



Without FAITH it is impossible to please God because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him. Hebrews 11:6

### Faith in daily life

In our day to day life we have to have faith and belief in people. For example, you have faith that the bus driver will drive you to the destination on the timetable. You have faith that a chef you have never met will prepare a meal that won't poison you and that you will enjoy. You have faith in teachers that the information they give you is correct and true so you can build your knowledge on it. In an intimate relationship, you have to have faith and trust in the person who gives you their first assurances of love. Good marriage is based on loyalty and faithfulness. So you see the things we are most sure about in every day life began simply by an act of faith and trust.

### Faith in God

Christadelphians have faith and trust in God. Now some people may say "How can you put faith in someone you can't see?" Yet we have seen how faith exists in daily life. We could go back to our chef. You didn't see him in the kitchen but you saw the results of his work in the plates of food on the tables. In the same way we can't see God, but we can see the works of His hands in creation. Now I have never seen Sir Christopher Wren, but I have faith in the fact that he existed. And if you go down to London you can see evidence that he existed when you look at St Paul's cathedral. It was designed and planned by Sir Christopher Wren. He organised the builders, they got the materials and it was created. We can see it today and label it as Sir Christopher Wren's design, trusting and having absolute faith that the information is true and correct.

### The evidence

Now the natural world around us, such as birds, plants and animals, is truly amazing. How can a great oak tree grow from a small acorn? The birth of a child is a miracle. The flight of a bird and their migration to the other side of the world is amazing. Now to me they are all indicators of a great designer and creator. The natural laws of nature are all in place to make

these things happen. The oak seed needs soil, water, warmth and light and they are provided. The birth and development of a child from a fertilised egg and the formation of cells to produce a child works in a sequence that is still not fully understood. And the birds know how to navigate by the moon and stars to get to Africa as though it was already programmed into their design. These are all strong evidence to me that God exists. Like St Paul's is strong evidence that Sir Christopher Wren existed.

And if evidence of nature isn't enough, God has given us His word the Bible where we can read prophecies about the Jews, his people, returning to their land. There are also many prophecies about other nations in the Middle East, the majority of which have come to pass. As we cannot see into the future with any certainty, such things must come from God. The truth of the Bible comes to light as archaeologists dig to look into the past and expose sites and artefacts which back up the Bible record. In the nineteenth century there was much doubt about the existence of Babylon frequently mentioned in the Bible, and now the archaeologists have found this city.

### Believing is doing

So if you believe in God, what's the next step? In the same way that you trust the unseen chef by eating the meal he has produced, the next step is to take action. Your faith will then live in your life.

In the book of Hebrews and chapter 11 we see men and women who had strong faith and trust in God. They were confident in His existence, His power and His promise. Their faith meant something to them and produced action to do what was right. We are told in verse 13 'These all died in faith not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off and were persuaded of them and embraced them.' They were absolutely convinced that that what God said was true, so much so that it affected their lives and how they behaved. Abraham was asked to leave a settled life and face the wilderness in search of a land he had never seen before and which he did not know. Why was Abraham so sure of the unknown land? Because he was utterly sure of the unseen God. Noah was asked to build a huge liner in the middle of the dry land and he was persuaded that the flood God warned him about would come. Moses' faith caused him to refuse to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, choosing rather to 'suffer the afflictions with the people of God than enjoy the pleasure of sin for a season'. These were not easy things to do, but their absolute faith and belief in God moved them to do what they did.

They were ordinary people like you and me but did extraordinary things in the strength of their absolute faith in God. Hebrews chapter 11 verse 6 reads Without faith it is impossible to please God because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.

**Marcus & Rachel Goodwin**



On the 18th of December, 20 singers wrapped up warm in anticipation of our annual carol singing event around the streets of Wednesbury. We sang a mixture of traditional carols (“Silent Night” and “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing” being two favourites) and more modern Christmas songs.

As we walked up and down the streets, we were pleased to have

several people come out of their houses and join in the singing. We also spotted several children peeking through their bedroom curtains watching! Lots of neighbours come out to listen and gave us donations for Wood Green Nursing Home and the odd box of biscuits/chocolate too! Thanks to their generosity we raised £30 which will be used for residents to have some well deserved treats.

