

C O N N E C T



THE NEW MAGAZINE FOR WESTBURY-ON-TRYM
BAPTIST CHURCH AND THE SURROUNDING AREA
2ND EDITION, MAY-JUNE 2011

Experience Easter March 2011



Once again - following 6 hours of intense activity the sanctuary was transformed!

4 covered gazebos, screens, posters, a walkway bordered with bamboo branches, tree stumps, branches of eucalyptus tree, pots of polyanthus, a half open baptistry depicting a tomb, a cross made from the Christmas tree, large letters stuck to the floor spelling Hopes and Dreams, a small cross for pebbles to be laid at its feet written with the hopes of all who came, a dead looking tree named Tree of Hope, and signs declaring:

Remember Me

Alone

It's not Fair

The Greatest Love of All

Resurrection

During the following week almost 300 children from Elmlea, Westbury-On-Trym, Oasis Westbury Schools, all our uniformed organisations, Family Church and members of Senior Circle Schools flowed into the building together with their teachers and leaders just in order to -

Experience Easter!!!

In looking at what Christians believe :-

We were invited to think of our own hopes and dreams, writing these on stones and placing them at the foot of a small cross.

We learnt of the hopes and dreams of the Jewish nation through a fun DVD clip.



We sat at the table of the last supper and ate bread and grapes, sensing the sadness of the occasion.



We entered into the aloneness of Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane moulding clay to depict times of loneliness for us.

We explored the unfairness and injustice of the trial through taking part in a mock trial and deciding whether the trial of Jesus was fair or unfair.

We faced the agony and desolation of Jesus' death on the cross writing responses to His love on labels and tying them on wooden stick crosses. We explored the tomb and endeavoured to discover whether the resurrection was a plausible explanation for the missing body, and how the disciples' lives were changed by the experience of seeing Jesus alive again.



Finally we were invited to write on a leaf shaped paper a prayer, or thought for changes in our lives or for our world, which brings new life and hope, and we tied them on the dead tree which was then transformed.

The children (and adults!) left not only munching hot cross buns and clutching an Easter egg, but also with lasting memories of an experience, which offered them a deeper understanding of what Christians believe happened that first Easter.



Happy Easter Everyone!!!

Greetings everyone, welcome to the Second Edition of "Connect" and a belated Happy Easter to you all!!! I hope you had a refreshing and worthwhile break. As you may have noticed the primary focus of this Edition is The Easter Experience, a highly popular event which was held a few weeks ago. As ever it served to remind us of the importance of this occasion and what it really means to be a Christian. There are also many other fantastic pieces/articles included in this Edition which I hope you'll like and find useful!



Thanks again to everyone who has contributed and thanks also for all your comments, suggestions and feedback on the previous Edition; I've tried to take as much of those into consideration as possible to make this Issue even better so let me know what you think! Enjoy and remember, "Stay Connected"!!!

Graham Clarke

Graham Clarke

Editor

I am writing this on Easter Saturday, a slightly odd day that falls between Good Friday and Easter Sunday. Nobody seems quite sure what to do between the two holidays. Those of my neighbours who have not gone away are busy in their gardens, mowing the lawn, hanging up washing and generally tidying up. The children are playing with a garden hose and no doubt someone will light up a barbecue soon. It's an in-between day and at least the good weather means that people can enjoy it.

In terms of the Easter story it's an in-between day too. Tradition and the creeds tell us that this is the day when Jesus descended into hell, but as Baptists we don't make a lot of this and are just caught, suspended between the pain and grief of the crucifixion and the joy and hope of the resurrection.

This sense of in-between-ness is typical of the world we live in. As I look out today, I get some idea of how God wants the world to be. The sun is shining, the birds are singing and people are going about their business happily and in peace. At the same time, I am aware that yesterday there were riots in Stokes Croft, a demonstration got out of hand and protesters and police were hurt. There is a long way to go before we all live together in harmony.

