

Praise & Prayer News

Jesus spoke to the people once more and said, "I am the light of the world. If you follow me, you won't have to walk in darkness, because you will have the light that leads to life."

John 8: 12 (New Living Translation)



Praise and Prayer News

Over the past few months I have been travelling around the UK attempting to get to know many of you better and familiarise myself with your churches and context. I have very much valued your hospitality and warmth as you have welcomed me, and appreciated the prayers of so many. A real excitement and encouragement for me as I have heard your stories is that our God has not stopped being God, and is still very much on the throne. It is also an exciting time in Rural Ministries in that we are about to embark on our 50th anniversary celebrations, thanking God for his goodness and provision over the past 50 years, recognising what he is doing now and looking forward to all that He *will* do through His Spirit in our time ahead.



At a time of year when we naturally turn our thoughts towards the promise of God fulfilled in Christ Jesus and begin to think about resolutions for the coming year, I wanted to share some thoughts from **Hebrews 10:19-25**, which in my bible is titled '*A call to persevere*', and from this make a gentle challenge to each of our churches to set some goals for the year ahead.

- Firstly, that in the year ahead we each focus on our primary calling, which is to draw near to God (v22). I believe our heavenly Father wants to remind each of us that we are his children and encourage us to move closer. When we do this we will be better placed to hear our Father's heartbeat and gain a fuller understanding of His mission and purposes for our communities and churches.



- Secondly, that in the year ahead we hold fast to the promises of God (v23). Many of us regularly face the challenges of resources, and it can be easy to loose heart; however we can remind ourselves from scripture that God keeps his promises, and this has not changed!

May the year ahead be a time when our faith grows?

- Thirdly, that in the year ahead we seek to encourage each other (v24). The word encourage means to 'stimulate strongly.' I know from a personal experience the power of encouraging words; they have sustained me through dark times and inspired me to try new things. Using Prayer and Praise News, is there a church or person you could encourage over the coming weeks? Why not send them a card, an email or better still, pay them a visit?



- My final challenge is in the coming year that we do not give up meeting together (v25). With the many demands on our time, it is easy to place

Rural Ministries lower down the list in our priorities; however we lose something of the value of fellowship, support and encouragement when we do so. Just as a soldier who lags behind the rest of his platoon can become an easy target, so each of us risks enemy attack when we go it alone. I do believe we are stronger together, so let us as we begin our 50th anniversary, commit to meeting together, encouraging one another, holding fast to God's promises and drawing closer to God, and may all of this be for His glory.

With every blessing,

SIMON

**The Rural Ministries office will close at 5.00pm
21st December 2011 and re-open on the
9th January 2012.**

1st

SUTTON ON SEA FREE EVANGELICAL CHURCH, SUTTON ON SEA, LINCOLNSHIRE

Praise

- We praise the Lord for increased attendance at our evening service!
- For the increase of our tithes and offerings!
- For blessing on the new family service once a month!
- For new contacts made through visitation in the area



Prayer

- Please pray for monthly Luncheon Club and special Christmas meal!
- For leadership and those who battle health in the fellowship.
- For new men to join us.
- For souls to be really saved and converted to true disciples.
- For work amongst our special needs children.
- For fresh vision and outreach in the days ahead!
- It has been a year now since having our new Pastor and the work has been slow but sure. Please pray the Lord will keep us faithful as a fellowship and we may have a greater impact on our area!

2nd

BROADGRACE CHURCH, HOVETON, NORFOLK



We have had a good summer, the River Boat trip went really well at the end of June. The weather was glorious, the M&S buffet worked well. Rico Tice kindly gave his talk three times in different sections of the boat so people didn't need to move around. They went down well and people seemed to be enjoying talking about Jesus afterwards. The feedback from the other churches who supported the event has been very positive too.

We have had a lot of fluctuation in the size of meetings on Sundays and it has been fun to welcome guests and get out extra tables some weeks, and also to enjoy the smaller weeks where we have sat round one table together.

Over the Summer, John visited the people who come to BroadGrace to find out how they are doing in their faith in Christ and also talk about any questions and concerns with church. This has been a really encouraging time, with many signs of the goodness of our Father in the lives of church members and in the life of the church family.

Alongside this, lots of people are taking on different responsibilities which is a great next step in our little church's life. More importantly, though, are the hours that everyone in BroadGrace are spending getting to know each other better, living as a family, and being on Christ's mission together to share his good news with North Norfolk and Broadlands.

In all this, we are not earning anything. There is no guilt or duty in our service. Jesus gives us gifts, and we get to enjoy using them with him. Church plants can be exhausting, and we wanted BroadGrace to feel like streams of living water, not the desert. We serve Jesus not as his servants, but as his friends, served and ransomed by the Son of Man and we are keen that our love for Christ would attract many to him and give us a chance to tell people his gospel – that is our mission and our privilege.

We commenced in October and will run through November the Christianity Explored course. We are hoping that some of our friends who came on the river boat trip will enjoy coming along and talking about Jesus together.

Points for prayer

- Give thanks for all the people who have taken on responsibilities. Pray that they will find these jobs a joy and not a drudgery.
- For us to keep on encouraging each other to use our gifts without ever resorting to guilt or talk of duty to the church. We want to enjoy our gifts as gifts, otherwise our hearts might grow cold towards the giver.
- Pray for the Christianity Explored Course. Especially that people would ask friends along and that we would get a good number coming to hear the best news there is.
- Pray that we would be getting to know our neighbours, colleagues, and others, sharing our lives and sharing Christ with them.