After a good 2 hours of singing, we retreated back into the warmth of

20 Dingley Road for some warming mulled wine and mince pies! All in all it was a great evening of getting to know some of our neighbours, having fellowship together, and singing songs about the birth of Jesus.

However, as Christadelphians we don't just remember Jesus once a year but every week when we meet together. If you are interested in joining us to learn more about the birth, life, death and resurrection of Jesus, please get in touch!



## Our Annual Weekend away

We enjoyed an uplifting time during our ‘Weekend Away’ in November which, as the name suggests, consists of a weekend where everyone (if at all possible!) in our church pauses in our busy lives to spend valuable time with each other. This year we stayed at Standlake Ranch near Oxford, a house with several rooms, a big kitchen and a cosy lounge. We enjoyed the blessings of food, fun and fellowship.

The house stood next to a small lake and we were able to bail out the water from some old looking boats and take the children on rides which we thoroughly enjoyed. We did think it a little risky however when Joni desperately paddled round in the boat with a hole in the bottom and water flooding in...! The weather treated us kindly even if it was cold and we traipsed through the mud for a walk to see the horses – it was a ranch after all! Fortunately we all love food and we were warmed up with a delicious menu over the weekend, even including some toasted marshmallows by a bonfire on the Saturday evening .



Most importantly, we spent time reading and studying Gods word together and singing praises to Him. A highlight was the ‘kingdom breakfast’ on Sunday, where the children dramatised some Bible stories to remind us of times when God looked after His people and that He will look after us. A frugal breakfast including milk and honey

(food found in the land promised to God's people in the Old Testament) helped us focus on the promise God has given to us – to send his son Jesus to set up the kingdom on this earth.

We left the weekend feeling refreshed, part of a close-knit family, ready to serve God again in our daily lives.



WHAT WE GET UP TO EACH WEEK...	SUNDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
	<p><b>Breaking of Bread Service</b></p> <p>Venue: Aldridge Scouts Hut</p> <p>We share a meal, sing, read the Bible and pray. The baptised members share bread and wine together in memory of Jesus.</p>	<p><b>Bible Class</b></p> <p>Venue: Various homes</p> <p>Discuss different lessons from the Bible and encourage each other in our christian walk.</p>	<p><b>Bible Reading</b></p> <p>Venue: 65 Hales Road, Wood Green Wednesbury</p> <p>Simple sharing of Bible teaching in an informal, relaxed environment.</p>	<p><b>Learn English with the Bible</b></p> <p>Venue: Whitehall Infant School, Weston Street, Caldmore</p> <p>Learn what the Bible teaches whilst improving your grasp of English.</p>

## How I came to know God

I suppose I “knew” God from an early age. I belong to a family where both my parents are Christadelphians, as were all of my grandparents and most of my great grandparents. I went to Sunday School and we regularly read the Bible together at home.

I learnt a lot about Bible characters, their different stories and the teachings of Jesus. Growing up, I think I took it for granted that God exists, that the Bible is God’s Word and that it is literally true - Noah did build an ark, the Red Sea did part, Jesus did rise from the dead.

Through my teens I realised I would have to decide whether I believed these things or not for myself. Believing the Bible just because I’d been taught to do so when I was young wasn’t going to be good enough any more.



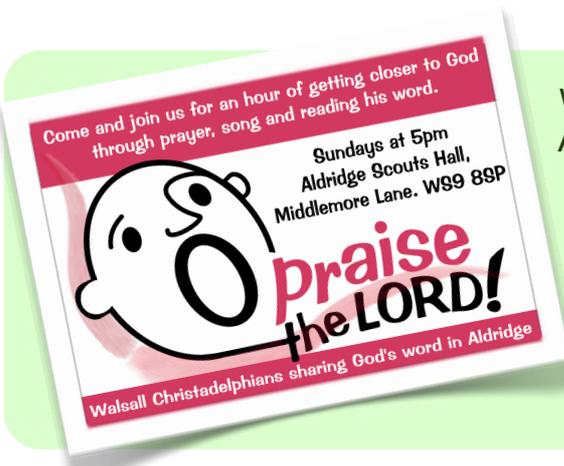
Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.  
Psalm 119:105

Christadelphians don’t baptise children, that has to be a personal commitment which you make for yourself.

