

C O N N E C T



**THE NEW MAGAZINE FOR WESTBURY-ON-TRYM
BAPTIST CHURCH AND THE SURROUNDING AREA
1ST EDITION, FEBRUARY-MARCH 2011**

Welcome To The New Magazine!!!

Hello and a very warm welcome to The First Edition of "Connect", The New Bi-Monthly Magazine for Westbury-On-Trym Baptist Church and the surrounding area.

It's been almost a year since the disappearance of our old Church Magazine "Enterprise" and as part of The Communications and Outreach Team here at Westbury Baptist Church I've answered the call and re-designed The Magazine for 2011! It should also be available via a link on our Church web-site: www.westburybaptist.org.uk.

The idea behind "Connect" is two-fold: it will serve as a partial replacement for Enterprise, meaning that it will contain a number of articles and features specifically relevant to life at Westbury Baptist Church. However the long-term project is to be able to expand and reach out to the wider community, so you'll also find a number of topical pieces within these pages. If you're not already part of our Church family then an especially warm welcome, I hope you'll find this Magazine useful and will want to come and visit us sometime!

I hope you all enjoy reading this First Edition as much as I enjoyed compiling it; it's full of interest-



ing and fun articles, which I believe are both informative and helpful to our identity as Christians.

A big thank-you to everyone who has contributed to this First Edition, without your input it wouldn't have been possible! Happy Reading and remember, "Stay Connected!"

Graham Clarke

Graham Clarke
Editor

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A Word From Our (Student Minister)

A new year, a new magazine, maybe a new minister?

One thing is sure and that is that many new opportunities lie ahead. At Christmas we said goodbye to Colin. We are grateful for his ministry among us but recognise that God has called him to a new place now. So it was with a mixture of emotions that we sent him on his way. We wish Colin and Alison and the family well as Colin begins his new role as Regional Minister with Southern Counties Baptist Association and pray that they may be richly blessed in all they do.

We now face a time of pastoral vacancy and this brings with it all sorts of uncertainties. We do not know how long it will last or where we shall be at the end of it. What we do know is that we have a faithful God who will lead us through this time. We read in Psalm 27 'The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?' So we can walk forward with confidence and hope, knowing that God is with us.

We can see, as we look around, how God is already at work among us. I have been encouraged by the start of the prayer ministry on Sunday mornings. We are now able to offer prayer after the service to anyone who wishes to receive it. We are grateful to the team of pray-ers who have offered themselves as channels of God's love and grace to all of us. Then there is, or will be, 'Experience Easter'. This has grown this year and will be open to more groups and individuals. What a great way to bring something of the Easter message to children and adults who know Easter mainly as a time for going on holiday and eating lots of chocolate. These are just two signs of God's presence with us and of our response to the Spirit's promptings. We will all be aware of countless other ways in which he blesses and inspires us.

What then do we do in this time of transition and uncertainty? We keep going and doing the things we can see that God has given us to do, whether it is praying for one another or taking a turn at manning the 'Experience Easter' or something completely different. Above all, we wait for the Lord. Psalm 27 again: 'Wait for the Lord; be strong and let your heart take courage; wait for the Lord!'

Many blessings

Eveline



CHRISTMAS FAYRE 2010

Snow may have been covering the ground on Saturday 27th November, but local folk did not let that stop them from attending this year's Christmas Fayre. All the usual stalls were selling their wares— plants, cakes, sweets, cards, bric-a-brac etc. as well as a few activities that keep the grey matter working e.g The Quiz, Treasure Island, "Guess the Weight of the Cake" and also "Guess the Name of the Teddy".

Some traditional games e.g. Bar-skittles, Shove 'appenny and Bagatelle were enjoyed by a lot of the men folk, particularly Dads. Father Christmas took time off from his busy schedule to spend three hours entertaining the children. For £1 children could have a chat with the man in red and receive an early Christmas present, an absolute bargain! Rudolph and the reindeers meanwhile, had a few hours off.