Jesus came to tell us that the kingdom of God is at hand, that it was starting right then and there. It's hard to believe sometimes when we look round and see that all is not right with the world. But we don't need to be dismayed. We know that Christ died and rose again to defeat death and sin, to put the world right. We look around and are encouraged by the signs of the kingdom and we know it is growing. At the same time we recognise how far it is from being complete. We have to live in the in-between times but we know that one day everything will be made new.

By the time you read this, Easter will have come and gone. The Easter message is for every day not just one day. Because of Easter we know that life is stronger than death and that love is stronger than hate. As we live out our lives day by day, let's take with us the Easter message that Jesus is alive and that this brings hope to the whole world.

Every blessing

Eveline



CONTENTS

EXPERIENCE EASTER!!!	1-2
WELCOME/A WORD FROM OUR MINISTER	3
UNIFORMED ORGANISATIONS	4-5
LAWRENCE WESTON REPORT	6
PASTORAL CARE/FAMILY MATTERS	8
INTERVIEW/TOPICAL ITEMS	9-11
MEXICAN FIESTA!!!	12

**Westbury-On-Trym Baptist Church,
Reedley Road,**

**Westbury-On-Trym,
Bristol BS9 3TD**

Tel: 0117 9 629990

e-mail: office@westburybaptist.org.uk

www.westburybaptist.org.uk



Uniformed Organizations



167th Beaver Colony

We currently have 15 Beavers comprising 4 girls and 11 boys. We meet on Wednesday evenings during term time.

Leadership has changed somewhat recently, sadly Barbara Dobson relocated and due to work commitments James Chamberlain found he was unable to continue. Anna Kawa also finds that work commitments prevent her from attending colony meetings on a regular basis. We implement a parent rota and use the parents to prepare drinks and help as and when needed, but we do need another regular committed leader.

Following the Beaver Motto of "Fun and Friends" our evenings are full of fun while also learning new skills and how to work in teams. The Beavers have recently completed the Creative and Promise Challenge badges. We also learn about other countries and cultures, and attend Church Parades.

Our programmes are planned around the "Aim of the Scout Association", which is to promote the development of young people in achieving their full physical, intellectual, social and spiritual potential, as individuals, as responsible citizens and as members of their local, national and international communities. By following this "Aim" we are also following the Church's mission of being part of "a Christian community at the heart of our neighbourhood."

Hillary Jones

167th Cubs

The Cubs have been very busy since time began in 2011. The main aim or theme on the programme is badge work. There are six "challenge" badges that the Cubs are working on, Promise, Community, Fitness, Creative, Global and Outdoor, all at the same time, as there is so much to do. Well actually they do a bit of each during each term until they gain the badge, or badges. They can also gain other badges but I won't list those or you will be reading this all night.

This term started with a visit to @Bristol, which is in Bristol! Here time was spent exploring space and science and many other things. Those that went gained their Astronomer badge. The Cubs have also been cooking to gain their Chef badge and playing lots of games. There was also a quiz in which each question had three possible answers, the Cubs had to choose which was the correct answer and stand by A, B or C. And who can forget the annual night hike through Blaise. On a dark wet and windy night 20ish Cubs and Leaders walked through the woods in search of the lost Gorilla, who is still lost! But he was there! This also included the game "attackers and defenders" and finished with hot dogs and hot chocolate.

Thanks to all who take part and make it all possible from the Cubs and Parents to the Leaders.

Nag (Simon Evans)



Uniformed Organizations



195th Brownies

The 195th Brownies meet on Thursday evenings during school term time. At the moment we have 14 girls aged between 7 and 10.

2010 was the year for celebrating 100 years of Girl Guiding and were many special activities and badge-earning opportunities. (We collected 100 points for adventurous activities to earn the Adventure 100 badge.)

In May we went on a PGL activity weekend with other Brownies from Stoke Bishop district, and in September we took part in a Gorgeous and Golden activity day for Brownies from all over the county.

On 20th October 2010 at 20.10 hours all over the country members of girl guiding met together to renew their promise and enjoy some fireworks.

