



Jubilee Church

Worshipping God,
serving the community.

Why I am looking forward to 2006

When we look ahead and think about the next year to come, it is inevitable that we think back to the year just passed. We look back on the difficulties and hope for easier times: we look back on times of failure and hope to do better and gain more successes: we look back on pain and suffering and hope for more happiness and contentment.

If all of us were to look back at the past year I wonder what we would think? Was it a good or bad year? Certainly in terms of global events it was a truly devastating year for some. We watched as the waves came pouring in and the Tsunami destroyed so many lives in Asia. We watched as Hurricane Katrina blew away houses, schools and workplaces in a matter of hours. Closer to home, the UK had to endure numerous floods, ruining homes and businesses. We are still watching as people are being dragged from the rubble after the earthquake in Pakistan.

As well as these natural disasters there were many man-made ones too. We are still watching people dying in Iraq, we endured terrorist attacks in London, and there are many conflicts continuing around the Globe, some we know about and many

that don't even make the news.

Many people may be asking what on earth is going on in our world, why are these things happening and what does 2006 hold in store for us? Maybe you're excited about the year ahead and maybe you aren't. However, for those of us who know Jesus as our friend, one who forgives us no matter what we do, say or think and who loves us exactly as we are, we know that He has promised us a better future. It says in the Bible "Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint."

God can bring good out of anything; He sent His son to die for us, to give us a future with Him. When all in this world seems insecure and hopeless, we look to



Jesus who is the foundation of our hope. He doesn't promise to take all the sadness and pain away, but He does promise to walk with us every step of the way, helping us up when we stumble.

We do pray that you will all have a fantastic 2006, and that you find more happiness and contentment, than pain and struggles; that you will see more successes than failures. We are certainly looking forward to an exciting year and I, for one, can't wait to see what God has in store for us.

If this or any of the other articles in this magazine resonate at all with you, all we want to ask is that you give God a chance. Come along and visit us at the Jubilee Centre or if we are not your cup of tea, try one of the other churches in Bromley but, whatever you decide to do, make sure you don't miss out on God in 2006, He is looking out for you!

This article was written by Jackie Mills, one of the Jubilee Church leaders.

Come and join in the

Jubilee Christmas Fun

Saturday 3rd December 2pm - 5pm

Following on from the success of the Jubilee Family Fun day in the Summer Jubilee Church are hosting their family Christmas event between 2pm and 5pm on Saturday 3rd December. There will be lots of great activities to amuse and entertain, including face painting, live music, mime dance, puppet shows, an indoor bouncy castle and an opportunity to purchase home made cakes, hand made Christmas cards and hand made crafts imported from Indonesia. And when the kids visit Santa in his grotto, you can enjoy a home made cake and a glass of mulled wine with our compliments.

live music • mime dance • bouncy castle
puppets • face painting • handmade cards+crafts
cakes+mulled wine • Santa's grotto



Christmas is so often sentimentalised and made sugary sweet, with cute angels and gurgling babies. We chose this icon, with its unusual images of the Christmas story, to make us take a fresh look at the story of Jesus' birth.

Christmas at the Jubilee Centre

Christmas Carol Service

Sunday 18th December

We would like to invite you to get your Christmas off to a great start by joining us on Sunday 18th December at 6.30pm in the Jubilee Centre for a candle lit re-telling of the Christmas story. There will be an opportunity to sing your favourite carols and enjoy some drama; all followed by traditional mince pies and mulled wine. It will be a great evening and you will be festively welcomed, so please make sure it is in your diary!

