

# C O N N E C T



THE MAGAZINE FOR WESTBURY-ON-TRYM BAPTIST  
CHURCH AND THE SURROUNDING AREA  
4TH EDITION, DECEMBER 2011-JANUARY 2012

## **A Belated Merry Christmas ...And A Happy New Year!!!**

(A very belated) Season's Greetings Westbury-ites, and a Happy New Year!!! I hope you're having a great 2012 so far and that you had a relaxing and enjoyable Christmas and New Year's break, even if it might seem like it was quite a while ago now! Christmas is obviously a special time of year but it can also be so busy that we can often feel more exhausted afterwards than we did before hand! In some ways I enjoy The New Year even more as with each one comes feelings of hope and the aspirations of making a fresh start. This brings me to the main point of my ramblings: that unfortunately this will be the last Edition of "Connect" that I will be publishing for a while. Having finished my TESOL/TEFL (Teaching English as a Second/Foreign Language) Qualification at the end of last year I'm currently looking to get a job overseas. Although I will be quite sad to finish my tenure as Editor I have really enjoyed doing The Magazine and I hope that you've enjoyed reading it too! I hope that you've all found it useful and that it's served it's original purpose - as a form of replacement for "Enterprise" and a way for sharing the news about our wonderful Church. Like I said with new years come new beginnings so hopefully some-one else can grab the reins and continue on with what we've started. Have a great 2012, God Bless and remember..."Stay Connected!!!!"

*Graham Clarke*

Graham Clarke

Editor



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**A Word From Our Minister**

As I look out of the window today, I can see the trees bending in the wind and the rain lashing down. Every now and then sheets of rain sweep past and the lights are still on at nearly midday. This is the scene on the west coast of Scotland and I am glad to be in a warm, weatherproof house. Yesterday, down by the harbour, where the fishing boats usually come in, I saw a little group of eider ducks. They were swimming along purposefully, perhaps on a hunt for food, and chatting away at the same time. They don't quack like other ducks, but throw their heads back and call 'Hoo, hoo' in a very conversational way. I was not the only one to be fascinated by them; a couple of small children were delighted with these busy little birds and thought they might be playing a chasing game.

Away from the city I am reminded at every turn of God's power and authority and also of his complete knowledge and love of his creation. Psalm 29 expresses something of God's power over the natural world, 'The voice of the Lord is over the waters; the God of glory thunders, the Lord thunders over the mighty waters. The voice of the Lord is powerful; the voice of the Lord is majestic.' God is powerful and awe-inspiring but he is in charge. As the psalmist concludes, 'The Lord sits enthroned over the flood; the Lord is enthroned as King forever. The Lord gives strength to his people; the Lord blesses his people with peace.' This is the God who cares for his children. As Jesus said, 'Are not five sparrows sold for two pennies? Yet not one of them is forgotten by God. Indeed, the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Don't be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows.' Whether it is sparrows, eider ducks or ourselves, God holds us and all his creation in his hands.

At the start of another year we do not know what lies ahead or what the mixture of storms and sunshine will be. This time last year we were very unsure what the future would bring to us as a church. Looking back now we can see how God has blessed us in many ways. The church weekend and the whole listening process have brought us together and given us a common sense of purpose. We have been delighted to welcome a number of babies and children as well as new members. We are making progress towards finding a new minister. You will have your own highlights and memories of the year.

My prayer for us as individuals and as a church is that we may continue during the coming year to draw closer to the God who came to give us life in all its fullness.

Every blessing

Eveline



## *News from Lawrence Weston Baptist Church*

### **We enjoyed a busy Christmas Season.....**

On Saturday December 17th we held our usual Christmas Craft afternoon for primary school age children followed by our Candlelit Carol Service. This year we managed to staff the event 'in house' ....a significant step forward for us. In the past these events could not have taken place without the assistance on the day from friends from our Cluster Churches.

About 20 youngsters joined in the crafty fun and the church was full for the Candlelit carols.

Well done to Mare and the whole team!

On Thursday December 22nd we joined with friends from the Lawrence Weston Partnership of Churches to sing carols at the shops on Ridingleaze in LW, this year accompanied by a brass/woodwind trio made up of clergy! We ended the evening at Blaise Weston Court residential home for the elderly, where they know us well and we received a very warm welcome in every sense. After more carol singing and a 'seasonal word' from Steve Griffiths (Pastor LW Christian Fellowship), we shared refreshments and great conversation with the staff and residents. A good evening was had by all.

Our Christmas Day service was well attended too.

### **So here at the beginning of another year – we continue to try, by God's grace, to obey what Jesus called the two most important commandments:**

Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul and with all your mind...and love your neighbour as yourself (Matt 22: 37-39)

### **Please pray for us as....**

...as we tussle with our application for our fourth Mission Through Ministry Grant from the Baptist Union to support Mare's ministry in 2013.

