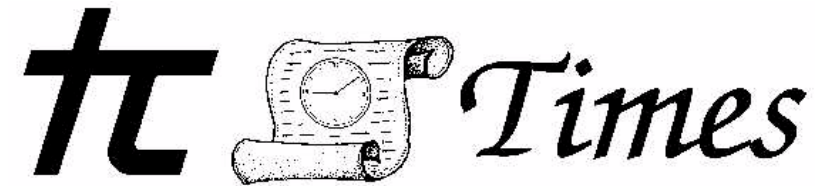


**Sermon Notes**

**Theme:**

**Points:**



*Therfield Chapel Times - Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> November 2009*

**Welcome to Therfield Chapel**

**10:00am Sunday Breakfast**  
*Topical discussion led by Ben Marsden.*  
*Study led by Paul Zanreps*  
*3 John.*

**6:30pm Evening Service**  
**Mark chapter 12 : 18 – 27.**  
**Leader: Andrew Carter.**  
**Speaker: Andrew Proudfoot.**

**Notices for TC Times**

If you have a notice for TC Times, please inform the editor by 10pm on Thursday evening.

Visit Therfield Chapel on the web at  
<http://www.therfieldchapel.org>

	Prayer	Steward	Greeting	Tea & Coffee
This week	Steve C	Dave J	Mair & John	Owen
Next week	Becca	James	Becca	Becca

**Diary for the week commencing 15th November**

<b>Sunday</b>	After the evening service	There is no 'At Home' at Paul and Ruth's tonight.
<b>Tuesday</b>	1:30pm	Ladies Keep Fit at Royston Evangelical Church.
	8:00pm	Prayer Meeting at the Manse.
<b>Wednesday</b>	7:00pm	KonTiki Youth Club.
	8:15pm	KonTiki Coffee Bar.
<b>Thursday</b>	7:45pm	Hertfordshire Christian Concern meeting in Hitchin.
<b>Sunday</b>	10:00am	Sunday Breakfast. Topical discussion and study and Breakfast Kids Club at the Chapel.
	10:30am	Morning Service at Barkway Chapel.
	11:15am	Morning Service at Royston Evangelical Church.
	<b>6:30pm</b>	<b>Evening Service at Therfield Chapel. Mark chapter 12 : 28 – 34. Leader: James Wilson. Speaker: Andrew Carter.</b>

**Prayer Meeting**

All are welcome to join the Prayer Meeting on Tuesday at 8pm in the Manse.

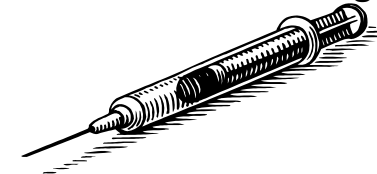
**TC Sermon Series**

Copies of Paul Rydon's sermon from last Sunday – 'Mine, Caesar's or God's?' based on Mark chapter 12 : 12 – 17 are available at the back of the Chapel. CDs or tapes of the evening services are also available – please see Peter Titterton.

**Hertfordshire Christian Concern**

Annual Open Meeting

**"The Living Room - dealing with addiction"  
With Janis Feely,  
Founder & Director of The Living Room**



**Thursday 19 November 2009  
at 8 pm  
Coffee from 7.45 pm**

**at Grace Baptist Church, Queen Street,  
Hitchin opposite Hitchin Market**  
(Free Parking across the road in St Mary's Square)

Organised by Hertfordshire Christian Concern  
with thanks to Grace Baptist Church for the use of their building

**Therfield Chapel – Annual Conference**

28 & 29 November 2009  
Subject: The Person of the Holy Spirit  
Speaker: Rev Stanley Jebb

Saturday 28 November:	Sunday 29 November:
4.30pm Session 1	3:30pm Session 3
6.00pm High Tea	5:00pm High Tea
7.30pm Session 2	6:30pm Session 4

Stanley Jebb is a retired church leader with extensive experience of preaching and teaching in a pastoral setting. We look forward to him providing us with a Biblical and practical assessment of the Holy Spirit and His work.

Dear All,

In case you haven't heard yet, on Monday night at the Members' Meeting, Paul Rydon announced his decision to retire from eldership on his 70th birthday on 25th November 2009. I thought it appropriate to make my reflections on his retirement available for all to read and so they are printed below:

Last week I attended the Ministers' Gathering of the Evangelical Fellowship of Congregational Churches in Matlock, Derbyshire. It was an enjoyable and stimulating time with good teaching and excellent fellowship. As a relatively new boy in pastoral ministry, one thing that impressed me was the contribution to gospel work and Christian service over so many years by some of the men present. It's easy to be faithful and zealous for a short period, but Christian leadership usually requires men to be in it for the long haul. Long haul faithfulness is a much stiffer test than the short haul type which quickly loses heart, gives in to the inevitably discouragements along the way and leads one to retreat back into their private world.

The commitment and determination exemplified by some of the men I met in Derbyshire reminded me of Paul Rydon as he prepares to retire from eldership. Although Paul was never a pastor formally of course, at times he virtually did the work of a pastor, carrying the chapel through its interregnums, regularly preaching and shepherding the flock of God. Paul is a long-haul man. I was around six months old when Paul was appointed as an elder at the tail end of the swinging sixties! Such commitment of course reflects Paul's devotion to and love for the church of Jesus Christ in this place. It stems from a conviction – essential to all church leaders - that the church matters. Not only is the church the one institution that will last forever, but it is at the very centre of God's plans for this world

and the next. And if you believe that, you have no option but to give your life for it. From what I know of Paul's thinking I'm persuaded that he has kept such things in view through all the struggles and at times heartbreaks that leadership has entailed here at the chapel. It is very likely that without Paul's faithfulness – supported of course by Ruth- that this building would long ago have ceased to exist and would now be a private house with the words 'The Chapel' living on only as a house name.

Coming now up to date, I need to take this opportunity to thank Paul and Ruth for their personal support of me since I was appointed. Although Ruth is not retiring from a formal position, she has been virtually as indispensable to life here as has Paul. As I get older I increasingly see the value of experience. There are some things that you can't learn without 'going around the block' again and again. Upon my appointment I was – and still am – a bit of a novice in the arena of church leadership and consequently it has been invaluable at times to be able to seek Paul's advice, stemming from years of 'going round the block'. Paul has also viewed kindly requests for us to have the Manse attended to; something for which Julie and I are grateful. Paul has always been willing to step in and step in to preach or lead a prayer meeting when I have been sick or otherwise engaged.

So Paul I shall miss your presence in Elders' Meetings but know that I can turn up at your home when I need some advice. We will continue to benefit from your Sunday morning Bible Studies and Sunday Evening Sermons but probably less than before. I doubt if you'll be any less busy than before; life doesn't seem to work like that. But in your eighth decade, you deserve a break and can take one knowing that over four decades you have been a faithful servant of the church. That's a great legacy to leave behind.

*The Pastor*