3rd

THE VINE FREE CHURCH, WADDINGTON, LINCOLN

And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. Colossians 3:17

Sometimes a church fellowship will experience the most unexpected and encouraging events. Such has been our experience over past weeks at The Vine.



We have had occasional contact with one or two

younger people from the base at RAF Waddington in the past and it is always lovely to welcome them to our services. Recently we were approached by one of those friends asking if we would be prepared to hold a dedication service for their new baby. What a privilege it was to meet together as a fellowship and, with the family, to bring this little one to the Lord and ask His blessing on this new life! That was definitely a 'first' for The Vine!

Then, following soon after, two of our fellowship (a married couple both in their eighties) were baptised! Another 'first' for us! We were able to work in partnership with the Thomas Cooper Memorial (TCM) Baptist Church in Lincoln and used the church there for a special baptismal service on October 9th. What a blessing it was.

There are times when we can look to God and ask, 'Lord, what next?' Such is His tendency to surprise us with blessings!

Do thank God with us for these recent events.

As the clocks change again in October we shall not meet for evening services, with our 10.15am service being the only one each Sunday until summer time starts again. At that point, along with morning services, we plan to meet on Sunday evenings every other week.

Our midweek Bible study/prayer meeting continues to draw a small but enthusiastic group and is currently working through Colossians. An encouraging time spent together!

Further details available by visiting our web site www.thevinefreechurch.co.uk

4th

BAWTRY EVANGELICAL CHURCH, BAWTRY, S. YORKSHIRE

At a recent members meeting we had to discuss the financial state of the church and the decision was made to trust God to supply what is needed, when it is needed and to rise to the challenge the pastor put before us - to double the church's giving to mission. We praise God for this step of faith. We have had a couple of social/ outreach events recently and pray that those on the fringe would understand and respond to the Gospel as it preached. We also thank God for the preaching programme through the book of Acts we started in September - please pray that we all would be challenged and enthused through learning how our predecessors lived out their faith.

5th

NEW HOPE HAMPSHIRE, FAIR OAK, HAMPSHIRE

Living Life from God's Perspective



New Hope Hampshire hosts a monthly Sunday Gathering for those on the fringe of church and the Christian Faith, creating a relaxed and comfortable environment for them to meet the God of the Bible. We also offer a monthly Film

Club for youngsters to meet up and then chat through any moral issues that arose during the film as well as pointing them towards the God who loves them. New Hope's commitment is to producing a 'church without walls' centering on the community and being as inclusive as we can.

We rejoice over a very successful Alpha course with people coming to know Jesus as Lord and Saviour and a newly started Follow Up course with 22 people attending on a Wednesday evening.

Prayer For

- School and Street Pastors. More in training as we speak and helping to role this initiative out across the locality.
- For a sense of excitement in the community as we all prepare for our Victorian Christmas Carols in the square. Local pub landlords, shop keepers, bakers and scouts, schools and community choirs all coming together to celebrate the joy of the season with carols and a message, set amongst a vibrant Victorian Fayre with a variety of stalls selling everything from handmade soaps to toys, mulled wine and mince pies, hog roast and candy floss. The Church drawing the community together!!
- Ian continues to work as a Community Pastor, developing contacts, net working with members of the Council on a variety of projects, using carpentry skills to help others in need of small jobs, taking assemblies, men's breakfasts and much much more.

6th

PRINCE ANDREWS CHAPEL, ALDBOROUGH, NORFOLK

We are thankful for the RM Conference weekend which was again a time to reflect on things and be encouraged.

We thank the Lord for the Holiday Club with Ian and Elaine

Coules we had an average attendance of 18 children most of whom brought their parents along to the family evening on the Thursday which was uplifting for all of us. We pray that the contacts made will help us to get to know the families better. Please continue to pray for Margaret, Nicky, Pauline, Jenny and David as they work with the children each week.

Also by the time this is printed we will have had an outreach meal on a Saturday evening and our continued prayer is that more links will have been made as a result.



7th

DURRINGTON COMMUNITY CHURCH, DURRINGTON, WILTSHIRE

Thank you for all of your prayers. We now have 4 leaders, two support leaders (David and Pam) taking responsibility for finances, website, weekly setting out of the village hall for worship, promotion of prayer for the charities we support amongst other practical tasks and two overall leaders (Lynda and Andy) taking responsibility for the co-ordination of prayer, teaching and worship. It has been a great encouragement to see many of the church being involved in all manner of other weekly tasks and we are grateful to God for a body ministry. We are encouraged by our children's work and the newly formed Youth Alpha Group. (Ruth and Angela are taking on more of our children's work

Please pray:

- for the current leaders of Lynda, Dave, Andy and Pam;
- for future leadership (more men);
- Please pray too for our children's work and especially for Youth Alpha and our workers (Ruth, Angela, Lynda, Shirley, Mary, Miha and Julie)
- for boldness to witness to the many local friends and neighbours whom we know and to those with whom we come into contact through our activities.

8th

LILBOURNE EVANGELICAL CHURCH, NORTHANTS



"Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think of anything as being from ourselves, but our sufficiency is from God." 2 Corinthians 3:5

Praise:

The Lord that we had good anniversary services with a few visitors.

We are thanking the Lord for His enabling and encouragement as we have been working through some challenging issues in recent days.

Praise the Lord for the Pizza Night for teens that we recently held – and was enjoyed by the 13 teens who came. We continue to pray for wisdom to know the way forward, particularly with the teenage group. Our two groups (years 2 - 6 and years 7 – 10) meet again December 1st and we will have a Christmas theme.