Scouts kept themselves warm by selling roasted chestnuts outside. Our special guests were Elmlea Junior School Choir plus our own mixed group of "Carollers" who sang a selection of Christmas Carols and songs whilst we had lunch.

The decorating competition attracted lots more entries this year and is gaining in popularity. As always, Margaret's excellent lunches are a star attraction and are gratefully received. A big "Thank you" to everyone involved in putting The Fayre on and also a "Thank you" to all those that came and enjoyed it with us. We all had a lot of fun and made a £1000 profit in the process, which is great at a time of austerity.

Tony Hall



News from Lawrence Weston. . . .

It's great to be able to write an update about our little Church Community that will reach the wide readership of Connect – we do so value and, indeed, depend on your prayers.

We continue to be assured that God is honouring our commitment to his kingdom work on the estate.

Mary Clark.... Is now half way through her second year of ministerial training at Bristol Baptist College and is gaining in experience, knowledge and confidence. We continue to enjoy working in team, supported by our faithful, prayerful community members. Mary and Richard and their younger son Jacob will be moving into the manse very soon now. We are convinced that this is God's will and look forward to seeing the benefits of having a minister living actually on the estate. It has taken a huge amount of hard work from John Woolnough and Richard to re-furbish the manse. Their efforts and those of other community members have made it unnecessary to employ builders/plumbers/decorators for most of the work.

Praise God!

Finance: During 2010 our outgoings far exceeded our budget by £40,00! What a prospective nightmare for our faithful treasurer Roger Clewett. However, we received several grants and some very generous gifts and somehow reached the end of the year with slightly more in the bank than we started with! So, even having to replace the drains (unexpectedly) and the constant unpredictable demands of our ageing premises didn't wipe out our financial resources. Roger's latest challenge has been the financial section of the application forms for a Baptist Union Mission through ministry grant for Mary Clark for the year 2012. Roger has done a great job with this and greatly appreciates the support & wise advice of Phil Corbin. **Praise God!**

Mission activities: *Sing4yourSupper* Our Thursday after-school club continues to welcome up to 30 children each week. David Jeanneret heads up a dedicated team. Carol Symes would love some occasional help in the kitchen – **any offers?**

Boost Our homework & chill club has not been the success we hoped for. We had carefully researched to establish the need but the youngsters in Y7&8 at local secondary schools didn't share our enthusiasm! However, undaunted – we have been in touch with the local primary school and they are very keen to develop good homework habits in year 6 *before* the youngsters go to secondary school. So, we are planning a re-launch sometime soon – aiming at Y6, and in particular the children who come to S4YS.

Jellie Tots: It is wonderful to report that the careful building of trust with young mums over the past three years is bearing fruit. Four of them have requested joining the team as parent helpers. They are very enthusiastic and full of energy! They share in the time of prayer before the sessions start.

Tuesday Together: Our club for the elderly, which we continue to run with two other churches on the estate is still very popular, and relationships of trust are bearing fruit there too. Members regularly ask us to pray for them in our time of worship and 8 or 9 of them attended the Christian Basics course that we ran during last summer holidays. We have been invited by the manager to lead a time of worship on a Sunday afternoon. This will start in early February on alternate Sundays to begin with, led by teams from our churches. **Praise God!**

Zonein: We've had 3 sessions of our new mid-week 'Messy Church' now, with a great response from the parents and children we've got to know through S4YS & JTs. Our next one is planned for Easter. We have greatly appreciated help received from friends at WBC & Cairn's Rd BC in this venture.

Fit4Purpose: As a church in receipt of a Ministry Grant from BU we have been obliged to engage in this programme offered by WEBA, helping churches to be more effective in mission. We enjoyed it more than we thought we would! It involved some research (carried out by Mary C) into the needs of our neighbourhood, followed by a series of sermons and discussions on being a missional church. Alisdair Longwill from WEBA is now preparing a series of recommendations to help us move forward in mission (more info when we get the report) The community particularly enjoyed the discussion format on a Sunday morning - it was often hard to stop them talking ...and we plan to develop this! **Praise God!**

And last but by no means least we have a very welcome problem. The children (sometimes 5 or 6 of them) in our community who worship with us on a Sunday (we call them Sparklers) are growing up – as they do! – and simple child-minding is no longer an option for us. As from the beginning of February we will be following a programme of teaching for them – led by a rota of six volunteers, that includes three helpers from Cairns Rd Baptist Church. **Praise God!**

There's more, but I'd better stop now... I hope you've kept reading this rather long missive and that it will enable you to pray for us in an informed way.

