

Once upon a time were you ever willing to open your purse; give away a shilling? Or if you found that more than enough would parting with sixpence be rather too tough? If it was, how about a threepenny bit, twelve sided or silver, whichever was fit?

All that real money has gone from the action, Our ones, twos and fives are worth but a fraction. They're just a nuisance, cluttering your purse, so pass them on now before things get much worse. Let Dennis and John count them by the thousands, then our bank balance can meet extra demands. And that's when we know it's worth all the trouble so let's resolve we're going to save double.

Did you know that:

Psalm 118 is the middle chapter of the entire Bible?
 Psalm 117, immediately before Psalm 118, is the shortest chapter in the Bible?
 Psalm 119, immediately after Psalm 118, is the longest chapter in the Bible?
 The Bible has 594 chapters before Psalm 118 and 594 chapters after Psalm 118?
 Psalm 118 verse 8 is the middle verse in the entire Bible?

What is the message of this central verse? 'It is better to take refuge in the Lord than to trust in man'. Surely this is the central theme of the entire Bible

What is NewFocus?

NewFocus is the over-50s group at the Guildford Baptist Church which meets in the Millmead Centre at 10.15am on the second and fourth Wednesday mornings of each month. Caring for one another is a big part of what we do: there are regular outings and annual holidays to give opportunity for members to enjoy a change or time away which might otherwise not be possible.

If you have retired (and even if you are not) and are able to join us you would be most welcome. You do not have to be a member of Guildford Baptist Church, or indeed any church - just turn up and introduce yourself.

What joy it is to see the washing on the line, The sky is blue, the sun is bright The day is dry and fine. And although it is still February And my the wind is chill! To see the sheets a-flapping, Still gives me quite a thrill.

And oh, the sweet smell of line-dried clothes

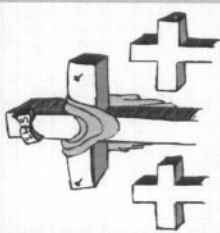
Their sweetness is like perfume to my nose, So long may this weather last I cry, Then I can wave my tumble drier goodbye!

Dorothy Butcher

Festival of Hymns

One of the Millmead worship leaders, Tim Wears, has approached us with a view to holding a service in the Millmead Centre to celebrate and enjoy some of the best hymns.

We have no date for this yet but it would be helpful if members and other readers of NewsFocus would let Arthur have a list of up to five favourite hymns that you would like to see included in this celebration



Issue 11

NewsFocus

EASTER 2003

WAR and PEACE

which is your choice?

Tolstoy, whose classic novel bore this title written at the time of the Napoleonic War, wisely perceived that war and peace are close companions. We have heard many views about war, ranging from the belligerent's claim that war is essential, to the pacifist who would not countenance war under any circumstances. For Iraq the debate is over, but questions still remain, especially for Christians.

Perhaps now is the time to accept that life is constant warfare, as St Paul confessed. He, and we, may know what we should do but are incapable of doing it. This conflict is part of the overall battle between sin and righteousness, which we all experience. At Easter we can find the solution to the dilemma as we accept that Jesus took our sin on Himself and gave us the power to live lives that are honourable and right.

The next meeting will be on Wednesday 14th May

SIDHOLME 2003

Sunday 4th to Friday 9th May

There are still places available for the holiday in Sidmouth where we enjoyed time away last year. Late bookings to Mary Childs, please - phone 01483 506914 or, during office hours, 527278.



We shall leave Guildford bus station at 10.30am and have lunch in Bournemouth. The holiday includes a full programme of visits and tours, including an evening at the theatre, but there will be some time for quiet relaxation and enjoyment of the surroundings.