Prayer:

For wisdom and clear direction regarding our fellowship in the coming days. Thank the Lord for a good spirit of unity and the desire to glorify Him. Colin (pastor) as he is now the only elder and there are many decisions to make.

Christmas services – our Crib and Carol service on Christmas Eve and the Christmas Day morning service.

A new initiative in January on fifth Sunday afternoons, having a tea and short time of devotional reflection that may be particularly appropriate for non-believers and those on the fringes.

We are up to 8 youngsters now in Xplorers on Sunday mornings and space is tight. Also a wide age range from 6 – 13 years. We would love to have more help so as to divide up the group.

9th

WYCHWOOD BAPTIST CHURCH, MILTON- under-WYCHWOOD, OXFORDSHIRE

It is written: 'I believed; therefore I have spoken.' With that same spirit of faith we also believe and therefore speak, because we know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus from the dead will also raise us with Jesus and present us with you in his presence." 2 Corinthians 4:13-14



Praise God for:

- A united committed church looking to make Christ known.
- His continued sustaining of us as a church through illness (Ali, our Pastor's wife, has now completed her treatment for breast cancer) and key members (including leaders) moving on.
- Continued opportunities to reach families through 'the BIG picture.' – a monthly event which teaches an overview of the Bible in a relaxed environment, through a variety of activities. The last two events have been particularly well attended.
- Our weekly cafe, which brings us into contact with a number of people from the community, most of whom are 'regulars.'

Pray for:

- The church as a whole. That we would grow to love Jesus more and more each day. That God would deepen our understanding of Him, and equip us for the work He has given us to do.
- Wisdom as we seek to vote on additional leaders at the end of November into a new leadership structure. That the new team would gel quickly, and existing leaders would adapt to the new structure.
- For a deepening of relationships developed through 'the BIG Picture,' and our weekly 'cafe.' For our witness, and that we would rejoice in seeing people coming to know Christ through these opportunities.
- Those we will be inviting both personally, and through general appeal to 'Christianity Explored' which we anticipate running early next year. That there would be a willingness and desire to know more about the Christian Faith, and that this would lead people to Christ.
- Planning for our Christmas programme. That God would work through our services and events to show people what Christmas is all about.

10th

GREAT MOULTON EVANGELICAL CHAPEL, NORFOLK

*"Always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ."
Ephesians 5:20*

On 12th September we said good bye to Steve and Yvonne as they returned to Wales to take up a pastorate in Swansea. They had been with us almost six years and we had received a great blessing under Steve's ministry. Please continue to uphold them in prayer as they begin a new work in Swansea.

God has been good to us as we will not be without a pastor for long, as when you read this our new pastor John Graver and his wife Wendy should be with us. Please pray for them as they settle into their ministry in Great Moulton.

Beginning on Wednesday November 2nd our area Faith Mission worker Steve Walker will be beginning "A Gospel Centred Life" course in the chapel. He will be accompanied by Tim Currie one of the first Faith Mission students to undertake the new 3rd year ministry apprenticeship programme being launched by Edinburgh college.

Last year we held our Christmas Carol Service on a Wednesday, instead of a Sunday, and intend to do the same this year holding it on Wednesday 21st December at 7.00pm.

We would appreciate your prayers for these events, praying especially, that others, who are not part of the fellowship, would join us.

11th

ROWHEDGE CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP, COLCHESTER, ESSEX

We Praise the Lord for:

- His direction in appointing Nathan Blackaby and his family to be our new pastor.
- Various contacts being developed by the toddlers morning run from the church.
- New people hearing about the Chapel and showing interest in what we are doing in the community.
- Answers to pray for employment and the fruits of members discovering their gifts and abilities to grow the church.

We would ask prayer for:

- Vision for going forward as a church with the Lord.
- Direction in meeting the needs of the young people in the community.

12th

GOSBERTON BAPTIST CHURCH, GOSBERTON, LINCOLNSHIRE



We are shortly to start sending out begging letters to local businesses! Well, perhaps that needs to be reworded, because the letter will very specifically admit that churches have all too often been guilty of pleading for financial support from their communities, and the only thing we are asking for - and in a very low pressure way - is prayer requests.

We are sharing in this initiative with the local Anglicans and Methodists. The letter we have prepared will go out on a bright new letterhead and begins:

We know how hard it is to run a business in the current economic climate.

We'd like to help - not, alas with an injection of cash, but with something that could actually be of equal or greater value.

We'd like to pray for you. In fact, we are going to pray for you whether you like it or not! We see it as our responsibility to support and encourage the local community in any way we can, and that includes yourselves, and we believe prayer is a very practical way of doing this.

To encourage responses we have set up an email contact - prayer.request@gosberton.org - as well as publishing our telephone contact details. We are also offering the facility of confidential communications, but we hope that our churches will be able to openly respond to most requests, as well as praying regularly for our shops, farms and businesses. We don't see this as a alternative to sharing the gospel; but we are convinced that it is one way of obeying Jesus' call for us to be the salt of the earth.

Every Wednesday at 6.00pm Steve puts his DJ hat on, and presents a show on local Tulip Radio <http://www.tulip-radio.org>. The show is sponsored by Johnson Community Hospital, where Steve is Assistant Chaplain, and features news about the hospital, health issues, requests and dedications for patients and staff, and Steve letting his hair down (very figuratively!) and playing his favourite music. Tulip have a Sunday morning show with two hours of Christian music and comment - how many local radio stations still do that?! Annie and Steve have been asked to take over this show in the near future - please pray for wisdom, and for the skill to do it really well. Steve is also involved with Tulip Radio in bringing a Christian presence into a big *Christmas Lights Switch-On Weekend Festival* in Spalding (December 3rd-4th). Plans include a resident family evangelist (Kevin Moore of Face2Face Educational Trust), musicians, carols, and a giant open-air Christingle.