I send greetings from us all at Lawrence Weston Baptist Church.

Sheila Cooper



A Few Notes About Our Work With Young People



Leadership

We were graced with the benefit of Fiona's leadership in YPF for the autumn term. It was great to have her with us; we really appreciated her cool, calm gentle way with the young people. Her move up north has left YPF with no female leader. If there's anyone interested, just get in touch. Perhaps you couldn't volunteer all of your term time Sunday Evenings; but maybe you could meet up with a young person every once in a while to see how they're doing?

If you're interested in mentoring young people, please talk to David and we'll investigate the viability of building a system. Please pray that we can fully meet the needs of YPF young people, even given the current absence of a regular female volunteer. Also, after many many faithful years in the service of young people at Westbury Baptist Church, Graham Bayly has ceased his work in YPs Family Church. We are very grateful to Graham for his commitment and care and all the time he has invested in young people. God Bless you as you will continue to minister elsewhere.



We are now meeting once a month on the first(ish) Saturday of the month and we've already had friends brought along – great! It'd be great to build a community of young people who are as keen to chat about life and God as they are to play football. Please pray that we (The Church) can develop this Group in the best way possible.

Assemblies

David has been asked to do some assemblies at Elmlea. He's investigating and planning how and what input he can have. Please pray for wisdom in understanding the context and the potential of Christian witness in the Junior School.

David Jeanneret

Westbury Baptist Church Youth Worker



Tuesday Lunch Club

Every other Tuesday in term time about 45 people meet to enjoy lunch together in the Carey Hall .A varied team of cooks, servers and washers up prepare fresh food to provide a home cooked main course and a pudding. We make a variety of different dishes including roasts, casseroles, lasagnas, fish pie and quiche to name but a few. A hot or cold pudding follows with coffee or tea after that.

We have recently enjoyed a visit from Elmlea Year 5 as part of a technology project. They brought lovely muffins for everyone and entertained us with a medley of wartime songs.

If all this has whetted your appetite do come and join us. Booking is easy, just sign the form in the foyer or phone Laura on 9629990 or leave a message. Cost is £3.50) We are also keen to recruit new helpers at any time – even if you are only free occasionally. (Speak to Margaret Pinnock)

Dates for the rest of this term are 15th February, 1st & 15th &29th March, 12th April

Crisis centre Ministries

Many of you will know that The Crisis Centre Wild Goose Café has recently moved to new premises in Stapleton Road. The old 'Queen Vic' Pub has been transformed and renamed 'Carpenter's House'. This has all been made possible by generous donations and a grant from the secret millionaire. The new kitchen is great and there is much more room for clients to sit and enjoy food and warmth. There is also a greater range of storage space and freezer space as well as private areas for counseling.

Do continue to pray for this work with so many vulnerable people in our city and if you are able to support financially or by our green box collection all well and good. Volunteers to help at the café are really needed and lots more information can be found in 'Streetwise' so do read a copy from the foyer.

Margaret Pinnock

TEAR FUND - PRAYING WITH ONE VOICE

I hope that you were as inspired as I was at a service earlier in January, led by Sian Murray Williams, our Moderator. She helped us to think through the encouraging and challenging words from Isaiah ch.42 v.1-9. We were assured of God's covenant with us, that He will take us by the hand and keep us, in order that we can help in His mission of bringing righteousness, justice and healing to the nations and to our communities.

As our church's Tear Fund Rep I have been given resources to help our church to pray for transformation and an end to global poverty, and we will be able to start to use these at a Prayer Gathering Evening Service on 20th February. Many other churches in the country will be praying for the same issues round about this time in February, and the hope is that we can 'Pray with One Voice'. As this is one of many ways in which we can be involved in bringing justice to different parts of our world, I do hope that as many people as possible will be able to attend the service.

