

men@trinity

Newsletter

November 2006

**Running the Race -
Who will pick up the baton?**



**An evening with
Jim Graham.**

**With music from
Phil Jones.**

**At Trinity Methodist Church
11th November 2006 at 7.00pm**

Doors open at 6.30pm

www.trinitymethodist.org.uk

Jim Graham

Jim Graham is director of External Ministries for Gold Hill Baptist Church where he served as senior pastor for 28 years. Married to Ann, the couple have four grown up children. A former president of British Youth for Christ and frequent speaker at conferences and Christian events around the world.

This highly respected Christian gentleman and Christian author has always something relevant and challenging to say to the Church in these days.

Phil Jones

Philip Jones is a singer song writer based in Sussex England. He seeks to communicate the Christian message through his songs, which are inspired by scripture, or testimony of what God has been saying or doing in his life.

Philip comes from a Baptist background and became a christian as a young teenager. His love has always been music, which has developed from the occasional accompaniment of church congregations and experimenting on the home piano to the development of an extensive international singer/songwriter and worship-leading music ministry.



If you have any articles you would like to contribute to men@trinity newsletter, please email to men@trinitymethodist.org.uk, or drop into pigeon hole B for the attention of Mike Bartrop.

More – more---more –more---more---- more ---- more !!

You probably recognise it – Geoff’s sermon on a few weeks back.

We have to admit that for us in the west it seems almost too much to ask for more yet in truth that is God’s desire for us all. Somehow I think that God’s fatherly desire to bless – just as we desire to bless our children – is very much part of the Christian gospel in action.

I am reminded that James the brother of Jesus wrote – “where is your faith?” **If** you have faith, **show** it by your deeds. The “ifs” of the Bible make an enormous difference to **the meaning** of the words and especially in respect of forgiveness of sin. It may be unfashionable to call things sin today – commonly we hear it’s a negative emotion!

Jesus said “IF you don’t forgive others their sins NEITHER will my Father forgive you your sins”.

This is the way to LESS - **-LESS—LESS-----**→from God, but more of fear, guilt, resentment, hatred and bitterness.

The fact that so many have so little is not God’s fault. Rather it is man’s greed and his inability to share what he has. Why is this?

The fact that the world seems so full of revenge and bitterness is actually depriving us of good things – if you like it’s switching off God’s tap of blessing.

How can we ask for more when we ourselves hold

FROM THE POTTING SHED

Greetings

This month I'm continuing my report on gardening in France. One thing any visitor to France will notice is the huge amount of pride taken in civic displays, municipal planting schemes and even such mundane things as roundabouts. I even observed motorway central reservations with *Rosa rugosa* planted on them being tended by workers (don't much envy them that job!)



Since 1972 cities and villages in France have competed in the annual Villes et Villages Fleuris competition and are awarded 1-4 flowers according to the results of the judging. The aim of the competition is to promote and encourage the development of parks and municipal gardens and improve the framework of life for inhabitants. I visited the small city of Beauvais in the Department of Oise (NW of Paris) with a population of 57000. This city dates back to Roman times and has been awarded a 4 flower Ville Fleurie status which is the highest. Some of the parks and green spaces were stunningly planted with very contemporary planting schemes, including the use of a lot of grasses and daisy like flowers (photos can be seen on the web site). Many of the plants were drought tolerant and most plantings were mulched with an unusual mulch which looked like fat pine needles, but was in reality a very finely shredded woody plant material. This gave it the property of binding together when wet to form a porous mat over the soil, aiding water retention and weed suppression. In all a staggering 109 gardeners are employed by the city to tend all the planting schemes, and the large number and colourful results were testament to this investment. Everywhere you could see colourful roadside or roundabout plantings as well as parks and church and municipal gardens. British towns and cities could learn a lot about improving the inhabitants quality of life from towns such as Beauvais. Happy gardening and God bless.

Garden outside Eglise St-Etienne



Garden of Musee Departmental de l'Oise in old Bishops Palace



Roadside planting at busy junction



Town square by Hotel de Ville

