
Born to Run by Bruce Springsteen
- ❖ **three luxury items would you take?**
a piano
music
Sanctuary toiletries

Have you any hobbies and interests?

Playing the piano, gardening and cooking

What is your favourite Bible passage?

Philippians 4:6–7; like the prayer of St Francis de Sales is very comforting in times of worry or stress

Have you a hero or heroine or is there some person whom you admire or respect?

I admire the work of Sister Frances Dominica who founded the first children's hospice, Helen House, providing much needed respite care for children and young people with terminal illnesses and life-limiting conditions

What is your motto for life?

Treat others with respect

BETWEEN FRIENDS

Supper with speaker
7.30 pm, Saturday 27 March



David Keites will speak about 'Diamonds - a Miracle of Nature'. He has had forty years in the diamond business, thirty with De Beers and ten of consultancy work. The talk will cover what diamonds are - how they were formed; where they come from; their unique properties; how they are mined; how and why they are cut and polished; the cutting process; their symbolism and where it comes from; how they are graded; the relative rarity of different qualities and its effect on pricing.

Tickets are £12 each available from all committee members:

*Lewis Beddison, Sheila Bishop, Joy Daffon, Ron Haslam, Hilary Holloway,
Eileen Ormandy, Pam Stephens, Michael Turvey, Jennie Youle,
or phone Isabel Beddison 8866 3475*

A QUERY



"Lexicologists: Hymn 492 in our book, 'O God of earth and altar', has in it a line 'from sale and profanation', and then goes on to say 'deliver us, good Lord'. Does anyone know what 'sale' means? My dictionary (Chambers English) does not help; my own thought is that it is a short way of saying 'salaciousness', but maybe it is to do with St Francis de Sales? Does anyone know what it is we are asking the Lord to deliver us from?"

Nick Ridge

PAINTING THE CHURCH!

A Lenten Message



There was a Scottish painter named Smokey MacGregor who was very interested in making a penny where he could, so he often thinned down his paint to make it go a wee bit further.

As it happened, he got away with this for some time, but eventually the Lutheran Church decided to do a big restoration job on the outside of one of their biggest buildings. Smokey put in a bid, and, because his price was so low, he got the job. So he set about erecting the scaffolding and setting up the planks, and buying the paint and, yes, I am sorry to say, thinning it down with turpentine.

Well, Smokey was up on the scaffolding, painting away, the job nearly completed, when suddenly there was a horrendous clap of thunder, the sky opened, and the rain poured down washing the thinned paint from all over the church and knocking Smokey clear off the scaffold to land on the lawn among the gravestones, surrounded by telltale puddles of the thinned and useless paint.

Smokey was no fool. He knew this was a judgment from the Almighty, so he got down on his knees and cried:

"Oh, God, Oh God, forgive me; what should I do?"
And from the thunder, a mighty voice spoke . . . (you're going to love this)

"Repaint! Repaint! And thin no more!"

MATHS AND MUSIC

Part II



It was Pythagoras, in about 550BC, who really began the organisation of sound as we know it today, by stretching a string between two points to produce a note by vibration. He found that, by pressing his finger on the string to stop it at various points, he could produce different notes, and gradually worked out that stopping it halfway along its length produced a note an octave about the original, a stop in the ratio of 2:3 produced a fifth and of 3:4 a fourth. Further experiments disclosed that an octave consisted of two groups of four notes, each group made up of three full tones and a half-tone. This was the equivalent of the scale of C major on a modern piano - there being, in those days, no such thing as a 'black' note. In theory then, an octave consisted of a sequence of eight 'white' notes. But as one moved up the notes of the original octave the sequence proved to be very different in character because the half-tones appeared in different places in each new scale. Because they were deemed to represent different moods, these new sequences were called Modes. It was nearly fifteen hundred years before new half-tones - the 'black' notes on the piano, were brought in.

Now things began to get complicated. The new octave of C major now contained thirteen notes, as did the scales of all the other notes in the new scale of C major. Moreover, it became apparent that each major scale had its own relative minor scale, so that composers now had double the number of scales to play with and the old Modes could be replicated in any of the new 'keys' at any convenient pitch.

Nor was this all. Hitherto, in vocal music at any rate, speech rhythm was the order of the day, as it still should be in the singing of the psalms; but now notes began to be given their own value. The standard was the semi-breve (the breve having dropped out of use) which could be the hemisemidemisiquaver, which was $1/128^{\text{th}}$ of the original whole. Time-signatures and bar-lines came into being, expressed like a fraction; $4/4$ meant that a bar contained four crochets or their equivalent, $6/8$ six quavers or their equivalent and so on.

Wherever one turns in music, sooner or later one comes upon mathematics and one of the most surprising things is that so much can be done with so little. Five vowels and a handful of consonants produced almost all the languages of the north-eastern quadrant of the globe and, with the spread of the major European languages, a great deal of the rest of the world. A single Anglican chant - like the ones used for the Nunc Dimittis - contains eleven notes; those notes, it is claimed, provided they be all different, can be combined in about 150 million ways. A ring of twelve bells - like that of St. Paul's, racks up a staggering 480 million changes - bell-ringers take note; apropos of which, if they haven't already done so, they ought to read Dorothy Sayers' "Nine Tailors" - a rattling good story; murder, mystery, missing emeralds and a devilishly clever code.

Everyone knows "Three Blind Mice". Take it to pieces and you get: a group of three notes, repeated; a similar group a tone higher, repeated; a group of nine notes, thrice repeated; and a return to the first group. Its simplicity is astonishing, but this simplicity accounts for more than half the music ever written.