13th

GRACE CHURCH, ISLE OF WIGHT



"But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him

who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light". 1 Peter 2:9-10

- *Give thanks* for the privilege of being God's people, and proclaiming his excellencies! *Give thanks too* for his kindness to us over the last few months since our launch.
- The slow but essential work of engaging with the communities around us continues. The Ryde building has recently opened two mornings a week, as a drop in/café and Food Bank distribution centre. *Please pray* that God would use this new initiative to his glory.
- *Give thanks* for new people joining us in both Ryde and Seaview. These newcomers are from a variety of ages and include both established Christians who have moved into the area and local people with little recent church background. *Please pray* that as the family increases all would feel welcomed and valued. *Pray too* that God would be at work in us all as his Word goes out.
- We have also recently established 'Sunday Night Training', a new series of Sunday evening meetings to equip the church for mission. At present we're doing a series on how to answer the questions that people ask about the Christian faith. *Praise God* that these new meetings are both encouraging, challenging, and providing fresh opportunities to share Christ as a result. *Please pray* for us as we reach out to friends, work colleagues, school friends, neighbours and family. *Pray too* for God to transform lives through the gospel.

14th

HITCHAM FREE CHURCH, HITCHAM, SUFFOLK

"Give thanks to the lord for He is good, His love endures for ever." Psalm 118 v.1

At our Fellowship Saturday in June concern was expressed that we have not been successful in reaching out into the village, so we praise the Lord for contacts now being made in the community:-

- The large number who came to our Coffee Morning in October. Several had not been to church for some years and some had never been to any church activity.

- The parents of some of the children who attend Good News Club, who came to a successful BBQ in September.
- One friend and good supporter of the church has offered to 'knock on doors' when delivering the November/December Magazine. The magazine goes out to every home in the village.

We need to continue in prayer for:-

- Our aging congregation, many being unwell.
- Our Church Secretary as, in the New Year, he takes up a role in giving a more regular sequential ministry on Sundays.
- The success of the Coffee mornings, held on the first Wednesday each month.
- Guidance in reaching the unsaved.
- The boys and girls in the Friday Good News Club and the leaders.

15th

RURAL MINISTRIES COUNCIL

Ephesians 3 v 14 – 20...pray that Christ might strengthen.....that Christ might dwell in your hearts..... may have power.....you may be filled.....

In a special moment at the October conference Simon gathered all the 'team' of RM together and asked our visiting speaker John Risbridger to lead a prayer for us. In that moment we were all reminded of our reliance on our Heavenly Father for all that happens under the banner of RM, His leading, His inspiration, His provision.

As you may remember us in your prayers, please be aware that the Trust board are drawn from different backgrounds, different types of church, and different locations in the UK. Although different we are united in our commitment to Jesus, His message and his offer of salvation to the world. As we continue to oversee the use of resources, the development of the RM activity, and the strategy for the future, may we always have this at the front of our thoughts?

The AGM of Rural Ministries takes place at the end of November; always a time when we have to review the past year and recommit to the year ahead. We welcome Paul Susans as he will officially join at the AGM. We pray that as he brings his special skills, experience and insight he will enjoy a sense of fulfilment as he serves in this way.

16th

FENLANDS CHURCH, TYDD GOTE, CAMBRIDGESHIRE



Hear us O Lord and answer us for we are spiritually poor and needy. Guard our lives, for we are devoted to you. You are our God and we trust in you. (from Ps 86)

Praise for

- Our Alpha course which has taken people forward with the Lord.
- Our new assembly team, working on the “Open the Book” Scheme, which has been warmly welcomed in the local school.
- Our existing assembly work in a number of schools which continues to be well received.
- A steady stream of people being added to us.
- God’s blessing as we found ourselves having to replace our drainage system.
- Goodwill from Local Authority Officers as our band played in the local Market Place.

Points for prayer

- Fish Finger Sandwiches - our weekly “Coffee and Chat” meeting place on Wednesday morning has attracted some pre-school children who come with their parents before going to our Mother and Toddler Group. Pray for our witness and service in this area of our activities.
- New mums at “Play and Chat” – As we started a new season in September we were pleased to see that new mums and tots were arriving to make up for those whose children have moved on to “big school”.
- Our Sunday School children who sponsor a “Compassion Child” – they regularly receive letters from Leuri, in the Dominican Republic. He tells them all about his life and they write back to him, with hope and friendship.
- Shantymen “On Song” – We have started a group of shanty singers with the hope that church men will support, - and then invite their friends to join. Please pray for this new initiative which has much potential for growth and a booking at the Annual Rose Fair in June!
- Future events including opportunities to share a Christmas Carol Service at a local garden centre and a request for our band to play at local events in the summer.

Help us to become blameless and pure, children of God without fault in a crooked and depraved generation, in which we shine like stars in the universe (taken from Philippians 2(15))

Job 9:27 If I say, 'I will forget my complaint, I will change my expression, and smile,'

17th

ROCKWOOD MISSION, BRYNTEG, WREXHAM

"Serving Christ in Brynteg"

Rockwood Mission is new to Rural Ministries. We are a small church set in a good location at the centre of the village by the shops. Brynteg is one of seven villages which we consider our 'parish', and there is no other evangelical witness in that area. It is a poor area, and includes one of the 100 poorest wards in Wales.