....as Mare and Rich continue to lead our Discipleship Course, attended by four relatively new Christians.

.....as our whole community works on our spiritual health as we work through a Freedom in Christ course together.

....as we seek to put in place the suggestions in our Action Plan – the conclusion of our Fit4Purpose programme.

....as we look forward with much enthusiasm to two baptisms in the not too distant future.

Thank you for your prayers and your continuing interest and support.

*Sheila Cooper*



## Christmas Fayre Saturday 26th November 2011

Unlike last year, no snow covered the ground at this year's Christmas Fayre, but visitors still enjoyed the usual stalls selling plants, cakes, sweets, cards, bric-a-brac etc. as well as a few activities to keep the grey matter working e.g the quiz, "Guess the weight of the cake" and also "Guess the name of the snowman". 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, absolute bargain! Rudolph and the reindeers, meanwhile, had a few hours off.

It was really great to have our special guests, Elmlea Junior School Choir, who were able to sing for us again this year. Scouts kept themselves warm by selling roasted chestnuts outside, whilst Cubs, Guides and Brownies sold their wares indoors.



The Brownie Cake Stall

The decorating competition attracted a lot of entries this year and is gaining in popularity.



We all had a lot of fun and made over £1000 profit in the process, which is great at a time of austerity. This money will be given to:

1. The One25 Project - which helps vulnerable women in Bristol
2. The Jennifer Trust - which helps children with Spinal Muscular Atrophy
3. One of our cubs, Zoe - who has Spinal Muscular Atrophy. We will purchase a special tricycle

So 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.

Phil Heard & Tony Hall



## Fair Trade



### Hopes Rebuilt In Wake Of Tsunami

More than 5,500 young people and women in areas of Tamil Nadu affected by the 2004 tsunami have benefited from a Traidcraft project to help them rebuild their livelihoods.

The four-year project, run in collaboration with local Indian partners, not only provided employment skills for people affected by the tsunami, but for those in poor and marginalised communities with little or no source of income.

More than 4,000 people who took part have already found work. One of them was 23-year-old S. Moovendhan, who received free computer training. "Soon after, a computer centre opened in my village and I was asked to be its in-charge," he said. "I couldn't believe the way my life has completely changed after this training. From no income I am now earning Rs 4,000 per month." He said: "I was keen to thank people from Traidcraft in person. I especially took leave from work today to come and thank Traidcraft!"

S. Prabhakaran, an unemployed chemistry graduate, described how his life has changed following computer training. "I come from a very poor and deprived family. When I was young, my father remarried, abandoned my mother and left us destitute. I now earn Rs 4000 per month and am very happy to be able to support my mother."

As well as helping people to find employment and increase their income, the project has increased self-esteem among participants like Mahalakshmi, who completed a nurses' training course. "I immediately got a job offer in a hospital in Chennai," she said. "I am so much respected as a nurse! The feeling of satisfaction that I get from this job is, of course, unmatched. I am very grateful for this training."

Partner organisation Saint-Gobain Glass India Ltd also valued the experience – despite being reluctant to commit to training large numbers of young people in its glass factory near Chennai. "I now wish that we had taken a bigger responsibility of training a few additional trainees!" said Human Resources team member Manikandan K. "We also learnt good practices from other training service providers as Traidcraft gave us an opportunity to meet and interact. "I still remember when we first got two young people who belonged to a scheduled caste. They had no confidence and couldn't even look up and talk. But after the training they were quite changed and even brought more of their friends for the training!"

*(Article edited from Traidcraft 'The Extra Mile' Autumn 2011)*

## Jenny in Peru!

It's quite hard to write about this special time in my life. It was an intense experience and I made such precious memories during my time there.

Most of you probably know what I got up to, but here's a brief outline for those of you who don't know. I was on a Spring Step team with 10 other young people in Peru with the organisation Latin Link. I was there for five months; two months with a church in Trujillio and two months with a church in a tiny village called Calango near Lima, then I spent the last month travelling. In both churches I got very involved with the Sunday school as I was children's co-ordinator (I got to mess around a lot basically!). The first church was big and wealthy and we got involved wherever they wanted us. During the day we did a lot of sanding and painting, while in the evenings we joined in Bible Studies, did drama rehearsals and played sport with the other young people.

The time in Calango was much harder, but rewarding for that. We were working in a very small church of only four adults, though the Sunday School was larger; about 14-20 children. During the day we were working very hard digging foundation in rocky ground, and in the evenings we were writing testimonies and Bible studies and playing volleyball or football with the young people. We ran a lot of kid's days which was great fun, and I loved running the Sunday school; my theme for the time we were there was heroes of the Old Testament; so I did Noah and Moses and others. My favourite time was Noah when I came armed with 1 kilo of Animal Biscuits; the children loved it!

