

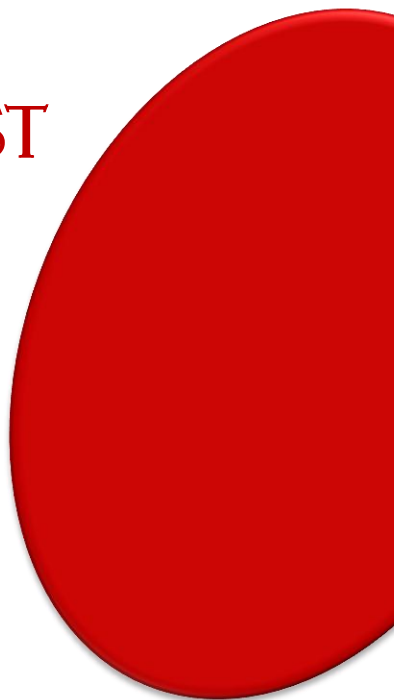
FOCUS ON HETHERSETT REFORMED BAPTIST CHURCH

Issue 6

December 2011 – January 2012

**News, Views and
Prayer Requests**

www.hethersettbaptistchurch.com



Welcome to this Seasonal Edition of Focus, with it comes our good wishes for very Happy Christmas and a Blessed New Year to you all,

and to all our regular readers outside the fellowship.

We will remember them

Since the publication of the last issue of Focus we have seen the passing of two much loved friends, one a former Pastor and the other a church member.



During October we were informed of the death of **Rev Bill Jackson** in the USA, Bill had been Pastor of the church for a short period of time in 1982, but he had maintained a connection with the church through annual visits to preach. For many years Bill had been involved in Evangelising to Roman Catholics, which took him on regular visits to the Philippines and to Northern Ireland in particular.

On Wednesday 16th November our dear brother in Christ, **Peter Robinson**, a member of the church went to be with his Lord. We have fond memories of Peter and the support that he and his late wife Jean gave to the work of the church. We pray for his brother Alan and his family at this time, asking that Lord will grant them peace and comfort at this time.



Jesus Christ – Virgin Birth

In looking at the virgin birth of Christ, man needs to think deeply and honestly. Both are necessary: man must be honest, and he must engage in concentrated thought. One question needs to be asked. Why would God's Son have to enter the world through a virgin? Or more simply put, why was Christ born of a virgin? Why was a virgin birth necessary?

1. The birth of God's Son required a miracle. He could not be born through the natural process as other men are. If He had been born as other men, His very birth would indicate that He was no more than mere man. Very simply, any person who enters the world through a man and a woman is a mere man or a mere woman. He or she can be nothing more. But this is not so with Christ. Christ already existed. Therefore, if God willed to send His Son into the world, He would have to choose another way. All Christ needed was a body. As He Himself said to God the Father: *"A body hast thou prepared for me"* (Hebrews 10:5).
2. The birth of God's Son required a combined act on God's part and on woman's part. If God's Son was to become a man and identify with men, He had to come through the process of conception through a woman. Why? Well because man can only come through the woman. Therefore, if God willed to send His Son into the world as a man, He would have to perform a miracle, causing Mary to conceive by an act of His divine power.
3. The birth of God's Son required a miraculous nature—both a divine nature and a human nature.
 - He had to be born of a woman to partake of human nature. (Cp. Hebrews 2:14-18.)
 - He had to be born by a miraculous act of God so as not to partake of man's corruption. This was critical if God's people are to escape corruption and live forever. Think about it. Our faith must be in an incorruptible Saviour if we are to be covered by His incorruption. God had to identify with us by becoming one with us and by conquering our depraved and doomed nature.
4. The birth of God's Son required the birth of a perfect nature. Why? Well because a perfect life needed to be lived. Righteousness, that is,

perfection, needed to be secured. An Ideal Life (that is, a perfect, righteous life) had to be lived so that it could stand for and cover God's chosen people in perfection and in righteousness. Honest thought confesses that no man has been or is perfect. Man comes short. His coming short of God's glory is tragically pictured in the ultimate fate of life: death. But God acted. God did everything to secure righteousness and perfection for His people. He took every step and performed every act necessary to save His people from their sins and from death.

This says at least four things.