As usual we helped to run a coffee morning, made calendars for Senior Circle, and this year sang carols with chime bar accompaniment for the brownie parents.

In the autumn we welcomed a new leader, Kate Newport, who is a student at Bristol university. Sadly we have had to say goodbye to Jenny Finamore who has been helping in our pack for six years and is off to Peru with Latin link. Thank you Jenny and we wish you well.

Alison Heard

28th Brownies

2011 has been a busy year for the 28th Brownies so far. The main focus of our meetings has been working towards the ClicSargent Helping Hand Badge. For this the girls had to learn about the work of the charity, design posters, have a 'pink evening', make pink paper flowers and do some fundraising. To raise money for the charity the Brownies held a cake sale after the March Parade Service and took part in a sponsored silence at one of our meetings. The pack managed to raise a magnificent £450 for this very worthwhile charity, so a big thank you to all of you who supported us. As well as this we have enjoyed celebrating Chinese New Year, Valentines Day and Pancake Day at our meetings and all thoroughly enjoyed participating in the thought provoking and very well organised Easter Experience in the church.

We said a sad goodbye to one of our Brownies, Madeleine Hollick at the end of term as she moved on to Guides but are looking forward to welcoming eight new Brownies after the Easter break.

If you think you might like to join our leadership team please do get in touch. We will be in urgent need of new help in September as Helen Thorp will be leaving us in the summer to have her baby. We have a thriving pack - currently 26 girls - and are looking for enthusiastic volunteers to ensure we can continue to deliver a full and exciting programme.

Julie Cutler (Brown Owl)

News from Lawrence Weston.....

Simon's miracles...

It was great to visit Westbury to lead Evening Worship recently and to share some of our stories with you. Those that were able to be there on that occasion will remember hearing about Simon, one of our more recent community members who joined us wearing a 'tag'. Simon had become a Christian some years ago but had turned his back on God in recent times. He was now expressing a desire to turn his life around, to walk with God again. He re-committed his life to Jesus and there was much celebration amongst his new friends at LWBC. However, just a few weeks later Simon went to court and was sent to prison for 6 months. This was a great shock, he had been led to believe he would not receive a custodial sentence. Though he fully appreciated he deserved punishment for his crimes.

Various members of our church community have visited him at Horfield Prison and more latterly in Newton Abbott. Simon surprised us all in Horfield Prison by continuing to read his Bible, joining the prison bible study group, attending chapel services and praying lots. He got on well with his cell-mate and had a real sense of God's presence with him.

However, the move to Newton Abbott came as a shock and he found himself feeling very isolated from friends and having to deal with a very aggressive new cell-mate. But...he continued to pray, as did his support squad back in Lawrence Weston Baptist Church. Suddenly one day his cell mate seemed to have a personality change... well a behaviour change anyway! He became calm and even offered to make cups of tea for Simon. Then a week or so later Simon was moved to a single cell... much rejoicing - for here, he tells us, he can pray aloud and praise God whenever he feels like it.

We are all praying for an early release date in May, but he may have to wait until August.. it all depends on the Governor apparently.

Please join us in prayer for Simon. When he does come home, life will still be full of challenges for him. Pray for us to as we try to be wise in the ways we support him.

Sheila Cooper



As Christian Aid week approaches I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who contributed with support and help in the House to House collection during the period I was Christian Aid representative . May this continue as Graham takes over.

Robin Macleavey



As this next edition of Connect goes to press, Christian Aid Week will be in full swing. During the course of the week of the 15th May, 30 folk from Westbury Baptist will be leaving and collecting envelopes from 1500 homes in an area between Parrys Lane and Falcondale Road. Together with our CTWA friends from St Marys, Westbury Parish, Westbury Methodist, nearly every house in Stoke Bishop and Westbury should be covered. Our 1500 homes has brought around £2500 of contribution for the work of Christian Aid in the past couple of years. Around 1/8 (£13m) of Christian Aid's £105m budget comes from Christian Aid Week collections, so the service that our collectors give, like the estimated 2500 around the country, is vital to support the many projects with which the charity is involved. Even a 5 minute visit to the Christian Aid web site gives the opportunity to see some inspirational ways in which Christian Aid is making a difference to so many lives around the world, and, gives plenty of material to support the work through prayer. A huge thank you to those who will be pounding the streets from the 15th May and to those of our folk who have offered to count the money from the envelopes.

