



Rehoboth Baptist Church
New Street, Horsham RH13 5DU

**R
E
H
O
B
O
T
H**

Newsletter
February 2008



**Blessed be the name of God,
forever and ever. He knows all, does all.
He changes the seasons and guides
history.**

Daniel 2: 20 & 21The Message

**Visit our Website -
www.rehoboth.org.uk**

A Leap in Time – or Out of it

February 29th is an important day. For some it enables them to have a birthday – a relative of mine was born on Feb 29th 1940 and is, by no. of birth-days, 17 this year!

But Feb 29th is important also in that it enables us to get our times and seasons almost right every four years. Because the number of days in a 'tropical' year is about 365.2422, a 365 day year is almost 6 hours short – not quite, but almost. After 100 years, the calendar would be more than 24 days ahead of the seasons.

Thus it was that Pope Gregory XIII in 1582 proclaimed a new calendar which incorporated an extra day, normally, every 4 years. It became known as the Gregorian Calendar – although the calculations were not down to Gregory – it was an Italian astronomer and chronologist, Aloysius Lilius (what a great name!) who devised it. Gregory merely proclaimed it in a papal bull and, I suppose, took the credit for it (took the bull by the horns?!). Britain didn't switch to the Gregorian Calendar until 1752, losing, as other countries, 11 days of September that year. With only slight adjustments over the years, the calendar shouldn't need any major modification for a few thousand years.

It's interesting to note that in Genesis 1:14 God said, "Let there be lights in the expanse of the sky to separate the day from the night, and let them serve as signs to mark seasons and days and years." But he gave Man the ability to quantify those days and seasons and to adjust the measurement of them. But tell me - for a God who is

surely accurate and detailed in His creation, was it an accident that He didn't seem to give us precise timings? Why did He allow a year to work out at 365.24219878 days? Isn't that rather inaccurate? Well, when I think about it, I find myself amazed at the accuracy of the apparent inaccuracy. God wonderfully holds together the rotation of the seasons – the movement of the sun, moon and planets so precisely in accordance with His plan – and He never fails to keep His promise to bring round the seasons one after the other. Spring is just around the corner, once again.

It's Man who is so bound by time and the necessity to mark it off as precisely as he can. God is eternal, and has an eternal plan for mankind. We, who only really understand life within the framework of time, have difficulty in comprehending an eternal life with God, beyond time. Thus people tend to live as if this is all there is. Yet, if we would but read and accept what God has to say in His Word, we would be preparing for that life, as yet unseen, where Jesus our Saviour reigns. It was He who promised His followers: I am going to prepare a place for you. When everything is ready, I will come and get you, so that you will always be with me where I am. John 14: 2,3.

Does that warm your heart? Outside of time, as we know it and to what we are presently bound, we shall be where Jesus, our glorious Saviour is, eternally. What we really need is an eternal perspective on life, don't you think?

Steve Piggott
Mobile: 07712 685 336
Email: stevepiggott@gmail.com

Fellowship News:

- ◆ Church members will have a paper to consider at the Church meeting on responsibilities in the church. Please pray we will have the guidance of the Lord in our discussions.
 - ◆ Trevor & Hazel Smith, Elliot & Gideon have moved to 4 Watercross Place, RH13 6TT. We pray God's blessing on them as they settle in.
 - ◆ Please pray for those in the Fellowship with stresses at work and with job uncertainties. Phil 4: 19 in the Message encourages us: *You can be sure that God will take care of everything you need, his generosity exceeding even yours in the glory that pours from Jesus.* May the Lord meet those particular needs in His goodness.
 - ◆ Have you booked for the Church Day at Pilgrim Hall on March 1st? Steve & Stuart need to have names urgently. Do please join us if you possibly can. It will be a day of blessing together. Please pray for the planning taking place and for Ray Pountney as he will be preparing his talks on the chosen subject 'Strangers in a Foreign Land'
- .Happy Birthday in February - 2nd Elliot Smith; 11th Tom Baker; 15th Andrew Cooke; 21st Betts Steere; 24th Judy Borrett**

The Association of Grace Baptist Churches—Prayer Diary February

03 EPSOM (B Moody) Thanks for improved health for pastor Brian Moody. Please pray for the many contacts the church has, that this year we might see them bearing fruit. Also remember our Missionaries the Wilcox family in Macedonia.

SAVED2SERVE Please be praying for those young people who you think will benefit from attending Saved2Serve on Saturday 9 February at St John's Wood and for those taking part.

10 ERITH (R Morgan) We give thanks for regular visitors to the morning service, please pray that they will come to faith in Christ. We are holding a Holiday Bible Club in the February half-term, please pray that it will be well attended.

17 TUNBRIDGE WELLS (D Levell) Pray that bridge building activities - mothers & toddlers, children's/youth work, and various men's ministries may provide gospel opportunities. Pray especially for salvation of souls.

24 BRIGHTON (S Nowak) Please pray for our weekly outreach in our town center that we will be enabled to preach the gospel faithfully and by the Sovereign work of the Spirit people will be converted and added to the church. Please pray for a number of people who have been under spiritual attack that the Lord will enable them to glorify Him in the dark providences that He sometimes leads His people into. Please pray for anointing upon the preaching and REVIVAL.

Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.

Romans 12: 2

Romans 2: v1-16 “Transformation”

Notes of a message preached by Kevin Borrett at Rehoboth 20.01.08

ROMANS 12: v2 “V2: Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.”NIV

“Don’t become so well adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without thinking” – The Message

Introduction

Builds on last year “In your heart, set apart Christ as Lord”. Still in the body and using that as an illustration but moved up from the heart to the head.

