

# Mums' Bible Study

I have been attending Moulton Parish Church for more than 50 years but I still have only the haziest idea of some of the excellent work which is going on week by week to promote the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. What is true for me may well be true for many of you.

Sitting next to Rachel Menon at one of our meals at the Church Weekend Away in May, I was fascinated to hear from her about the Mum's Bible Study, which she started up last February and runs each week as part of her remit as Women's Worker.

Regular readers of this magazine will know that I frequently write articles on all kinds of subjects. Some of them have rather a tenuous connection with the Christian faith. However, what Rachel is doing lies right at the very heart of it. I am burning to pass onto you what she told me.

People (like me) who have no family responsibilities perhaps fail to appreciate the problems Christian mums of pre-school children have in attending Church services or Bible study groups. Some of them may have non-Christian husbands. Even when they are able to attend Church they may have to take the children out or stay with them in the crèche during the service. Most Bible study meetings take place in the evenings so it is difficult, if not impossible, for these mums to attend them. Disturbed nights and early mornings make for exhaustion by 8pm. Consequently, they can be deprived of the spiritual nature which these sessions provide.

Rachel's solution was to start up 'Mum's Bible Studies' upstairs in the Church Centre between 9-11 each Tuesday morning when Rachel and her co-leader sit with the mums teaching them the Bible and answering their questions about it whilst in the main hall a dedicated team of helpers do an invaluable job in looking after their young children.

At Rachel's suggestion I spoke to one of the mums and asked her how she felt about these sessions. She told me, "*It is a relaxed and comfortable place to come and discuss the Bible and any issues or questions that we might have regarding Christianity in general. This is a great starting point for those who have never attended Church before.*"

Rachel has a further vision — to open this group to other mums, largely from Oasis (the Monday session for mums and children) who, as yet, have little knowledge about the truth of the Christian faith. At Oasis, there are regularly over 30 mums at each morning

session and 20 in the afternoons and as many as 80% of these are not Christians. Rachel's idea is for each of the seven Christian mums coming on Tuesdays to invite one of their non-Christian friends along for a few Tuesday mornings. Instead of formal Bible study there would be an opportunity to raise and discuss some of life's bigger questions and to present a simple biblical view-point on these issues. Who knows—this may prove

a stepping-stone to running a Christianity Explored Course at the Mums' Study group (in addition to the evening Christianity Explored Course which anyone can attend). This would be a fantastic opportunity for outreach.

Rachel has asked us to pray that

\* More mums may attend these sessions

\* She and others may be used by God to present what the Bible says on life's big issues to those mums who do not come to church

\* The Christian mums may be bold asking other mums to join them

\* More helpers may come forward to look after the children.

JOHN CUTLER