Christingle Service

Saturday 24th December

Another opportunity to celebrate the real reason for Christmas will be our Christingle Service on Christmas Eve. We would like to invite you and your family to join with us for a Christingle celebration on Saturday 24th December at 4.30pm in the Jubilee Centre. Lasting just an hour this Service is a fund raising event for the whole family supporting The Children's Society. A donation will be taken up during the service and in return, you receive your Christingle. The Christingle is made up of a lighted candle (symbolising Jesus, the light of the world), mounted on an orange (representing the world) and a red ribbon or tape around the middle of the orange (indicating the blood of Christ). Four cocktail sticks bearing sweets are also stuck into the orange to signify the four seasons and the fruits of the earth. The funds raised will go to the Children's Society to help them shine light into the darkness of young people's lives. It will be a short service but what a great way to start your Christmas celebrations with your family thinking of those less fortunate than ourselves.

Welcome DNA

DNA is an intensive year long programme that develops Christian leaders with an understanding of the issues facing people in the 21st century and how to apply biblical principles to those issues in a culturally relevant way.

Anyone between the ages of 18 and 60+ can apply for the course which mixes study with practical experience gained within the context of local Churches. DNA has been running for almost 19 years and over that time 800 plus individuals have participated in the programme. Over 11 months participants meet regularly for 2 day block study periods covering topics such as war and peace, prejudice, social action, public speaking and Celtic Christianity, as well as studying the bible.

However, it isn't all about theory, "what we are keen to do is see people developing their character as well as learning real practical skills and knowledge" says Pete Gilbert the current Team Leader for DNA with responsibility for the direction of the course. Pete went on to explain that "the programme is designed to expose students to a range of learning experiences that will challenge and stretch participants while encouraging them to develop deep and meaningful friendships that will help participants learn that God is more interested in them for who they are than in what they can or cannot do for Him".

Until recently DNA held its 2 day block study in Battersea but earlier this year realised that they needed alternative accommodation, which is where Jubilee Church and more specifically, the new Jubilee Centre came in.

"DNA became aware of our facilities and asked if they could use them" explained Derek, a member of the leadership team at Jubilee, "when we began the project to rebuild the Jubilee Centre it was with the intention of being able to make the facilities available to the local community and beyond as part of our vision of sharing good news. We felt that there was a natural link between our aspirations as a Church and what DNA was doing. By making our facilities available to DNA we believe that we are contributing to their vision as they contribute to ours, we are absolutely delighted to have them with us and look forward to a positive relationship over the coming years".

After their first 2 day block study in mid October Tim Raynes, the DNA Administrator, said that "we are thrilled to be able to use such a modern facility and really appreciate the generous welcome given by the Church".

More information about DNA is available on their web site at www.dna-uk.org



MARY. Joseph went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who

was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn. *Luke 2:4-7*

Mary is right at the centre of the

Christmas story. It was her "yes" spoken to the angel who told her she would give birth to Jesus, which set the whole story in motion. It was her amazing belief that God could do what he promised that made it all possible. And it was she who gave birth and laid her son in a feeding trough for cattle, due to overcrowding in Bethlehem.

In this picture we see Mary lying on a sort of long, red cushion (it almost looks like a bean bag) with Jesus in his makeshift cot by her side. She is pulling her cloak around her for warmth, and maybe she's trying to catch some sleep after the exhaustion of giving birth. The artist paints Mary like this to remind us that the birth of Jesus - like any birth - was hard work and that it was a

human event. Jesus was fully a human being. The way Mary wraps herself in her cloak and turns to get some sleep tells us that.

But Jesus was more than just a human being, as the words of the birth stories, and the images in this picture tell us. Here's a prayer from the eastern church in which Mary speaks to Jesus not just as her son, but as her God...

O sweetest child, how can I feed you, when you give food to all?

How can I hold you, when you hold all things in your power?

How can I wrap you in swaddling clothes, when you wrap the whole earth in clouds?

As one writer said, Jesus was "the son of Mary, but also the Son of God."

Jenerated



What are you passionate about?

This was the rather strange and personal question posed by the editor of this Newsletter in a recent email! After I had spluttered over my cornflakes I read more and realised that what I was actually being asked was to write a book or CD review on something that I feel some passion for!

