

JULY 2019

Hemyock *Baptist Church*

It's that time of year again – Holiday Club is almost upon us! This year is of course a special time of celebration as we host the 50th annual event here in the village. As I write, I'm busy preparing some of the teaching material, the theme for which is 'Cops & Robbers'! As you might imagine, this provides great opportunities for fun and games – all of which link in to the underlying Bible story of Joseph.

In the midst of writing sketches and puppet scripts that tie our theme in with events in Joseph's life (jealousy, false accusation, imprisonment, freedom, etc.), I've been thinking about the whole concept of storytelling and the parables of Jesus in particular.

It's been said that Jesus' parables were 'earthly stories with a heavenly meaning' and that rings true. Jesus told stories about situations that people would find familiar, so that he could communicate the principles of the Kingdom in terms that his contemporaries could understand. His stories were memorable, with bold characters and rich meaning. It is our hope that through many aspects of holiday club (not only the storytelling), such as the games, crafts, and the way in which we interact with the children, they will see something of God's love for them and begin to understand his desire for them to come to know him personally.

Of course, Jesus' disciples famously asked him why he spoke in parables to the crowds, in Matthew 13:10-17; you might like to read the exchange for yourself. I think Jesus knew that all who heard him would, to some extent, understand the pictures he was painting with his words. His teaching would divide the listeners into two groups. Miracles had attracted many, but the parables revealed the true nature of people's responses and decisions. Those committed to the Kingdom would seek and find further understanding; the uncommitted, perhaps attracted only by initial excitement, would reject the teaching and fall away.

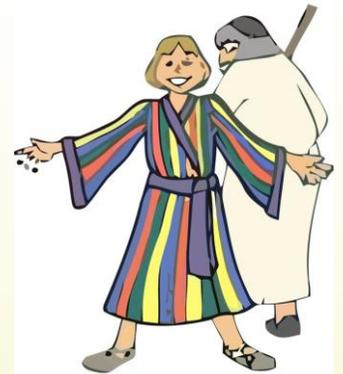
So, here's hoping (and praying!) that this year's anniversary Holiday Club would see seed sown on fertile ground, and that, in God's time, those who hear will seek and find the true riches of God's Kingdom.

Pastor Steve

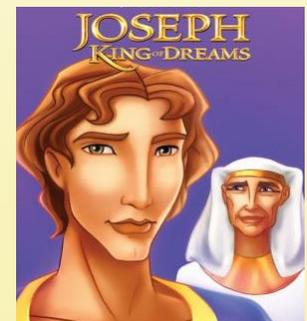


Summer Special!

Friday 19th July: 4-6pm
Join us for fun, food,
stories and sand!!



Helping at Holiday Club or interested in the Bible? Join us at 7pm on Sunday 21st July to watch Adrian Rogers' talk: 'Joseph – A Portrait of Jesus'



Free family movie!
Sunday 4th August, 2pm
Dreamworks Animation's
JOSEPH - King of Dreams