



# REHOBOTH

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**Newsletter  
July 2008**



**To Him who is able to do im-  
measurably more than all we  
ask or imagine ... be glory!  
Ephesians 3: 20,21**

**Visit our Website -  
[www.rehoboth.org.uk](http://www.rehoboth.org.uk)**

## **Surprise, Surprise!**



It is said that life is full of surprises. Sometimes, of course, they can seem to be unpleasant ones. But it's always nice to have good surprises. Also, it's fun to spring them – provided they are pleasant!

Thus it was a joy to me to spring the surprise about my engagement and forthcoming marriage to the largely unsuspecting congregation at Rehoboth recently. I compared it to dropping a bomb! May I say, I am grateful for the lovely response the news received; and Sandra, my fiancée so appreciated the welcome.

In point of fact, how it came about was as much a surprise to us as to anyone. But the surprise was sprung by God Himself. The way we met a few months ago was so clearly 'engineered' by Him, albeit through a third party. And a sense of that indescribable peace that He so wonderfully has given us assures us of His hand upon us.

When you think about it, our God is a God of surprises. I reckon Adam had the surprise of his life when he opened his eyes to see that beautiful woman standing beside him. Wow! What had the Lord done while he was asleep? Surprise, surprise!

Abraham and Sarah had a staggering surprise. Nappies

needed when they were 100 – but not for them – for baby Isaac! Through the Old Testament and into the new, God is springing surprises – whether it's the shepherds in the fields outside Bethlehem being blinded by bright angels or the women at the tomb finding they were looking in the wrong place for their Lord. And, I believe God loves to surprise us with His goodness and grace, His blessings so undeserved that should cause us to draw closer to Him in adoration, devotion and thanks-living.

We sometimes find ourselves in a seemingly impossible situation in life. Perhaps you're in a situation like that. There seems no way out, no end in sight. You've prayed much and apparently God isn't answering. Perhaps the need is for perseverance in prayer and trust that He will answer in His time. And when He does, be sure of a big surprise!

The old hymn says: Count your blessings, name them one by one; and it will surprise you what the Lord has done.

**Come on. Let's keep trusting Him!**

Steve Piggott  
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## Fellowship News:

Pray for Kinza Mason as she is in Ghana this month —  
Here's a reminder of the reason for her trip:



**(On the 1st July I will be going to Ghana for just under a month to volunteer at an orphanage in the Volta region. I will be living at the orphanage and generally helping out as well as doing some teaching. The children there have either been orphaned or abandoned, and are in great need.)**

As we enter the summer holiday period may we remember each other, praying for God's care and protection in travelling.

We thank God for the blessing that we had on Sunday 29th June at our summer picnic in New Street Garden. We hope to have a fuller account in our August newsletter. But praise God for good weather and a wonderful crowd of folk, young and old who came along.

## GBC Prayer Diary June 2008

### July 2008

- 06 TRING (N.Baldwin) Praise God for new members, contact with lots of unbelievers and the evidence of God's gracious work amongst us. Pray for Richard Underwood (FIEC) preaching for our 207th Church Anniversary on 13 July. Pray for wisdom as we consider our building project and for vision and energy as we seek to reach out with the Good News.
- 13 MEOPHAM (D Norley)
- 20 NEW CROSS (R Pulman)
- 27 GUILDFORD (J Benton) We praise the Lord for a recent Christianity Explored course. We pray for David and Naomi Skull as David is to join us as an Assistant Trainee Pastor later this year.

**Date for Diary: Family Service on 13th at 10. 30am. Dave Ansell** with special guest Caroline Leighton – former racing jockey and only female jockey to ride in the 'Grand National' at Aintree and complete the course

## Time for Prayers

In the beginning, God made the world.

Let us give thanks for all that God has made.

Think of a time when you saw that the world is beautiful...

Think of a sunset over the hills,  
or sunrise over a sleeping city.

Think of a running river,  
or stars shining on a dark sea.

Think of light flashing on a puddle,  
or of geraniums growing in a window-box.

Think of a time when you saw that the world is beautiful  
- and give thanks.

Think of a time when you found pleasure in your body...

Think of walking in the wind, or digging a garden.