As I began to engage brain with keyboard, the first thing that came to mind was worship. I love worship; it was the

main element that brought me to God and I thoroughly enjoy listening to different worship artists. One of my favourite worship bands is Delirious. They are a brilliant and inspiring band and their songs vary from a rockish type to a slow stir you up song.

One of the songs on their latest album "World Service" is called "Majesty (Here I am)". I first heard this song at a conference last year just after their album had been released and it was played as the background music to the film, *The Passion of The Christ*. It is a slow song, very powerful and every time I hear the song, it makes me think of the film and the pain that Jesus went through for me and for you.

Another song on the album which is amazing is called "Rain Down" and there is a bit towards the end when the band stop singing and let the audience that they are playing to sing the words. It is just amazing to hear so many people who love God singing and praising his name.

The lyrics that the band produce are brilliant and I think can relate to all of us in some way. The following lyrics are from the song "Inside Outside":

'Never ending love I don't know where it begins?

I don't know where it ends, I don't know how high

I don't know how deep, I don't know how wide

Outside inside around the world
Never ending love envelops me like a cloud'

I think these lyrics are great because it says that when we are lost and don't know where anything begins and ends, that God is still there with his never-ending love.

I have seen Delirious live several times, they are awesome and I have found that they really fire me up for God and that is the reason that we are here, able to live our lives for the one person who went through pain for us that day on the cross. Who else would do that for us? He loves us and wants us to trust him and follow him and I would be lost without him.

Delirious are playing on 22nd December at Shepherds Bush Empire London and I would encourage people to go. Delirious set peoples hearts on fire for God and God always speaks to me when I listen to this band; try it.

Information and tickets for the Delirious gig are available from www.delirious.co.uk and the album can be purchased from Rainbow Christian Bookshop in Petts Wood.

This review was written by Jen, a member of Jubilee Church.

Talking to God

We believe that any of us can talk to God and tell Him all about what is going on in our lives. However, we also recognise that it can be helpful, when for whatever reason we don't feel able to pray, to have those around who will pray on our behalf. At Jubilee we believe that God not only listens when we talk to Him, but He also answers. If you have any specific prayer requests please feel free to drop them in through the door of the Jubilee Centre, anonymously if you wish, or email them to us at prayer@jubileechurch.co.uk, and we will commit to bringing you and your request before God. We can't guarantee how He will respond, what we can guarantee is that we will pray for you. We also promise, unless you ask us to, that we will not contact you or follow you up.

JOSEPH. Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. Because Joseph her husband was a righteous man and did not

want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly. But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their

sins. "When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. *Matthew 1:18-21, 24*

Joseph reminds us that there's a very human dilemma in the stories around the birth of Jesus: how could Mary be pregnant? It was a scandalous thing, perfect for the tabloids.

And it's clear that Joseph just didn't believe Mary's explanation of how it happened: that an angel had called round and told her she would have a baby even though she was a virgin. It was only after a dream that he accepted Mary as his wife, although we're not told if he had any big change of heart about it all. From the reading above, it sounds

like he just did what he was told.

In the picture, we see Joseph with his back to Mary, listening to his doubts and fears. He cuts an isolated figure, right at the bottom of the picture, and he looks thoroughly fed up with the whole thing. He's the person least likely to put up a Christmas tree, break open a box of crackers and start getting into the festive spirit.

And yet... despite his doubts, Joseph is given a big halo and has an important place in the whole picture. He would leave a big gap if he wasn't there. Maybe the artist is telling us that doubt and finding it difficult to believe in God is part of the story and can be a valuable thing in itself. Doubt can help us get honest with God and with ourselves.



Community Connections

In addition to the weekly worship activities there is lots going on at the Jubilee Centre and if you find something of interest that you would like to get involved with then please feel free to come along and try us out!

Monthly Social events ... Every month we hold a social event for the whole family at the centre such as quiz nights and music / karaoke events ... see the outside notice boards for each event as it arrives ... we supply the tea / coffee and cakes ... you bring along whatever you want to eat and drink ... the whole evening is a snip at £2.50 pp each event.

