

ROCHFORD
Methodist
Supplement

**Message
from our
Minister**

Nov 2013

What is this?

This is an experiment.

Bryan, like previous ministers, provides a message for our newsletter each month. Unfortunately, the *Rochford Methodist* is only published every other month.

This leaves me with a dilemma:

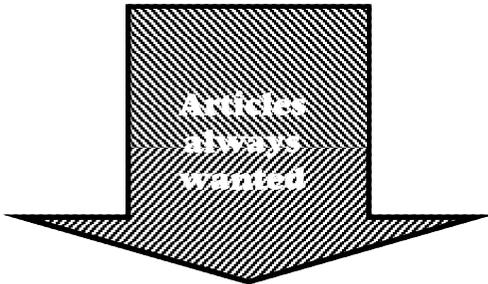
- Do I just double-up in the next newsletter, knowing that one of the messages will be out of date? (Tried it, but it didn't quite work)
- Do I just ignore one of them? (Not really acceptable)
- Or what?

I have thought of only putting the 'in-between' one just on our website, but this means that many of you will not see it.

So this is the result. Future in-between Minister's messages might be issued as a supplement to the notices with all messages on our website.

Let's see if this works. If it doesn't, please let me have your suggestions!

Dave



If you have an outlet (if only some of your friends) please feel free to take as many copies this newsletter as you wish.

The next planned publication date is **1st December 2013**. Articles, etc, should be with Dave by **17th November** please.

I prefer articles by email, floppy disc or typed with a good DARK original (because I can handle these without re-typing them!), but I am happy to receive them in any form – so long as I get *something*!

Emails can be sent to the address shown in this box.



The **Rochford Methodist** is published on behalf of Rochford Methodist Church. Opinions expressed in this newsletter may not be those of the Methodist Church.

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From our Minister

I write this in the aftermath of what has been billed as the largest storm since the one in 1987. There is still a fair amount of wind blowing the trees around outside and there will be no trains running into London this morning. 220,000 homes are reported to be without power as high winds have brought down trees and knocking down power lines. Motorists are being advised to check weather forecasts and road conditions before travelling. The storm has now moved out to sea just north of Holland where it will probably continue to cause problems.

I am reminded of the story of Jesus calming the storm from the fishing boat on the Sea of Galilee (Mark 4: 35 - 41). Not so long ago I watched the Dunkirk Little Ship "Endeavour" at Old Leigh violently rocking up and down, just as the tide was turning on a fairly calm day. That would have been nothing to way in which the fishing fleet of Jesus' time were being rocked and swamped by the wind and waves. The storm then was so severe that even the seasoned fishermen were scared - but Jesus was asleep.

When they finally realised that they were helpless, the disciples woke Jesus saying "don't you care if we drown?" Jesus said to the waves "Quiet! Be still" and they were. The story goes on to relate that the disciples were terrified asking each other who is this Jesus 'even the wind and the waves obey him"

It often seems as though God does not care what happens in the world. The news is always full of doom and gloom, disasters and wars that we could easily get depressed and just switch off from it all. We cannot do anything about world events - so why bother? That might be a common attitude for many people to have but we Christians should be different.

We believe that God does care about the world because God created it. God has also created us - human beings - made in the image of God. We each have God's spirit within us giving us life and purpose which is to take care of the earth that God has created. In a sense God has delegated his authority to us and has withdrawn from day to day management. But like any good manager God can always be contacted directly. We can always get in touch with God through our prayers. If we listen carefully God will tell us, or show us, what to do in any situation.

We believe that Jesus is the Son of God. He has the authority of God within him, which is how he was able to calm the storm that threatened to drown the disciples. He was in the boat with them as it was about to sink and he is in the world with us, in all our joys, confusions and fears as well. It is through Jesus that we can bring our prayers to God and be assured that he will answer them

The disciples were terrified of Jesus when they realised that he had the power to calm the wind and the waves, but we do not need to be frightened of Jesus at all because he loves us. He loves us so much that he was willing to die for us so that we can share eternal life with him in heaven. He has the power to calm all the storms in our personal lives if we just trust him and call upon him - as the disciples did.

God bless

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Credwyn', written in black ink on a light-colored background.

THANK YOU

Thank you for the gift of money that you gave Credwyn and I for our Ruby wedding anniversary. It was a lovely surprise. We hope to spend it on a trip to a London theatre.