Music has, from its earliest beginnings, always been associated with worship - first, because, unlike architecture, it is immaterial; secondly because, unlike art, it is non-representational; thirdly because; quite simply, it touches the parts other things cannot reach. Long may it be and do so.

Unfortunately, like so much else, music has been subsumed into the quest for a quick buck or flash-in-the-pan celebrity, so that so much of it, particularly church music, has become like a cold dish of overcooked Brussels sprouts - soggy, shapeless and full of wind. And, on the popular front, a kind of audio-visual peepshow involving an endless procession of exotically clad indeterminates looking - and sounding - as though they had a ferret trapped in their trousers.

Libraries have been written about music and the above is merely an attempt to draw attention to some of the things which lie behind it and show the extent in which art lies in concealment.

Bernard Bishop

EDITOR'S NOTE



Thank you to all of you who have returned the Review Questionnaire – your comments and ideas are much appreciated and will be discussed at our next Review meeting. We look forward to receiving articles and pictures of interest for future publication. Contributions can be emailed to chittleborough@btinternet.com or handed into the church office. Copy date for the April edition is midnight on Wednesday 24 March.

BAPTISMS

14 February Charles Stephen Lawrence

DEATHS

4 February Gladys May Rea
8 February Herbert David Gowman

BURIAL OF ASHES

23 February Joan Mabel Ames

CHURCH WEBSITE

Progress Report

Additional links have now been provided. A 'Virtual Tour' can be taken around the inside of our church; notes on the 'Bible Study Series on the book of Ruth' can be accessed and the Vicar's 'Sermons' have been recorded for those unable to get to church. Please take a look if you haven't already done so.

www.pinnerparishchurch.org.uk



INFORMATION

Christians in Pinner working together

PAC Coffee Shop needs help!

Could you spare two hours on a Friday morning, once a month or once a fortnight, to help out at the PAC Coffee Shop? The Coffee Shop has been open every Friday morning, from 10.15 am to 12.00 noon at St. Luke's Parish Centre for the last 8 years, providing a meeting place for friends to gather, or to meet new friends; an opportunity to exchange news between the churches; and it has made a significant financial contribution to the work of the PAC and to many different charities. To keep going we need at least one other person to join the 'staff'. Please contact Joyce Eavis 8866 9871 or Angela Achenbach 8863 1687 if you would like to know more about it.

Christian Aid Faith Lunch

12.15 pm, Saturday 13 March
in the church hall
with speaker

Worshipping Together

'Christian Aid' Service
6.30 pm, Sunday 14 March
at Cannon Lane Methodist Church

Worshipping Together

Service to close the Lent Group Series
7.45 pm, Sunday 29 March
at Love Lane Methodist Church

www.pinnerchurches.org.uk

DIARY DATES

MARCH	
7	Lent 3 March Review published
8	8.00 pm Christianity for Life Course in hall rooms
13	12.15 pm for 12.30 pm Christian Aid Faith Lunch at St John's 8.00 pm Jazz Concert in Church
14	Mothering Sunday/Lent 4 9.00 am Space Service Revision of Electoral Roll begins 10.00 to 11.00 am Traidcraft Stall in church hall 6.30 pm PAC Worshipping Together Christian Aid Service at Cannon Lane Methodist Church
15	8.00 pm Christianity for Life Course in hall rooms
18	7.30 to 9.30 pm Amici Choir rehearsing in Church
19	Joseph of Nazareth
20	7.30 pm Amici Choir Concert in Church (rehearsal 2.30 pm) Riding Lights Theatre Co at Love Lane Methodist Church
21	Lent 5 11.00 am Baptism 3.00 pm Soundscapes Concert in Church
22	8.00 pm Christianity for Life Course in hall rooms
23	8.00 pm PCC Meeting
24	Copy date for April Review
25	Annunciation of Our Lord to the Blessed Virgin Mary 8.00 pm Sung Eucharist
28	Palm Sunday Revision of of Electoral Roll ends
29	Monday of Holy Week 8.00 pm Holy Eucharist with address 9.00 pm Compline 7.45 pm PAC Worshipping Together Service to close the Lent Group Series at Love Lane Methodist Church
30	Tuesday of Holy Week 8.00 pm Holy Eucharist with address 9.00 pm Compline

31	Wednesday of Holy Week 10.00 am Holy Eucharist 8.00 pm Holy Eucharist with address 9.00 pm Compline
APRIL	
1	Maundy Thursday 10.30 am Chrism Mass at St Paul's Cathedral - all welcome 8.00 pm Sung Eucharist with foot washing and Vigil/Triduum - beginning of Three Days
2	Good Friday 9.30 am Children's Liturgy 10.20 PAC Good Friday Silent Walk of Witness 12 noon Devotions on the Cross 1.45 pm Good Friday Liturgy 9.00 pm Compline
3	Easter Eve 9.00 pm Compline
4	Easter Day 5.30 am The Easter Vigil & Eucharist 8.00 am Eucharist 9.30 am Space Eucharist with Orchestra and Baptisms 11.15 am Sung Eucharist with Procession Parish Review published

www.pinnerparishchurch.org.uk



British Summer Time begins Sunday 28 March

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HOUSE GROUPS	Ann Fuller	8868 6168
KIDZ KLUB	9.00 am Brenda Allanson	8429 2417
JUNIOR CHURCH	11.00 am Jill Townsend	8429 2261
KEEP IN TOUCH SCHEME	Paddy Haslam	8933 7911
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