Health & Fitness Club ... We have been going for several months now and with our fully trained fitness instructor believe we compete very favourably with other well known "local" health clubs ... there are 20+ who regularly attend on a Monday Evening from 8pm to 9pm. Anyone who would like to join us is very welcome and at only £2.50pp each evening.

Short Mat Bowls (indoors) ... We are meeting on Thursday nights, the next event is on the 8th December and then fortnightly from the 5th January ... we have two mats and supply all the equipment you will need ... we start at 7.30pm and finish around 9.30pm. ... It's great fun and we welcome any and all of you who are either experienced or, like all of us who play at the moment just beginners, to join us for just £1.50pp each evening. Tea and Coffee is supplied.

For more information contact Ray on 07879 47 45 07

In and around the centre...

Church meetings

Jubilee Church meets in the Jubilee Centre on Sunday mornings at 10am, with the exception of the last Sunday in the month when we start with refreshments at 10am and then hold a slightly shorter all ages worship service from 10.30am. Our services are friendly and informal and there are separate activities for the children. We also meet at various times during the week, either in the Jubilee Centre or at individual's houses, to explore what it means to follow Jesus in today's world. If you would like to join us one Sunday morning, without any obligation, you will be made very welcome.

Organisations and activities

Health & Fitness Club	Monday 8pm
Coffee Morning	Wednesday 10.30am
Women's Bible Study*	Thursday 10am
Short Mat Bowls†	Thursday 7.30pm
Jubilee Fun Jungle 7-11yrs	Friday 6pm
Recess 11-18yrs	Friday 8pm

* Not at the Centre, email info@jubileechurch.co.uk for details † Fortnightly

Y Course If anyone is interested in a short course to find out about more about Jesus and how He can change your life email info@jubileechurch.co.uk or call Derek on 020 8462 1674

Why we are here

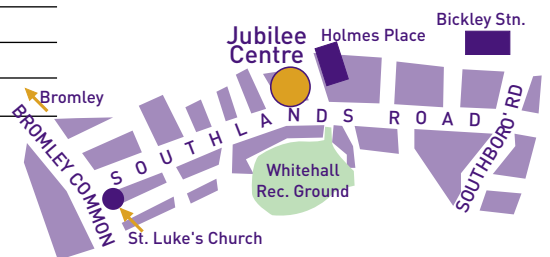
Our reason for being together is found in one person - Jesus Christ.

We share the common purpose of serving Jesus and one another. We also want to serve our community, knowing that God loves our world and that he is interested in each and every person. We believe a life lived for Him is simply the best

For more information:

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JESUS. "He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. Yet to all who received him,

to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God – children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God. The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth." *John 1:10-14*

It's all very different from how most

Christmas cards tell it. Far from being born in a sweet, cosy stable, surrounded by cuddly animals and adoring fans, Jesus came as a stranger into the world, unrecognised for who he was.

One very old version of events has it that Jesus was born in a cave outside Bethlehem, which is why this picture shows him that way, in the midst of jagged rocks and inky darkness. Jesus has come into the world to save it, but that means he has come into a place of darkness and danger. He is in the depths.

An ox and ass peer into Jesus' cot, recalling some famous words of Isaiah the prophet: "The ox knows his master, the donkey his owner's manger, but Israel does

not know, my people do not understand" *Isaiah 1:3.*

A final detail in the picture underlines the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem as an event of danger and jeopardy: Jesus' bed looks like a tomb. His birth anticipates his death, just as the gift of myrrh (a spice used in burials) points us to Jesus' death and burial.

So the nativity of Jesus, although it is joyful, carries a serious message. Jesus is God with us, God come to live the life of a human being on earth. But he has also come to die, to set us free from our slavery to evil, poverty and injustice. As one writer put it: "God became a human child so that we might become children of God."

www.rejesus.co.uk