Our congregation is about 10 or so and mostly elderly. This means that at times we lose people who become too frail to get to church. Nevertheless, we seek to do what we can in outreach. We have a pastor who, officially, works part-time, but there is no such thing as part-time in the Lord's work! He underwent surgery earlier this year, and will have further surgery in the spring. Web site: <http://rockwood-mission.blogspot.com/>

Praise and Thanksgiving

- For 62 years of witness in Brynteg and the surrounding villages.
- For new people who have begun attending this year.
- For good attendance at most of our evangelistic events.
- For the monthly ladies "Chill & Chat" meetings which see a number of non-church people at these low key events.
- For good attendance at our midweek meeting – we can get more on a Tuesday than at a Sunday service!

Prayer please

- For our Carol Service in the village hall with a choir of children from a local primary school and the Salvation Army band – Thursday 8th December.
- We have a monthly coffee morning in the church, but in December it is in the village hall a couple of days before the Carol service.
- For the publicity, especially coming up to Christmas.
- For wisdom as we consider the future of some of our activities.
- For boldness – not just in speaking, but in trying new ways of reaching out.
- For people who come to our special events to also come on a Sunday, or to Christianity Explored.
- For one or two committed Christian couples to join us and help us.
- For our monthly family service which we have recently started.
- For the pastor, Stephen Dunning.

18th

MOUNT ZION BAPTIST CHAPEL, SLACK TOP, HEPTONSTALL



*The LORD is exalted, for he dwells on high; he will fill Zion with justice and righteousness.
He will be the sure foundation for your times, a rich store of salvation and wisdom and knowledge; the fear of the LORD is the key to this treasure.
Isaiah 33:5-6*

Praise & Thanks

- There is a growing sense of community in the fellowship with the encouragement of new people attending and contributing to the life of the church.
- The work on the outside of the building has started and plans are developing for the internal refurbishment.
- We have been able to arrange the use of the local bowling club and primary school for the Sunday Services and our main outreach groups during the refurb of the building. We look forward to making the most of the chance to have a more central presence in the community. Also it has cemented the good relationship we have with the school along with the on-going opportunity to take monthly assemblies there.

Prayer

- That we would grow together in our love for God and each other and that this would draw others into joining the fellowship here.
- That the building work would go ahead safely and without hold ups particularly due to issues with the listing and building regulations.
- That we would grasp the opportunity to share the Gospel with the local community especially at Christmas as we temporarily meet in the bowling club and use the school for our kids club. Also we have a stall on the Market in Hebden Bridge in December.

Mostly that God alone would be our foundation and that we would know a rich store of salvation, wisdom and knowledge whilst we grow in our fear of the Lord!!!! (Isa33v5,6)

19th

EPPING GREEN CHAPEL, EPPING GREEN, ESSEX

"You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden." Matt. 5v 36

We praise God for –

- A great response to the Alpha publicity with folk coming in from both the roadside banner and web site.



- New children starting to come to the weeknight club.
- Ongoing popularity of men's breakfast with regular high percent of none Church goers.
- Commencement of next phase of Chapel extended parking and groundworks to enhance facilities and visibility of Church.

We pray for –

- The new folk on Alpha that they complete the course on their journey to faith!
- Increased children at the Sunday School.
- More mature Christians to assist with current growth.
- Christmas village and community outreach events.
- Preparations for local events in 2012 celebrating the Chapel 150th Anniversary.
- Pastor Paul & Jane for success in their continued negotiations to be released for an extra day a week from NHS roles to give to their Chapel time.

20th

NEWTOWN EVANGELICAL, NEWTOWN, POWYS

We have welcomed Stephen Howard to the church – working coordinating our pastoral care and, with one of the other elders, coordinating our evangelism among adults. Stephen used to work with the church in Craven Arms. Please pray for Stephen and Iun Hae and the children as they settle into life in mid-Wales. Stephen will be working alongside Tim as the two full-time workers. Please pray for Stephen, Tim and the other elders to work together well. Please pray for wisdom as we seek the best ways to proclaim the glorious gospel of our wonderful Saviour to a needy town and the surrounding villages. Praise God for a united and loving fellowship. Christmas is one the best opportunities each year to share the good news. We have a family service followed by a tea when we try and invite the families of children who come to the midweek clubs. We follow this up by having a more traditional carol service. Please pray for many to come in and for conversions.



21st

ANSTEY CHAPEL, ANSTEY, HERTFORDSHIRE

Some of the oil in his palm he is to put on the same places he put the blood of the guilt offering.

Leviticus 14:28

--- summon your power, O God, show us your strength, O God, as you have done before.

Psalm 68:28

But when the kindness and love of God our Saviour appeared, he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy.

Titus 3:4



Praise:-

- For a young lady, a Christian who lives near Anstey and has begun attending.
- A young man who is now a neighbour and attends occasionally.
- For the new Chairman of our Trustees, Mr Ian Merrick, a retired teacher and valued Gideon. Also, for a new Trustee, Mr Steven King.
- Over recent months the chapel has been used for three extra meetings, a delight for the fellowship: A retreat for men in leadership; New Horizons for active retired men; and thirdly, a Women at the Well, Living Waters Bible Teaching Day.

Prayer:-

- As we pray for the new appointment of an Anglican vicar for St George's Church in the village, upon the retirement of Revd Carol due to her husband John's ill health.
- The Lord's heart as we journey with others and personally know His rhythm for His life in us and our life in Him.
- Prayer for Broken Britain as we find it in people in our area. God will mend hearts as they give Him all the pieces. He is the heart surgeon.

Prayer/Praise combined:- Praise that our son, Nathan, wife Jennie, Eloisa and Micah have been appointed to pastor Rowhedge Christian Fellowship at Mariners Chapel.

