

# NTCOG NEWS

April 2011

Please read this newsletter carefully, make a note of the regular meetings, the special dates on the enclosed diary and make every effort to attend.

## Weekly Meetings

### SUNDAY WORSHIP

10:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon.

Popley Fields Community Centre

Carpenters Down

Popley

RG24 9AE

Monday Prayer Meeting

7:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Tuesday Bible Study

8:00 p.m.

Thursday – Open Door

10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon

## Our Mission

To present the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the local community in a powerful, practical and relevant way.

To encourage every member of the Church to develop their God given ministry and to fulfil their potential.

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## Word Puzzle - Philippians 4:4-9

G G U A R D P R A Y E R I T T  
G N I H T Y R E V E N C V V R  
O I I M H R Q E T I O C A O N  
X H T D A P A H Q I D H X E P  
E T H B N R B N E U T R U R P  
L Y E S K A N R S A E I E I A  
W N V D S I T F O C R S O Q X  
R A I N G S J S I T E T T N R  
T L D I I E E Q R N H N S S B  
J W E M V W S N T E A E D X P  
L A N X I O U S E L D L R S E  
N Y T D N R S I O L T N L S U  
O S R F G T A C I E T U U Y R  
B O R I G H T B T C K N I H T  
L O V E L Y N B L X G I E G V  
E P U R E J O I C E N I A G A

**Rejoice** in the **Lord always**. I will say it **again: Rejoice!** Let your **gentleness** be **evident** to all. The **Lord** is near. Do not be **anxious** about **anything**, but in **everything**, by **prayer** and **petition**, with **thanksgiving**, **present** your **requests** to God. And the **peace** of God, which **transcends** all **understanding**, will **guard** your **hearts** and your **minds** in **Christ Jesus**. **Finally, brothers**, whatever is **true**, whatever is **noble**, whatever is **right**, whatever is **pure**, whatever is **lovely**, whatever is **admirable**—if **anything** is **excellent** or **praiseworthy**—**think** about such things. Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of **peace** will be with you.

New International Version (Anglicised)

## Poet's Corner

Once a month the ladies meet  
Talking, laughing and breakfast to eat,  
Happily we blend together  
As we gather.

Breakfast finished we are replete  
Order is called, we take our seat  
Ready to discuss – not dream  
Talent is the theme.

Secular or Spiritual  
God gives us gifts to use  
Tongues, prophecy, healing  
Helping, visiting or listening  
All to be used for the Lord  
To show His care for all.

Joan Macintosh

## The Return of Jesus

Since Jesus returned to heaven the Church has been waiting for Him to return as predicted by the two men in white that appeared to the disciples immediately after the ascension.

..They also said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into the sky? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in just the same way as you have watched Him go into heaven.” Acts 1:11 (NASB)

In the years since the ascension Christians have searched the Bible and studied the verses that relate to this return, known as the Second Coming, to understand how it will happen. Our denominational understanding of the Second Coming is summarised in the thirteenth statement of our Basis of Faith.

In the pre millennial second coming of Jesus.  
First to resurrect the righteous dead and to catch away  
the living saints to Him in the air.  
Second, to reign on the earth a thousand years.

Whilst there are references to the Second Coming throughout the Bible; the Book of Revelation, written by John while he was exiled on the Island of Patmos, has the most detailed account of these future events. Revelation has a number of references to a period of one thousand years when Jesus will reign on Earth this is known as the Millennium.

We also know that as part of the Second Coming those who believe in Jesus will be taken up to Heaven in an event we know as the Rapture. This is described by Paul as follows:

Then we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we shall always be with the Lord. 1 Thessalonians 4:17 (NASB)

Based on the details contained in the Bible; our understanding is that the Rapture described by Paul will occur immediately before the start of the thousand years described in Revelation by John. This view of the Second Coming is known by theologians as “pre millennial” which literally means “before the thousand”.

Throughout Church history people have tried to predict the actual date when these events will occur even though Jesus Himself made it clear that it is impossible.

“But of that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but the Father alone. Take heed, keep on the alert; for you do not know when the appointed time will come.” Mark 13:32–33 (NASB)

We cannot know when the Rapture will occur so we must take the advice of Jesus to “keep on the alert” and share the Gospel while we have the opportunity.

Pastor Graham

## Gift Aid

If you are a UK Tax Payers then the Government will give us 25 pence for every pound that you give so please consider using the Gift Aid envelopes for your tithe and offering.