Word of justice, Alleluia,

Come to dwell here, Maranatha

Word of freedom, Alleluia,

Save your people, Maranatha.

Word of healing, Alleluia,

Heal our sorrow, Maranatha.

Heather Colbran



Interview with a Church Member

This Edition: Dr. James Watson

How Long Have You Been A Member of Westbury Baptist Church?

9 years.

What Do You Like/Enjoy The Most About Westbury Baptist Church?

The fact that it feels “alive”, I really like the shared history amongst the Congregation. There’s a good range, and I like the exposure I get to a lot of different ages and people.

Favourite Book

“Olivier And Parrot in America” is a really great fun read; I’d also recommend “The Pursuit of God” by A.W. Tozer.

Favourite Film

A German film called “The Lives Of Others”.

Favourite Meal/Food

I’m a big fan of sandwiches...

Favourite TV Show/Series

“West Wing”, “Lost”, “The Office”

Any New Year’s Resolutions for 2011?

“Keep On Running...”

RECIPE OF THE MONTH

TURKEY BACON AND THYME HOT-POT

Serves 4 and takes only 30 minutes!

2lbs potatoes peeled and cut into small chunks

2 leeks sliced into rings

9ozs smoked back bacon cut into bite sized pieces

1lb turkey breast cut into bite sized pieces

Small handful of fresh thyme (or 1 tsp dried thyme)

7oz mushrooms sliced

½ pint chicken stock

1tbsp gravy granules

Salt and pepper

1 Boil the potatoes in saucepan for 20 minutes until tender.

2 Meanwhile gently fry the bacon and leeks in a frying pan over high heat until lightly browned. Add the turkey, thyme and mushrooms and cook for a further 10 minutes, over high heat, until the turkey is lightly browned.

3 Add the stock and bring to the boil, simmer for 10 minutes, until the turkey is cooked.

4 Stir in the gravy granules to thicken the stock and season with pepper and salt to taste.

5 Drain the potatoes and mash with butter and a splash of milk.

6 Serve the hotpot with carrots and mash. Enjoy!



Treasurer's Notes

Offering packs

There has been a slow response to the offerings packs sent out over the Christmas period. Please return yours if you have not yet done so.

Gift Aid

You may have heard that the gift aid transitional relief is ending on 5th April this year.

Do you know this means in practice that a gift aided donation received before 5th April this year is worth more than 12% extra to the church than one received afterwards?

Put another way, the reduction to 25% claim from over 28% is likely to cost the church £2500 in lower tax reclaims.

Can we make that difference up in another way? Lets get the offerings off to a good start.

Church meeting decisions

The offering figures for the year to 31/12/10 and the draft summary accounts will be presented at the church meeting in February. The indications are we have fallen far short of the original 2010 budget. Deacons are likely to be presenting a plan to reduce expenditure on external gifts. The good news is that we received some legacies at the end of last year. The plan to allocate those, a much happier thought, is also expected to be presented then.

Phillip Corbin

Fair Trade

Fair-trade fortnight; Show off your label!

Fair-trade Fortnight (February 28 to 13 March) has a focus on cotton this year. Fair trade cotton garments are now widely available. Marks & Spencer, for example, have a growing range. There will be opportunities in this fortnight to find out all about the difference Fair trade cotton makes.

We are taking a break from the Spring Café this year. So do look out for special Fair-trade Fortnight offers and displays in the local supermarkets. If they have not got one, ask why not? Encourage them to to expand their Fair Trade product range.

The Real Easter Egg

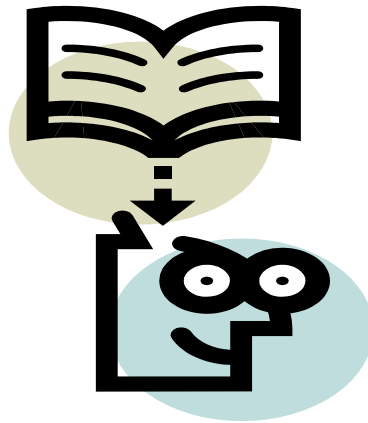
Did you know there are 80 million Easter eggs sold each year? Not one mentions Jesus on the box. Until now!