We pray that they will be a blessing to the people and the people a blessing to them.

22nd

MORTON (New Day) and DYKE CHURCHES, LINCOLNSHIRE

'Look to the Lord and his strength; seek his face always' 1 Chronicles 16 v 11



- We are currently running 3 Alpha courses, Saturday Morning, Tuesday Evening and a Youth Alpha on Thursday evenings. 3 people have already indicated that they want to follow the Lord and others are very interested. The Youth Alpha is also very encouraging and includes a girl who had attended our Holiday club in the past and returned this year as a helper.

- Thank you for your prayers for our Biblefresh Exhibition followed by a café style service at Dyke. It was the first time they had hosted anything like this and there was a very good response.
- We give thanks for a Christian couple who have recently moved into the area and are attending regularly, please pray that they will continue to feel 'at home' with us.
- for Christmas events and Carol singing around nursing homes (already had one request).
- **Please pray** against the recent influx of alternative therapies, spiritualism, hypnotism etc in this area.
- For ongoing health problems in and associated with our church and members.
- For more workers to take advantage of the many openings within the village.
- The Baptist Union have taken the decision to close the chapel at Hacconby. Please pray that we will know how to reach the people of that village for the Lord.

Thank you for standing faithfully with us in prayer.

23rd

RURAL MINISTRIES OFFICE

We praise the Lord for the increase in interest by churches in wanting to know more of the work of RM. We have new contacts from South Wales to the west coast of Scotland.

We thank God for raising people up to come forward for the ministry opportunities we have. At the time of writing all churches were in discussion with a prospective candidate.

Thank you to all those who attended conference and for the feedback given, sorry if we did not get to speak to you all. We will meet in January to start to consider the programme for 2012 and will take your comments into consideration.

Please can I ask that churches book early for conference as this will mean we can ensure sole usage of Kings Park, the minimum number is 120. Please note the new costing structure for 2012 and we hope this will enable families to attend.

Please pray as we start the planning for 2012 which promises to be a very busy year with the 50th celebration in June, the October conference, training event in May and more roadshows in July.

Please pray for our council as they meet on the 23rd November 2011 for the AGM and 7th March 2012.

Leave you with this thought from a DEFRA report we read recently it said -
 "the rural church brings a vibrancy to its community".

24th

BISHOPSTOKE EVANGELICAL CHURCH, HAMPSHIRE

"I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me..." John 10 v14

Praise:

- For the tremendous response to our recent gift day enabling the purchase of new front doors and lobby area.
- For the wonderful transformation this has brought to the look and feel of the church entrance.
- For the growing fringe of people that we see through our weekly activities at the church.
- For God's continued faithfulness and for the faithfulness of all as each person plays their part.



Pray:

- Please pray that we will use the resources God has given us wisely.
- For our plans to do a Christianity Explored course or something similar next year.
- A number of our folk are very unwell – please pray for strength and peace.
- For our Toddler group where we have gotten to know several mums and dads quite well. Pray that these relationships will continue to grow and that God will be at work in their lives.
- For our work with young people, older people and those with learning difficulties. Please pray for God's blessing on these ministries and their leaders.
- Pray that people on the fringe of church will come to our Christmas services. We have a Christingle service in the morning and a Carol's by Candlelight service in the evening.

25th

ALBERT ROAD EVANGELICAL CHURCH, OSWESTRY, SHROPSHIRE

Praise

- For the many new contacts made and developed locally, mainly through children's and family events. Some, not many as yet, come from time to time to Sunday services, but



friendships are being formed and relationships fostered as initial steps to faith.

- For the Pumpkin Party held as an alternative to Halloween. Local parents and children joined in the fun and laughter, enjoyed food together and heard a simple gospel message.

Prayer

- For the Christmas arrangements now beginning to get under way, particularly the outreach activities. Including in these are Christmas Countdown for children followed by a family meal, and a float in the Christmas procession through the town, the latter event in recent years has been devoid of Christian witness! These are two new ventures.
A carol evening in the pub next door has been welcomed by the regulars there for the last two years.
- That the church may be increasingly known throughout the district by its distinctive Christian witness, warm and friendly atmosphere and readiness to be part of the local community.
- That more Christians will join us as we seek to broaden many aspects of the work.

26th



OUTREACH HOUSE, WITHERSLACK, CUMBRIA

I write this in early October at a very important time for our community. By the time you read this we will have held our Outreach House conference and we should therefore (hopefully) have some

idea what might lay in store for us beyond the summer of 2012 when our 7 year cycle in Witherslack comes to a close.

We would therefore really appreciate your prayers that the way forward is becoming clearer not just for the full-time Outreach House team but the small church community that has formed around us since we have been in the South Lakes.

Our hope is that a new team will be forming that could potentially begin a new Outreach House project beginning in September 2012 and that a viable discipling community will remain in Witherslack to carry on the work of bringing the Kingdom to this community.

Many thanks for all your prayers we so value each one on our behalf.

27th

St JAMES, RYDE, ISLE OF WIGHT

There are so many things we want to give thanks to God for, as he has provided for all our needs and been so generous to us.

Particular points of praise are:

- A very encouraging weekend's mission with some theological students from Wycliffe Hall, Oxford. Many came and heard the gospel simply and engagingly presented.
- Great thanks for David Cornes, a new member of staff, who is serving as an apprentice for two years, David has made a terrific start and proving to be a real encouragement to many here.
- Praise for our finances. The Lord has so graciously provided and in his kindness our giving has increase despite the economic hardship in the country.

