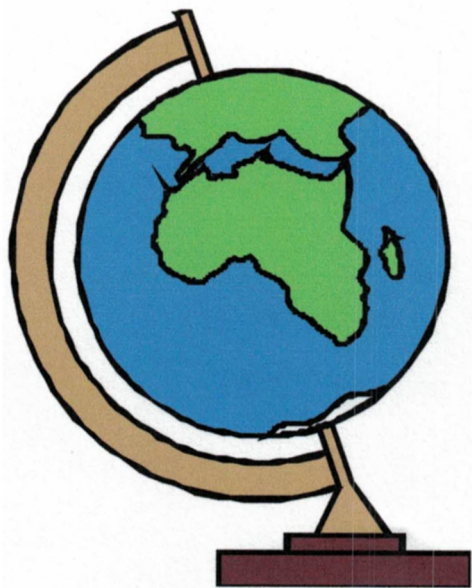




# Newsletter

## ***SPRING 2017***

### MISSION



***Then Jesus came to them and said:***

*"All authority in Heaven and on Earth has been given to me.*

*Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.*

*And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."*





## *Pastor's Page*

### **MAN of SORROWS**

When tears started trickling down the face of a statue of Jesus

Christ at a Catholic church in Mumbai a few years ago, locals were quick to declare it a miracle. The Church of Our Lady of Velankanni became a site of pilgrimage and visitors began collecting the tears in bottles believing it to be holy water. Unfortunately it turned out that this miraculous phenomena was not so much a case of holy water as holey plumbing. The 'tears' trickling down the face of Christ were not because Jesus wept but because of clogged drainage pipes situated behind the statue! Sanal Edamaruku, the poor chap who discovered the real cause of the 'miracle' was accused of blasphemy, charged with offences that carry a three-year prison sentence and eventually, after receiving death threats, had to seek exile in Finland.

Now we do not base our faith on such superstition or merely on our own ideas but on the Bible. Scripture does record various occasions when, during his incarnation, Jesus did weep. The most well know occasion, of course, is that especially associated with the actual phrase 'Jesus wept' (John 13:5) – a phrase famous for being the shortest verse in the King James Version of the Bible – Jesus' response to the sad news of the death of his friend Lazarus. There was also another occasion more relevant for this time of year and appropriate to the narrative of the Holy Week.

Holy Week begins with what is known as the Triumphal Entry of Jesus into Jerusalem. Luke tells us that a few days before his arrest, trial, and crucifixion, Jesus entered Jerusalem riding on a donkey – the sign of a King entering a conquered city in peace – to be met with a rapturous welcome by the inhabitants of the city (Luke 19:28-40). We tend to concentrate on the meaning and significance of this triumphal entry. Consequently, all too often

we miss a very significant occurrence. As Jesus comes over the brow of the Mount of Olives, he sees Jerusalem spread out before him and he weeps over it! (Luke 19:41).

On several occasions, Jim and I have stood on the Mount of Olives and looked out over the city of Jerusalem. It is one of *the* most wonderful sights to be seen. Every time we see it, it takes our breath away and brings tears to our eyes – so much history, so much pain even today! But this is as nothing compared to what Jesus felt as he too looked over Jerusalem that first Palm Sunday ... and wept! The word 'wept' here is a very strong word in Greek (the language of the New Testament). It literally means 'the heaving of the breast' or 'the sob and cry of someone in agony of soul'. Jesus was clearly deeply, deeply moved by the sight of the city. Why was this so?

Jesus burst into sobbing at the sight of Jerusalem because in that moment he foresaw both the immediate response of the people of Jerusalem to his arrival – their rejection of him as God's Messiah – and the eventual destruction of the city by Rome in AD 70 (Luke 19:42-44). Jesus lamented both the horrendous lost opportunity for the city, and the inevitable tragedy that would ultimately befall them as a result. Jesus' tears were not angry tears but tears of compassion for a city, for a people to whom God's Messiah, the Saviour of the world, was revealing himself in a unique way and because he saw that they would completely miss this God-given opportunity. They would fail to recognise Jesus for who he truly was. In rejecting God's way of peace, and picking an unwinnable fight with Rome instead, meant that the destruction of the city was inevitable. Jesus sadly concludes that all this was to happen 'because you did not recognise the time of God's coming to you' (Luke 19:44)!

As we approach this Easter season, let us not be guilty of failing to recognise who Jesus is – the Son of God who died for us. And let us not miss the opportunity God is laying before us as a Church to truly be 'Caring Christians at the heart of the Community'.

*'Man of Sorrows, what a name for the Son of God who came  
Ruined sinners to reclaim! Hallelujah! What a Saviour!*



## *Editor's Ramblings*

### **The CHALLENGE**

#### **Decisions**

So you want to be a Christian?

What experience do you have?

I went to church at Christmas, good, and some friends invited me to a special service and said if you came there will be a BBQ afterwards, so you could have a free Sunday lunch!

So you went to get a free Sunday Lunch? PASS.

You know that going to church doesn't make you a Christian, you can go all your life and not be one.

How long does it take? A lifetime.

You need to start going to church regularly and start learning about God and Jesus and what the Bible has to teach you. Have you got a Bible? Oh, somewhere at home, then start reading it and listen to what God has to say to you. Now you have made a start, then get on with it. Then you will have a life changing experience. (As you know that is only part of the story).

#### **Over the Bridge**

Many years ago I was challenged by my Youth Club leader as I was walking over Waterloo Bridge to day release at the London School of Printing.