Think of dancing till dawn, or climbing a mountain.

Think of giving birth to a child,  
or of holding someone you love.

Think of a time when you found pleasure in your body  
- and give thanks.

Think of a time when you learned something new about life...

Think of understanding something that had always been a mystery  
or of seeing someone else in a different light.

Think of discovering a talent you never knew you had,  
or of listening to a good idea.

Think of knowing what is important to you,  
or of believing that some things matter more than others.

Think of a time when you learned something new about life  
- and give thanks.

Think of a time when your spirit was refreshed...

Think of a song that moved you to tears,  
or of a prayer that inspired you to act.

Think of laughter shared with friends,  
or the care of your family.

Think of a stranger who made you feel welcome,  
or of someone who said "I love you".

Think of a time when your spirit was refreshed  
- and give thanks.

Think of a time when you were in despair...

Think of feeling alone in a roomful of people  
or of being unwanted by even one person.

Think of being ashamed because you've hurt someone.  
or of being awkward because you misjudged a situation.

Think of being worn with worry or anxiety,  
or of knowing that your life is a sorry, disgusting mess.

Think of a time when you were in despair  
- then think of the suffering, forgiving, changing love of Jesus and  
give  
thanks.

The world belongs to the Lord,  
Think of the Maker - and give thanks.

(A prayer from the Iona Community Worship book.)

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

**Romans 12: 2**

## JULY CALENDAR

Tuesday	1st	2.30pm	Afternoon Fellowship - Strawberry Tea
Wednesday	2nd	11.00am 8.00pm	Mill River Lodge Service Prayer & Bible Study : 16 Little Bridges Close
Thursday	3rd	8.00pm	Banner Group
Friday	4th	10.30am 8.00pm	WAM Pathfinders
<b>SUNDAY</b>	<b>6th</b>	<b>10.30am 6.30pm</b>	<b>WORSHIP SERVICES</b> <b>Matt Gamston + Communion</b> <b>Matt Gamston</b>
Monday	7th	8.00pm	Elders and Deacons
Wednesday	9th	10.30am 8.00pm	Gillette House Service Prayer & Bible Study - 30 Cambridge Rd
Friday	11th	10.30am 8.00pm	WAM - Macleod Road Pathfinders
Saturday	12th	8.30am	Early Prayer
<b>SUNDAY</b>	<b>13th</b>	<b>10.30am 6.30pm</b>	<b>WORSHIP SERVICES</b> <b>Dave Ansell + C Leighton</b> <b>Kevin Borrett</b>
Tuesday	15th	2.30pm	Afternoon Fellowship—Sandra Norgate
Wednesday	16th	8.00pm	Quarterly Church Members' Meeting
Friday	18th	10.30am 8.00pm	WAM - Visit to the park Pathfinders
Saturday	19th	8.30am	Early Prayer
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>20th</b>	<b>10.30am 6.30pm</b>	<b>WORSHIP SERVICES</b> <b>Stuart Beadle</b> <b>David Evans (Bromley) + Communion</b>

Wednesday	23rd	8.00pm	Prayer & Bible Study - 165 Tanbridge Court
Friday	25th		
Saturday	26th	8.30am	Early Prayer
<b>SUNDAY</b>	<b>27th</b>	<b>10.30am</b> <b>6.30pm</b>	<b>WORSHIP SERVICES</b> <b>Andrew Cook</b> <b>Steve Piggott</b>
Wednesday	30th	8.00pm	Prayer & Bible Study - Littlehaven Cottage
Friday	1st Aug	11.00am	Page Court Service

### Preaching out this month

- 6<sup>th</sup> D Ansell - Charlwood
- 13<sup>th</sup> S Piggott - Fetcham pm
- 20<sup>th</sup> D Ansell - Horsham URC am  
S Piggott - Crawley Down am
- 21<sup>st</sup> - 26<sup>th</sup> S Piggott ministering at Seniors' Holiday, Pilgrim Hall
- 27<sup>th</sup> S Piggott - Portslade Baptist am



**Praying and caring for the Community**  
**Roads for prayer:**

**Cambridge Road, Devonshire Road, Oxford 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 10am. 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**

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**Secretary:**

Kevin Borrett,

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