Things we would really covet your prayers for:

- Please pray for a new Treasurer needed for the New Year.
- Please pray for the possibility of taking on a new member of staff with the express purpose of planting for them to minister in time.
- Pray that St. James' would exemplify what a New Testament church looks like – bold in proclaiming Christ, clear in defending the gospel and truly loving each other.

28th



DUFFIELD EVANGELICAL BAPTIST CHURCH, DUFFIELD, DERBYSHIRE

Jesus coming out of the water saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on Him like a dove. A voice came from heaven: "You are My Son, whom I love; with You I am well pleased"

Thank you, all those who have encouraged us as the building work progressed. The time has not been easy because the work has been slow and the sub-contractors have often contributed the bare minimum. We are sad that our autumn programme of outreach had to be postponed until January 2012. There have been positive items, though. We played a full part in the Duffield Christian Council's distribution of Luke's gospel to every house in the village, having interesting conversations with householders. We have been blessed by visiting preachers and at the members' meeting in October there was a sense of assurance that the Lord is going to work among and through this fellowship.

So please pray:

- that the final settlement of the building developments will be reached smoothly
- that the extra time to the beginning of the Christianity Explored course will be used well and people invited will join in
- that the search for a pastor will soon reach fruition
- that the warmth of the building may be matched by the warmth of our concern for and our welcome to others
- that the Christmas activities will bring us new contacts

Thank you all.

29th

LAVENDON BAPTIST CHURCH, LAVENDON, BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

"Therefore, since we have been justified through faith we have peace...we have access...and we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God." John 5 v 1-2

Praise

- That a person in the fellowship has taken on being the link with the school.
- For all of those in the fellowship serving in different ways.
- For the interest shown in our vacant pastorate and for the time recently had with one applicant.
- Links with the community.
- For those willing to come and take our services.



Prayer

- For more workers in our Sunday Club.
- For Rob Webb as our church moderator.
- Our search for a new pastor.
- Members meeting in January as we re-elect our deacons.

**The Rural Ministries office will close at 5.00pm
21st December 2011 and re-open on the
9th January 2012.**

30th

HELMSHORE CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP, HASLINGDEN, LANCASHIRE



We Praise and Thank God for:

- the faithfulness of all those who work to continue all our different activities: Sunday service, Lighthouse club, house groups, FAST Groups (Friday at Six Thirty) youth (11 plus), and Juniors (under 11s), Parent and Toddler Group and special events. We particular thank God for those who continue to serve through illness or personal difficulty and despite extremely busy lives.
- our extended community, those outside the Sunday congregation, who support our events and activities.
- the openness to new ideas to bridge the gap between the congregation, church as we know it, and those in our extended community.
- the launch of our first messy church event in December.
- the success of our computer basics club held in the spring.
- Val who has come through our preaching class to join our preaching rota.
- the Fast youth group who are attending a local youth alpha course.
- a new girl at Fast Juniors (the group is mainly boys)
- the increasing involvement of our children in our Sunday worship
- the continued support of our landlords, St. Peters; who allow us to pay a reduced rent.

Please pray for:

- the health and spiritual well being of those who serve and work in the church. Particularly Glenn who has been quite ill in recent months.
- guidance to bridge the gap between church and those we are in contact with as well as the wider community.
- launch of messy church and re-launch of the computer basics club.
- plans for café church, a Y course and coffee morning / pastor drop in.
- the FAST Youth Group to grow and develop in their relationship with God through Youth Alpha.
- help and guidance in making this group more engaging for the young people and for the future leadership of the group as our main leader may move away next year.
- more girls to join the FAST Juniors Group
- us to find and make ways for our children to participate in worship and that some may join the worship team

31st

STEPS COMMUNITY CHURCH, MILBORNE PORT, DORSET

....Jesus Christ is the same, yesterday, today and forever.....Heb10:8

This has been and is a time of change at STEPS. We are adjusting to a new phase after Mark's decision to move on earlier in the year. Some ventures are coming to a natural end, others are beginning.

Please give thanks for:

- The continued encouragement in the scriptures week by week.
- Those who have stepped up and stepped in to support following the departure of Mark – In music, in the treasurers role etc.
- The continuing work among toddlers and parents (First Steps). And with the older children (ROOTS). Pray that there will be progressive contact with parents as relationships are built.

Please pray for:

- the new Leadership team, Clarence, Chris and Harold, who will support the Elders. This has led to new initiatives being planned for youth work.
- a spirit of love and unity in truth to prevail especially in the new leadership team.
- new initiatives and ways of “doing church” being considered to reach into the community.
- clarity and wisdom and discernment in plans going forward. That these will be God's will and purpose.
- that the gospel will continue to be faithfully preached and heard and for the Spirit of God to accompany us in His power and grace. That people will come to faith in Christ.



£3,000 available for new outreach initiative

50 years of Rural Ministries 1962 – 2012

During 2012 Rural Ministries are celebrating 50 years of encouraging churches in the countryside. Grants will be available to help your local outreach and the competition is open to all rural churches.

Have you always wanted to commence an activity to spread and share the gospel but funds have been a problem? Up to three grants with a maximum of £3000 each are available to support the most enterprising applications. We are looking for imagination and the ability to see the gospel impact your community. The awards will be presented at a lunch being held in June 2012 to celebrate the work and vision of Rural Ministries.