Graham Cooper

Greetings WBC! As many of you know Ali and I are currently living in Dundee while I work for UCCF (Universities and Colleges Christian Unions). My job is to support and equip the Christian Unions (CUs) to lovingly, passionately and creatively share the good news of Jesus Christ on campus. UCCF is a fellowship of students, supporters and staff. Over the past nine months I have become fully convinced of the significance of this fellowship. A friend of mine here Robin Sydserff, who works as a minister of a church in Edinburgh and led Dundee CU's mission and events week, writes:

'The work of UCCF through the CUs is of strategic importance in our country. Christian students are at the frontline of evangelism, sharing the gospel with a generation of future leaders from all walks of life. And CUs, in partnership with local churches, are integral to identifying, nurturing and training gospel workers.'

It is a big and exciting vision! Would you like to be part of this vision and fellowship? Through prayer, giving and other ways you can truly partner with me, other staff and supporters, and the students themselves as together we seek to build disciples of Jesus Christ across the university campuses of the United Kingdom today! To get involved just send me a quick email and I will give you more info.

With much love,

James (email: jwgwatson@uccf.org.uk, mob: 07967 383 590)

"There is one body and one Spirit – just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call – one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all." Ephesians 4:4-6

uccf:thechristianunions

Registered Charity No. 306137

Interview with a Church Member

This Edition: Rachel Hall

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

I've been a member for 8 years, attending for 9.



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

Westbury is the one place where I feel grounded- both in a spiritual sense and as being part of a loving community. It is a place of safety in that if there is anywhere where I can be myself - WBC is that place. Not because of the building but because of the very special people that go to make the Fellowship that is the church of God in this part of Bristol. I need the regular Sundays worship to keep me going in life and particularly appreciate the different styles of worship that are available in the evenings- often an oasis in a mad week. The morning services in the 2 part format that we have now, meets the needs of our children as well as myself. It is a healing place and very obviously to me, a place where Christ dwells in his people.

What's Your Favourite Book And Why?

I think it would probably be "To Kill a Mockingbird" by Harper Lee. It was a set text in my English O-Level and I never looked back. It opened my eyes to the issues raised in it of slavery and racism in the Deep South of America and the deep grace of Atticus, the lawyer who knows the negro Toms' treatment is wrong and seeks to right it. Added to that the fact that it is written from a child's (Scouts') perspective with all the wonderful nuances that that brings, makes it to be very special.

What's Your Favourite Film And Why?

It's also one of my favourite films- for once the progression from books to film doesn't take anything away from the story. I also really love "The Sound of Music" primarily because the music and Julie Andrews' voice is just so wonderful. I also recently saw a film called "London River" about a black French Muslim man and a white Scottish woman, whose children go missing following the bus bombings in London. Their stories develop in parallel and are gradually weaved together in a brilliant realised storyline. I won't spoil it - go borrow my DVD!

Favourite Meal/Food:

That would probably be homemade Mushroom Soup followed by Lasagne then something chocolaty or with raspberries. It has to be followed by a good mug of coffee. I like most foods sadly!

Favourite TV Show/Series:

On TV I like period dramas, nature, history programmes and football! "Human Planet" I thought was astounding - our human diversity and ingenuity was at times breathtaking, as well as the outstanding landscapes.

Do You Have Any Current Goals/Ambitions/Projects?

I am enjoying leading services at church occasionally and the part I play in leading Singing Group. I am in the process of compiling an Early Years song bank which can then be used both at the primary school where I work and with WOTS TOTS at WBC. We sponsor a boy in Tanzania and I would love to meet him one day.

Walking with God on a day to day basis and staying in his love is ambition enough.