- a. As God-Man, Christ was able to consummate both the human and divine. He had the capacity and innate power not to sin. Therefore His Godly nature empowered Him to live righteously, never doing wrong and always choosing and doing right. By living a sinless life, Christ was able to secure righteousness, the Ideal Righteousness that will cover and stand for God's people.
- b. As God-Man, Christ was also able to bear the sins and the judgment of sin for all men. When He died, He died as the Perfect and Ideal Man. Therefore, His death is able to cover and stand for the people of God.
- c. As God-Man, Christ was able to arise from the dead. Note the phenomenal words: *"...His [God's] son Jesus Christ, our Lord, which was made of the seed of David according to the flesh [that is, made a man]; and declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness by the resurrection from the dead"* (Romans 1:3-4). He lived a perfect and holy life by which He became the Perfect and Ideal Man; therefore, His resurrection covers and stands for God's chosen people.
- d. As God-Man, Christ was exalted to sit at the right hand of the Father—to live eternally in the heavenly dimension of being, in God's very own presence. As the Perfect and Ideal Man, His exaltation into the heavenly or spiritual dimension is able to blaze the path into heaven for every man of God. His exaltation as the Ideal Man covers and stands for the exaltation of God's elect.

Rev David G. Farrow (Pastor)

CHURCH CALENDAR FOR DECEMBER 2011

Thursday 1st 2.45pm Women's Fellowship
Speaker: Mrs Josephine Self

LORD'S DAY 4th 10.45 am Mr Colin Cresswell
6.30pm Mr Owen Greenard
(Communion - Morning)

Tuesday 6th 7.30pm Prayer Meeting
Speaker: **The Pastor**

LORD'S DAY 11th 10.45 am Mr Richard Freeman
6.30pm Mr Joe Hart

Tuesday 13th 7.30 pm Focus on the Word
Speaker: **The Pastor**

Thursday 15th 2.45pm Women's Fellowship
Speaker: **The Pastor**

LORD'S DAY 18th 10.45 am Mr Barry Davidson
(Communion - Morning)

4.00 pm ANNUAL CAROL SERVICE
Preacher: **The Pastor**
Followed by Seasonal Light Refreshments
Bring your family and friends to celebrate with us
the birth of God's Son, Jesus Christ

Tuesday 20th 7.30 pm Focus on the Word
Speaker: **The Pastor**

LORD'S DAY 25th **CHRISTMAS DAY**
10.45 am & 6.30pm **The Pastor**

Tuesday 27th **BANK HOLIDAY - NO MEETING**

CHURCH CALENDAR FOR JANUARY 2012

LORD'S DAY 1st	10.45am The Pastor 6.30pm Mr Joe Hart (Communion - Morning)
Tuesday 3 rd	7.30 pm Prayer Meeting Speaker: The Pastor
LORD'S DAY 8th	10.45 am & 6.30pm Mr Paul Davies
Tuesday 10 th	7.30 pm Focus on the Word Speaker: The Pastor
LORD'S DAY 15th	10.45 am Mr Owen Greenard 6.30pm The Pastor (Communion - Evening)
Tuesday 17 th	7.30 pm Focus on the Word Speaker: Mr Mike Simmons
LORD'S DAY 22nd	10.45 am The Pastor 6.30 pm Mr Paul Austen
Tuesday 24 th	7.30pm Focus on the Word Speaker: The Pastor
Lord's Day 29th	10.45am Mr Craig Whale 6.30pm The Pastor
Tuesday 31 st	7.30pm Focus on the Word Speaker: The Pastor

COMMUNION

As a church we operate an open table for the purpose of communion, to which we invite all who love the Lord in sincerity and in truth to join with us. If, however, you do not feel able to take an active part in the communion service you are welcome to stay and pass the elements by.

**The Believer's Daily Remembrancer for New Years Day
by Pastor James Smith**

Be ye thankful. - Colossians 3:15

What cause to be thankful, what reason to be grateful have we!

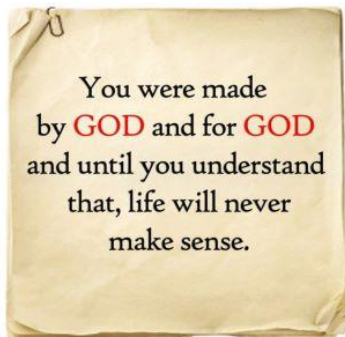
Surrounded by mercies, both temporal and spiritual. If we look back, we ought to rejoice that God hath chosen us in Christ Jesus, before the foundation of the world; that He sent His only-begotten Son into the world, to be a propitiation for our sins; that He sent His Holy Spirit into our hearts, to convince us of sin, lead us to Jesus, and make us meet for heaven.