Endorsed by the Archbishop of York, the Real Easter Egg is made from high quality Fair-trade Milk chocolate and is the first Easter Egg to explain the Christian understanding of Easter on the box. A number of you have ordered these already, and we will have some on the stall as well. At £4.50 each, they are not cheap, but the manufacturing company in Manchester will use part of the price to support Charity and developments projects in the UK and Africa.

At church

Traidcraft's Spring catalogue will be available shortly. Do look out for it on the Fair Trade stall or ask one of us for one. There will be stalls after the morning services on 13 February and 13 March.

Rachel Corbin, Jenny Witts and Linda Gilmour



WESTBURY BAPTIST CHURCH BOOK GROUP

This is a friendly and informal small group of members and friends who enjoy literature which meets every 5-6 weeks to review a book. The choice of book is made in rotation and the meeting is held at that person's house/flat. We have recently enjoyed the following book and found it helpful in exploring and supporting our Christian faith.

'The Help' (Kathryn Stockett) portrays the hard and suppressed life of black servants, from their personal perspective in Mississippi, USA during the 1950's with heightened racial tension and their pursuit for justice.

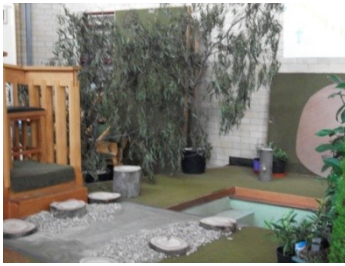
Other 'rewarding' books we have read recently include 'Eat, Pray, Love' by Elizabeth Gilbert-life changing experiences through travel in Italy, India & Bali in one year & 'Just Me' by Sheila Hancock her second autobiography which describes her coming to terms with loss and loneliness.

Steve Clarke

Congratulations to Phillip Corbin and Carol Jenkins, whose suggestions were selected to be the name of the new Church Magazine! Your prizes are being organised, many thanks to all who entered The Competition.

I hope you have enjoyed reading this First Edition of "Connect". If you have any comments, queries or suggestions about what you have just read or about anything you would like to see in forthcoming editions then

Experience Easter: Monday 28th March – Friday 1st April 2011



You may remember Easter 2010 when the sanctuary was transformed with gazebos and plants and the children were invited to go into the tomb to look for the body on Easter Sunday morning. This was Experience Easter! – an interactive journey through the events of Holy Week. Children from 4 local schools visited us and were led into various zones to learn more and offer their own thoughts.

Why?

Teaching about the key festivals of all religions is very much part of the curriculum in schools today, but time does not always allow for an in depth study.

Offering this experience, hopefully, would provide a positive service to our local schools, supporting our Primary teachers with an additional resource in their teaching of the RE. Curriculum.

Also it is hoped that it will also provide a resource for children and YP in our uniform organisations and Family church.



How will it work?

During each session, the children are led through a series of zones relating to the events during Jesus' last week leading up to the cross and resurrection.

Along the way they will discover what Christians believe happened, and why; how Jesus felt, and how the story impacted the lives of people then and throughout history.

Experience Easter 2011 – 28th March – 1st April

Following the success of Experience Easter last year, we are looking forward to 2011. At the time of writing, we have bookings from Westbury on Trym Primary and Elmlea Primary schools as well as all our uniformed organisations. We are also hoping to run an open evening where all members of our church family are welcome to come and "Experience Easter" for themselves.



Who can be involved and how?

Everyone!!! We specifically need volunteers to run the event –

Day sessions - Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday

Evening sessions – Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday

We also need volunteers who can help set up the IT for the sessions and be a trouble-shooter in case things go wrong (we are talking computers after all!!!)

We are hoping that this year will be as successful as last year, please speak to Wendy MacDonald or Liz Dawson if you are able to help or just want to know more.