If anything, the thought of joining the church simply because most of my family had before me, made me delay the decision. If I was going to be baptised I wanted it to be for the right reasons and I wanted to be serious about the commitment I was making.

I was finishing my A levels. I’d applied to universities but didn’t really want to go. I’d deferred my entry in order to take a gap year but didn’t know what to do. Life was changing around me and I didn’t know where I was heading.

I realised that one consistent thing had been the Bible. I appreciated the same passages in new ways. I listened to familiar teachings for the first time. I started to get to know God. I was baptised and I’ve been getting to know God ever since. *James*



We would love to see you at our next **Praise Evenings at Aldridge Scouts Hut, at 5pm on March 3rd and June 30th.** They last an hour with time for refreshments and a chat afterwards.

Look out for our next bumper issue full of the family activities we have planned for the summer in Walsall.



We’d love to receive feedback from you about what you’d like to see included in our newsletters. Please get in touch for further information or to share your ideas.  
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# WALSALL

# CHRISTADELPHIANS

Spring 2013



At last  
Spring is  
here!

## 30 SEC GUIDE...

Christadelphians believe...

In one God, who created the earth and man upon it

That Jesus is God's son, who died as the perfect sacrifice, and the first to be raised to immortality

When Jesus said he would return to establish God's kingdom on earth, he meant it!

Christadelphians try to follow the example and teachings of Jesus, which means ...

Doing our best to put our service to God ahead of personal ambition

Recognising our total dependence on God and His forgiveness

Aiming to live up to our practical responsibilities to love our neighbour and preach the good news about Jesus

Christadelphians meet together to ...

Remember the death and resurrection of Jesus by sharing bread and wine, as Jesus commanded we should

Study and encourage each other from Bible teaching, as well as to share it with others

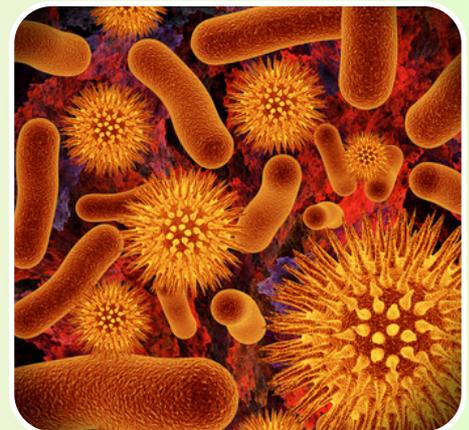
Enjoy each other's company!

Not so long ago we were told of the upcoming apocalypse. The antibiotic apocalypse!

Due to the increasing resistance to antibiotics we are now under threat of having life threatening illnesses caused by everyday infections. In the Bible, physical disease and illness are often symbolic of one's spiritual condition in God's eyes.

Leprosy, a common disease in Biblical times, was a good example of how disease can spread and contamination could occur quickly if you came into contact with it. (Leviticus 13:3)

The method to eradicate the bacteria, preventing further contamination, was to thoroughly clean and isolate it. Medical advances in the last 100 years have come on leaps and bounds and it is no surprise that at the discovery of Penicillin by Alexander Fleming, it was called the 'miracle drug'. However, with news of this impending apocalypse, I can't help but wonder what has gone wrong. It occurs to me that the principles of God's divine laws of nature would suggest that at some point, this 'miracle' would no longer work. Nature would always find a way of working around the intelligence of man. There is now an antibiotic apocalypse because the 'miracle drug' is no longer 'miraculous' and disease is winning by resisting, adapting and strengthening itself.



The message of the Bible is that having a healthy relationship with God, and therefore freedom from spiritual infection, requires divine intervention. Our spiritual disease is our natural tendency to fight against God's will. Our thoughts, and actions do not instinctively mirror God's character. Only by dealing with the **source** of the disease, as commanded by God, can we really assure ourselves that we are safe. Only God can prescribe the real spiritual antibiotics that we glean from reading and understanding his purpose as described in the Bible. And with them, we will succeed in becoming the healthy, happy, peaceful people God intended us to be, with a hope of a future and eternal life.