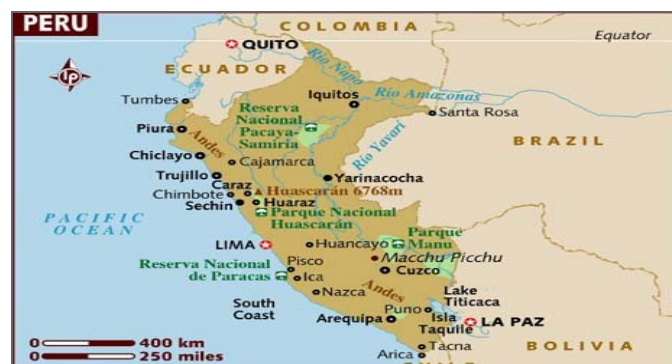
The highlight for me was definitely the young people's group we set up in our house in Calango. I felt called to do something for those our own age in the village; so I went round with a few others inviting all the teenagers to our house. The first evening we only had 4, but the next week we had 9 and so on until the last meeting when we had about 35 Peruvian teenagers in our house, 10 of whom were busy in the kitchen cooking us traditional Peruvian food. I couldn't believe an insignificant idea of mine had been so successful. I remember in one of those meetings, one of the boys turned to me and asked how to know if you have God in your life. I felt so honoured and privileged to be able to share something of God's love with people on the opposite side of the world.

There were really hard times as well of course. Physically, the work was very demanding. But also in terms of team dynamics it got very difficult. I loved my team and we got on very well and thankfully there were no arguments within the team. But seeing those same 10 faces everyday all day for 5 months got very tiresome!

But all in all, I had an amazing time, and all I can stress is the immense privilege I found it to be able to talk about God's love in a culture completely different from my own. I saw God work in powerful ways and God speak to me and work in me in ways I never believed He would.

Thank you to everyone for all your love and support in enabling me to take this amazing journey. God bless.

*Jenny Finnamore*



**Interview with a Church Member**

This Edition: Wendy MacDonald

**How long have you been a member of Westbury Baptist Church?** 8 years

**What do you like/enjoy the most about Westbury Baptist Church?** I've really enjoyed being part of the children's work here. Taking on the challenge of organising and co-ordinating "Experience Easter" was a huge privilege and enabled me to get to know new people.

**What's your favourite book and why?** I don't really have a favourite – I tend to read whatever is available or catches my eye! I like a book I can get "lost" in.

**What's your favourite film and why?** I love any of the adaptations of Pride and Prejudice – don't really know why though!

**What's your favourite meal/food?** Mushrooms

**What's your favourite TV Show/Series?** Again – no real favourites. I like costume dramas (but not all of them) – just finished the series of "House of Eliot" and about to watch "Downton Abbey".

**Do you have any current goals, ambitions or projects?**  
We are moving to the Brecon Beacons in January 2012 so packing, moving, unpacking, decorating and getting to know new people will take up most of my time!!

**(FESTIVE) RECIPE OF THE MONTH  
SNOWY ROCKY ROAD**

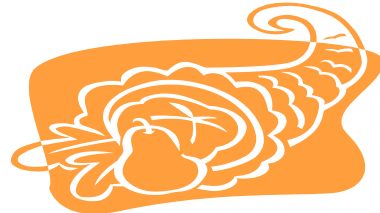
**INGREDIENTS**

- 400g white choc. (chopped)
- 25g mini-marshmallows
- 50g desiccated coconut
- 50g dried cranberries
- 40g shelled pistachios
- 50g ginger nut biscuits (roughly chopped)
- silver balls to decorate!

\*\*\*\*\*

Line a 6" by 8" tin with cling-film. Microwave the chocolate for 1 minute and then in 10 second bursts until melted. Stir in all the other ingredients and smooth down in the tin.

Scatter over the silver balls and extra coconut. Freeze for 15 minutes or keep in the fridge. Cut into 20 squares when solid. Will keep for one week wrapped in cling-film in fridge.



**Gifts of Flowers for January - April**



<b>January 29th</b>	Flower Fund	<b>11th</b>	Flower Fund
<b>February 5th</b>	Doreen Jenkins	<b>18th</b>	Heather and Jeremy Colbran
<b>12th</b>	Nancy and Tony Mann	<b>25th</b>	B. and G. Clewett
<b>19th</b>	Paul Seath	<b>April 1st</b>	Joan Chettle
<b>26th</b>	Cynthia Burridge	<b>8th</b>	Flower Fund
<b>March 4th</b>	Senior Circle	<b>15th 22nd 29th</b>	Phil and Mel Clarke Jean Trump Flower Fund