Table Talkers

For the last few months a group of some of the “older men” associated with WBC have been meeting for lunch approximately once a month to eat together and to discuss current news events from a Christian perspective. We have sampled the lunch menus of a number of eating establishments in the Stoke Lane area and seem to have settled at the Black Swan.

To stimulate (or at least kick-start) our discussions, we have been using a resource provided weekly by the Evangelical Alliance called Friday Night Theology. The link is: <http://www.eauk.org/fnt/>.

They send out an email once a week with comments usually about a news item from the current week. As we only meet monthly, we choose one from the previous months selection and off we go! There’s no guarantee we’ll stick to the subject, but we have an enjoyable ramble, good fellowship, and an enjoyable lunch together.

If you think you would be interested in joining us for lunch please speak to Ian Dawson. We try to meet on either Monday or Tuesday at the beginning of each month.

Ian Dawson

GLOBAL POVERTY PRAYER MOVEMENT

In my role as our church’s Tear Fund representative, I met with Jenny Foster, a Traid Craft Representative from Horfield Baptist Church, and a lady from St Bonaventure’s Church, to discuss the possibility of holding a prayer meeting for issues relating to global poverty. Jenny had organised a day conference on Global Poverty in January, which was sponsored by Christian Aid and Tear Fund. During our meeting we decided that it would be useful to have a forum where we could share ideas for increasing awareness of these issues in our churches and also pray for any Tear Fund, Christian Aid or Cafod projects that were close to our hearts. The date of the first meeting will be at Horfield Baptist Church Café on Wednesday June 8th at 7.30pm. This will be an interdenominational meeting for people in the North Bristol area who are concerned about global poverty and would like to make a difference. The meetings will probably take place on a quarterly basis. Please see me if you would like to know more and if you are interested in coming along. All would be welcome.

Heather Colbran

Gifts of Flowers for May and June 2011



May		June	
1st	Flower Fund	5th	Hilda Jones
8th	Joan Nicholson	12th	Brenda Parsons
15th	Joan Stinchcombe	19th	Cynthia Burrige
22nd	Honor Bristow	26th	Henry Sager
29th	Jan Morris		

Nicky and Jenny's Mexican Fiesta!

We would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who came; we had a fantastic evening and were so grateful for everyone's support. About 40-50 people came to show their support so me and Nicky were overwhelmed.



To open the evening we had everything set up in a cafe style with interesting things dotted on tables. On big table in the corner of the room we had lots of Peruvian things, such as wall-hangings, traditional dress and maps which were really interesting. Then on each of the tables we had a little picture quiz of famous Latin Americans. We also had some wool and sticks so that everyone could make "Ojo de Dios" or "Eye of God". Originally, "God's Eyes" were made to be placed on an altar so that the gods could watch over the praying people and protect them. They are now more often sold in markets, reminding us that God looks with love on people everywhere.



Once everyone was in and settled we started a big quiz on Mexico and Peru. Some of the questions were easy but most were impossible and left everyone quite stumped! Ah the pitfalls of using Wikipedia as your source for a quiz.

We then started on the food which was absolutely fantastic! We had a huge vat of chilli which was very popular! And we also had lots of chicken, salad, tortillas and fantastic dips and sauces such as salsas, cheese, guacamole and sour cream. Then for a fantastic dessert we had bite size pieces of brownie, cookie and cake. Because of the chocolate that comes from cocoa beans which are found in Peru of course!

While all the food settled we started a talent show. There were fantastic piano, cello, saxophone, trumpet and guitar pieces. Also there was a great ghost/comedy story and an impressive break dancing routine. We each then did a short talk on our projects and our plans.

The evening was great fun, everyone expressed their delight at the food and the entertainment, though some disappointment at the quiz's ridiculous difficulty! Altogether we raised **£480** for our trips so we were both over the moon and are so grateful for everyone's support. If you didn't have the chance to come and would still like to support us, please just see either of us or go to justgiving.com/jennyfinamore to support Jenny.

Love,
Nicky and Jenny

