

**Lymm Baptist Church.
Church Weekend.
Saturday 11th October 2008**

Hope 2008 has been an excellent initiative in which we have been enabled to refocus our vision on the needs of the community. It is encouraging us to explore ways in which we as a church, together with the other churches in the district can endeavour to address those needs.



In Lymm, we may not have the problems of homelessness and unemployment which characterise many communities, but there are still many issues which will affect all family units at some stage, and where churches are well placed to offer help.



This year's "Weekend", which will take place at the church on 11 October will look at three such issues - finance, bereavement, parenting.



Finance

The continuing availability of easy credit in a “buy now – pay later” society combined with fluctuating social and economic circumstances have created an unprecedented increase in personal debt with its destructive effects on individuals and family life.

We shall be welcoming Tony Cunliffe of “Stewardship“, an organisation which works with a number of churches to help them set up trained teams of Personal Budget Coaches operating within church and community. Tony will lead a seminar entitled, “How can the church help people in debt?” which is aimed at showing us ways we can help people manage their money better through biblical principles and practical solutions.

Bereavement

Death and bereavement are inevitable facts of life that will affect all of us eventually. I'm sure when we look around us, we will be struck by the number of people we know, who have experienced the loss of someone close, even within the last year.

Broaden that out to the wider community and the statistics will no doubt move us.

What will be the effect on those who perhaps don't have the kind of support we in churches enjoy at such times?

How can we extend that support by gaining understanding and skills which will put us all in the position to care rather than simply leave it to the “experts”?

Deb Instone and Dorothy Evans, members of LBC, who have specialist training in this area, will lead a seminar which will give us a taster of what we all might be able to do with a bit of help.

Parenting

In so many areas of life, we have the opportunity to learn the skills necessary before we embark on significant life changes, but how many of us had detailed guidance to prepare us for marriage and parenthood?

Some may have had the benefit of a comprehensive marriage preparation course, but what about the important task of being a parent? I guess most of us learned as we went along and probably learned from our mistakes!

Rob Parsons and “Care for the Family” have done so much to help churches offer an important service to families in many areas of life including parenting.

We shall be offering an opportunity to view parts of the DVD resource produced by “Care for the Family”.

In it, Rob Parsons addresses some of the issues faced by the “21st Century Parent”.

The suggested timetable for the day is as follows:

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| 9:30 a.m. | arrival and coffee |
| 10.00 - 12 noon | debt. |
| 12.00 - 12.20 | coffee break. |
| 12.20 - 1.30 | bereavement. |
| 1.30 - 2.15 | lunch. [Bring your own sandwiches] |
| 2.15 – 3.20 | parenting – session 1 |
| 3.20 – 3.40 | break |
| 3.40 – 4.30 | parenting – session 2 |
| 4.30 p.m | close |

If you are affected by any of these issues, then do come along and find help.

If you would like to be able to help others who are affected by any of these issues, then please come along and be equipped.

If you are not sure where you fit in all this, then come and explore.