Acrostic of the key word in this year’s theme. The word is:

TRANSFORMED

Ac T ion
Diffe R ent
Sep A rate
U N usual
Consi S tent
Thought F ul
Contemp O rary
Subve R sion
Asi M ílate
Ev E ryone
To D ay

Action

We can’t be passive and expect it to happen. We are not talking about evolution but fundamental change. That’s what transformation is.

Greek literal translation would be “*put on another form*”

Different

There is a clear message here about being in the minority and not the mainstream. This is a difficult message in today’s society when pluralism is argued and anyone with a strong opinion is called bigoted.

Tony Blair was evangelical about transforming change (New Labour) when Prime Minister, but wouldn’t talk about his faith for fear of being labelled a crank

Separate

The implication here is that there is a degree of difference necessary which doesn't exist hence Paul's letter. Christians are not to follow the world's pattern e.g. Greek: Cosmos. He is referring to habits, manner, dress, style of living. His point is we are not to be assimilated.

Unusual

We are! Our behaviour will be recognised and possibly provoke a reaction. Unusual doesn't have to be awkward. Christians will or should come at things from an unusual angle.

Consistent

Not being asked to act erratically or do something that is viewed as out of character.

In scripture we have a set of rules to guide us so we can be consistent. Theologians call these "Regulative principle"

Thoughtful

We are not called to be completely separate all the time. Therefore how we respond to each situation is important. In other words, an applied approach. The paraphrase in The Message warns us about action without thinking or automatic behaviours.

Contemporary

There is something new and fresh about the word renewed. We use the Word today to mean modern. Perhaps a note of caution here about tradition and habits. Can be all well and good but can be something we fall into which isn't what Paul is telling us to do. Let's remember Jesus was seen as a radical in his day. Look how the Scribes & Pharisees perceived him!

Subversion

I like the way The Message refers in this verse to "without thinking" and the NIV "Don't conform". Subtle changes are hard to detect and this is a real danger for us in a prosperous part of a prosperous country

Assimilate

Some of us enjoy mental puzzles. Stuart I know is a Sudoka fan. Paul is not talking about a MENSA exercise here. We are transformed by the renewing of our mind. It starts with the mind but doesn't stop there!

Everyone

This verse isn't an optional start for a special category of Christians. Paul was writing here to the whole church in Rome. We are the whole church at Rehoboth, Horsham and it applies equally to all of us.

Today

Romans chapter 12 verse 2 is our verse for this year but when should we do it? The answer is always. When should we start? Today. Let's all put it into practice.

FEBRUARY CALENDAR

Saturday	2nd	8.30am 8.00pm	Early Prayer Bible Study—Barrington House
SUNDAY	3rd	10.30am 6.30pm	WORSHIP SERVICES Steve Piggott + Communion Steve Piggott
Monday	4th	10.30am	Little Verse - Rehoboth
Wednesday	6th	8.00pm	Prayer & Bible Study : 165 Tanbridge Park
Friday	8th	10.30am 8.00pm	WAM BS 54 Blakes Farm Rd, Southwater Pathfinders
Saturday	9th	8.30am	Early Prayer
SUNDAY	10th	10.30am 6.30pm 8.00pm	WORSHIP SERVICES Dave Ansell Steve Piggott Home Evangelism Prayer—Rehoboth
Monday	11th	10.30am	Little Verse—Rehoboth
Tuesday	12th	2.30pm	Afternoon Fellowship
Wednesday	13th	8.00pm	Gillette House Service AGM - Church Members
Friday	15th	10.30am 8.00pm	WAM Coffee 70 Blackbridge Lane Pathfinders
Saturday	16th	8.30am	Early Prayer
SUNDAY	17th	10.30am 6.30pm	WORSHIP SERVICES Paul Phillips Stuart Beadle + Communion
Monday	18th	10.30am	Little Verse—Rehoboth
Wednesday	20th	8.00pm	Prayer & Bible Study : 30 Cambridge Road



GENERAL INFORMATION

Sunday Morning Worship

Our young people join us for the first part of our Sunday morning services and then have their own groups:-

Crèche: Babies and Toddlers
Primary: Pre-school, Reception & Years 1 & 2
Junior: Years 3, 4 & 5
Intermediate: Years 6, 7 & 8
Senior: Years 9, 10 & 11

For further information phone 01403 250021

Prayer & Bible Study meetings

These meetings are held on a Wednesday evening at 8pm, either at the church or in various members' homes.

For further information phone 01403 266193

WAM—Young Mum's Group

This group meets at 10am on Friday mornings in various homes and a crèche is provided for children.

For further information phone 01403 241067

Afternoon Fellowship

This group meets fortnightly on Tuesday afternoons at 2.30pm.

For further information phone 01403 263397

Little Verse

For parents with babies or toddlers. Meets Monday mornings at 10.30am.

Singing & action songs followed by coffee or tea and chat

For further information phone 01403 255055

Pathfinders

This Group, for young people in school years 6, 7 & 8, meets at 8pm on Friday evenings.

For further information phone 01403 250021

HighWay

This Group, for young people in school year 9 upwards, meets at 8pm every first Friday of the month.

For further information phone 01403 256525

Pastoral Elder: Steve Piggott, Littlehaven Cottage, Rusper Road, Horsham, W. Sussex RH12 5QW

Tel: 01403 264830

Mobile: 07712 685 336

Email: stevepiggott@gmail.com

Secretary: Kevin Borrett, 8 Uppark Gardens, Horsham, W. Sussex. RH12 5JN

Tel: 01403 241067

Rehoboth Baptist Church, New Street, Horsham RH13 5DU