More information and competition rules can be found on the Rural Ministries website: www.ruralministries.org.uk

Closing date for entries is the 1st March 2012 and they are to be sent to Rural Ministries, Wellingborough Innovation Centre, Church Street, Wellingborough NN8 4PD

Rural Ministries
PLANNING & GROWING RURAL CHURCHES

BOOTLE EVANGELICAL CHURCH, BOOTLE, CUMBRIA

Remember that at that time you were separate from Christ, excluded from citizenship in Israel and foreigners to the covenants of the promise, without hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near through the blood of Christ Ephesians 2:12

Praise God:

- The number of children who are attending Adventurers (Sunday School), up to 8 youngsters and 2 teenagers.
- The faithful teachers who bring God's word to the young people, their hard work makes the time fun but gets over the serious point of the Gospel.
- Good relationships with other churches in the area, and particularly with St. Michael's the Parish Church in Bootle

For Prayer:

- Captain Shaw's C of E Primary School. After the frenzy of replacing the teaching staff in just 6 weeks so that we have a full complement for the beginning of next term, the Education Authority have now issued a 'Consultation on the Closure of the School. Many people in the village feel that the loss of staff last term was due to an attempt to close the school by stealth, and being unsuccessful, the LA are determined to close whatever the Governors do. Actually, even their own consultation document makes it laughable to close the school, but the County seem set on it!
- Much more than just the School hangs on this decision. The (secular) Parish Council have succeeded in drawing £12m of investment to the village, which is now in jeopardy. There will be no new houses without the school, and without investment and new affordable housing, the village will become a large retirement home!
- Please continue to pray for Christian families to join the work here. There are some houses for sale in the village, and a couple of Housing Trust houses to let. Pray that God will bring in those He wants here!
- For wisdom on how to reach out into the community. Most people in the village are completely apathetic to the Gospel, and we need God's way to reach them. They are without hope, and need the sure and certain hope of the Gospel. C.H. Spurgeon once said of the Met Tab, 'People come in their fine carriages to hear the word, but we have scarce touched the local community.' We feel a bit like that here and need God's way to make a difference!

Thank you for all your prayers. We keep a time of prayer at 8.15 am, and always pray for the Churches mentioned in these notes. Finally, don't forget our web site, www.bootlechapel.org.uk

Church Contacts List

Church	Contact	Telephone
Aldborough, Norfolk	Dave Wrighton	01263 761582
Anstey, Herfordshire	Steve Blackaby	01763 848468
Bawtry, South Yorkshire	Simon Carter	01302 719911
Bishopstoke, Eastleigh, Hampshire	Paul Hatchard	023 8061 3775
Blofield, Norwich, Norfolk	Rosemarie MacDonald	01603 715728
Bootle, Cumbria	James Thomas	01229 718266
Botesdale, Suffolk	David Miles	01379 783216
Brynteg, Wrexham	Stephen Dunning	01352 750997
Christleton, Chester	Andy Leake	01244 332001
Clapham, North Yorkshire	Reg Crozier	01524 251321
Craven Arms, Shropshire	Rosalind Dodd	01588 660298
Cromhall, Gloucestershire	Kevin Wilkinson	01454 322179
Duffield, Derbyshire	Keith Powney	01332 841736
Durrington, Wiltshire	Andrew Lund	01980 594420
Epping Green, Essex	Paul Walker	01992 572093
Fair Oak, Hampshire	Ian Hayes-Anderson	023 8060 2572
Gosberton, Lincolnshire	Steve Weatherly-Barton	01775 840693
Great Moulton, Norfolk	Gwenda Ludkin	01379 677597
Haslingden, Lancashire	Glenn Scott	01706 231191
Heptonstall, West Yorkshire	Jason Hulme	01422 846749
Hitcham, Suffolk	Ivor Sherwood	01449 678692
Hoveton, Norfolk	John Hindley	01603 737974
Ivinghoe & Pitstone, Bedfordshire	David Clifford	01296 668906
Kilmuir and Stenscholl, Isle of Skye	Jonathan MacDonald	01470 552206
Kircubbin, Northern Ireland	Derek Reid	028 4277 1274
Lavendon, Buckinghamshire	Monica Chapman	01234 712632

Church Contacts List

Church	Contact	Telephone
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Milton-under-Wychwood, Oxfordshire	John Witts	01993 832865
Morton, Dyke, Lincolnshire	David Hughes	01778 570656
Newquay, Cornwall	Mike Robins	01637 875114
Newtown, Powys	Tim Gill	01686 624343
Nidderdale, North Yorkshire	John Gurney	01423 770858
Oswestry, Shropshire	Russell Howes	01691 658596
Rowhedge, Colchester, Essex	Nathan Blackaby	01206 728746
Ryde, Isle of Wight	James Leggett	01983 565621
Seaview, Isle of Wight	Steve Bell	01983 568807
Sherborne, Dorset	Pete Bryer	01935 817575
St. Austell, Cornwall	John Townley	01726 75953
St Saviours, Guernsey	Peter Dale	01481 263164
Stratford St Mary, Suffolk	Phil Wyncoll	01473 310728
Sutton on Sea, Lincolnshire	Bill Turner	01507 441594
Swarland, Northumberland	Robert Nunn	01670 788464
Takeley, Hertfordshire	Laird Morris	01279 870491
Truro, Cornwall	Jonny Giddens	01872 561275
Tydd Gote, Cambridgeshire	Martin Fisher	01945 870333
Waddington, Lincolnshire	Bill Atkinson	01522 789015
Witherslack, Cumbria	John Sainsbury	01539 552021
Wool, Dorset	Martyn Parry	01929 401771
Yelling, Cambridgeshire	Ben Woodcraft	01480 354039

Further information about each of our partner churches can be found on the web site www.ruralministries.org.uk/partnerchurches.html

Deadline to submit copy for the next issue of Praise and Prayer News is 1st February 2012.

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