

## **Faith Comment published in the Petersfield Post**

**20 July 2011: Linda Cawsey, Petersfield Methodist Church**

### **The Role Of Angels - What The Bible Says**

Our Minister recently led the congregation through the theme 'the role of angels in the story of the people of God'. And it is not an insignificant role either - angels appear or are mentioned in exactly half of the books in the Bible - 16 in the Old Testament and 17 in the New Testament.

Through various biblical references, we learnt of some aspects of the ministry of angels in our lives - they are active in the nations - joining with us in prayer and spiritual warfare; they are active in the churches - worshipping God along with us; and they are representing us in the presence of God - particularly the weak, the lonely, the despised and those new in the faith.

Most of us would describe an angel as a flying creature with wings. However, no biblical angel is described as having wings. Seraphim and cherubim have wings. When angels appear in the bible, they never point to themselves, but to the living God. The focus of attention is not to be upon them, but upon Jesus to whom they point so often in the Gospels. This is always a good test when Satan comes in attractive guises to trick people into thinking they are contacting God's holy angels.

Most often in Scripture angels appear as men. How then do we know whether we have met or encountered an angel? The answer is, we may not know. The letter to Hebrews says 'Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some people have entertained angels without knowing it.'