We have His word in our hands, His grace in our hearts, His mercies in our houses, and His heaven before our eyes. O for a thankful heart! But let us take our poor, hard, ungrateful hearts to Jesus; He can soften them and fill them with gratitude.

Let us confess our ingratitude before Him, and mourn over our unthankfulness at His feet. He is ready to forgive. He can sanctify us wholly. He will hear our cry, and pity our complaints.

O Jesus, grant us a deep sense of our utter unworthiness, and of Thine unmerited goodness, that our souls may daily praise Thee with joyful lips! May we live as thoughtful dependants; as grateful, loving children, before our Father and our God; and daily be thankful.

Through all eternity, to Thee
A joyful song I'll raise;
But O eternity's too short
To utter all Thy praise!



“Conformed to the image of His Son”

In his letter to the Roman's, the apostle Paul states that believers will be conformed to the image of God's dear Son. The words "conformed to the image" mean both an inward and an outward likeness.

- a. “Conformed” means the very same form or likeness as Christ. Within our nature—our being, our person—we shall be made just like Christ. As He is perfect and eternal—without disease and pain, sin and death—so we shall be perfected just like Him. We shall be transformed into His very likeness.
- b. The “Image” of Christ means a derived or a given likeness.

The image of Christ is not something which believers merit or for which they work; it is not an image that comes from their own nature or character. No man can earn or produce the perfection and eternal life possessed by Christ. The image of Christ, His perfection and life, is a gift of God.

To be conformed to the image of God's Son means...

- To become a partaker of the divine nature (2 Peter 1:4).
- To be adopted as a son of God (Ephes. 1:5).
- To be holy and without blame before Him (Ephes. 1:4; Ephes. 4:24).
- To bear the image of the heavenly: which is an incorruptible, immortal body (1 Cor. 15:49-54; cp. 1 Cor. 15:42-44).
- To have one's body fashioned (conformed) just like His glorious body (Phil. 3:21).
- To be changed (transformed) into the same image of the Lord (2 Cor. 3:18).
- To be recreated just like Him (1 John 3:2-3).

Matters for Prayer

- Remember the Annual Carol Service to be held on Sunday 17th December at 4.00pm, pray that this may be an opportunity to reach people with the truth concerning the Incarnation of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- Pray for those within the fellowship who have difficulties, or who are totally unable to join with us for worship on the Lord's Day, remember in your prayers, Barbara Latter, Maureen Lincoln and Helen Feehan, may they be aware that we are with them in spirit.
- Pray for the family of Peter Robinson, especially his brother Alan who is not in good health himself and has taken Peter's passing deeply.
- Give thanks to the Lord for the blessing we have received as a fellowship over the past months through the ministry of His Word, and for the material blessings through increased giving.
- Let us remember at this time all homeless people, pray especially for young people who have left home and moved to the cities seeking career prospects, only to find themselves destitute and living off the streets.
- Pray that the Lord will guide us as a fellowship as we move into yet another new year, pray especially for the members as they begin to discuss the pastorate and the implications when David feels it is right for him to relinquish the office. Pray for David and Christine as they continue to deal with David's health problems as well as Christine's mother's failing health following a fall recently.
- Let us never forget our brothers and sisters in Christ who are persecuted for their faith all over the world. Think especially of those in Muslim countries who are particular hardship for the gospel.



Pastor **Rev David G. Farrow**
18 Old Hall Road, Toftwood,
Dereham, Norfolk. NR19 1SE
Tel: 01362 - 695442
Email: dgfarrow@btinternet.com

Church Administration & Finance
The Church Office,
c/o 18 Old Hall Road, Toftwood,
East Dereham, Norfolk NR19 1SE
Tel: 01362 - 695442
Email: hireformedbc@btinternet.com

Fabric Co-ordinator & Pulpit Arrangements
Mr Mike Simmons
Tel: 01508 - 550052
Email: mc.simmons@btinternet.com

Organist **Mrs Hazel Simmons,**
Tel: 01508 - 550052
Email: hazelksimmons@btinternet.com

Women's Fellowship & Tuesday Speaker Secretary
Mrs Penny Johnson
Tel: 01603 - 300890