He simply told me that I was taking all the church could give me and

giving nothing back.

It was a little while after that that I started going to church and have been giving back for many years.

#### **On the Sea**

When Eileen and I were on holiday in Israel we had a trip across the sea of Galilee. One hundred and fifty of us in two boats. In the middle of the sea the two boats came together, we had the Scriptures read, and sang choruses. Then the "captain" of the boat showed us how they cast nets in the old days. He tried three times and caught nothing, then he was challenged to try the other side! He couldn't because the boat was too crowded. Then HE wasn't Jesus!

Life is a challenge from beginning to end but with God nothing is impossible.







### *When things go wrong!*

It was a very cold Sunday morning with no church heating. But thanks again to Eric it was sorted out and we had a warm church back by about 11-15. So thank you.

Do you do Ruth's quiz? I hope you do, she never fails to do this for the Newsletter. The enclosed one is a music quiz and she mentions our thanks to Stephen for playing as part of our worship group.

Thanks again to all who supply the flowers for the church each week. There are plenty of blank spaces for March etc.

Our thanks to all who are bringing items for the Woking Food Bank. See weekly Newsletter for items wanted.

## *Fellowship News*

It was good to have Jill back with us after her service with BMS in Kosovo. She has settled back and has started her new job. Read her report elsewhere in this Newsletter. I understand she will be going back in May for a holiday to meet up with her friends there.

### *For Your Prayers*

Please continue to pray for Mick Denison as his ear infection is still really bad and as he waits for an appointment for skin procedure at St. Peters Hospital.

We give thanks to God for Pauline Woldridge's return home from hospital and please continue to pray for her on-going recovery. Please continue to pray for Veronica, Ruth Collyer, Eileen Webber and Eileen Byde, and also for Derek Byde who is still waiting to get his eye problem sorted out. His next visit to St. Peters is 13th March, 9-15.

Pray for Jim as he edits and brings out his first edition of the Knaphill News. We look forward to receiving it.



April	5th	Pam Rice	I would be very pleased to introduce anyone interested in this good work. Any amount, large or small, will be well used in BMS health and care outreach. Thank you, Margaret.
	5th	Margaret Stout	
	6th	Brenda Elliot	
May	8th	Joan Kenton	
	16th	Bruce Whittingstall	
June	3rd	Linda Parsons	

A very happy birthday to all these folk

## *Where would We Be Without Jesus*

He was born of a Woman  
So we could be born of God  
He humbled Himself  
so We Could be lifted up ..  
He became a servant  
so We could be made heirs ..  
He suffered rejection  
so We Could be His friends ..  
He denied Himself  
so We Could freely receive all things

# Operation Christmas Child – 2016 Campaign

With signs of Spring appearing everywhere, Christmas seems a long time ago now, but I would like to thank everyone who donated shoeboxes, items and money for shoeboxes and, most importantly, prayer, for the 2016 Operation Christmas Child Campaign.



Once again, the Campaign was very generously supported and here are some figures for you:

Knaphill Baptist Church	156 Shoeboxes
Guildford/Kingston Area	22,347 Shoeboxes
UK	882,647 Shoeboxes
Worldwide	11,485,662 Shoeboxes.

The UK has sent Shoeboxes to 17 countries: Albania, Belarus, Bosnia, Bulgaria, Central Asia, Estonia, Latvia, Liberia, Lithuania, Macedonia, Middle East, Moldova, Romania, Serbia, Swaziland, Ukraine & Zambia.

The GU/KT Shoeboxes were distributed as follow:

- 9,843 Shoeboxes went to Bosnia
- 9,079 Shoeboxes went to Kyrgyzstan (Central Asia)
- 993 Shoeboxes went to Ukraine

The remaining 2,432 Shoeboxes were taken to the main Shoebox depot in Tunbridge and used to complete part loads from other depots.



In order to achieve this, 272 volunteers spent 4,127 hours helping at our local GU/KT depot, collecting boxes, checking boxes, putting them into cartons, keeping a close check on the numbers, processing the money, liaising with HQ and other depots and many other

jobs.

It is quite likely that the Kyrgyzstan Shoeboxes have not yet been distributed as the teams have to wait until the snow has melted before they can reach some parts of the country – please keep praying for these Shoeboxes, the children who will receive them and, of course, for all the children and families who have been blessed by receiving Shoeboxes. Thank you so much for the vital part that you played in the very successful 2016 Campaign.

Finally, it's never too soon to think about your Shoeboxes for this year! There is always a need for "Boy" shoeboxes, particularly for ages 2-4 and 10-14 and there is always a shortage of extra knitted hats to be popped into boxes that don't already have one – I can even let you have a copy of my really quick, easy knitting pattern.

Ruth Moore



Eric helping to squeeze the last carton into the lorry going to Bosnia



# Ruth's Page

It has been lovely to have Stephen playing hymns and carols with us on his clarinet recently. Music has always played an important part in worshipping God and the theme of my quiz is "Music in the Bible". How many can you answer? The answers are at the bottom.

1. Who is mentioned as the father of those who play the harp and flute?
2. What stringed instruments did John hear in his vision of the heavenly throne?
3. Which prophetess played a tambourine (timbrel) and led the women of Israel in a victory song after the Red Sea incident?
4. What caused King Saul's "evil spirit" to leave him?
5. Who is recorded in the Bible to have written over 1000 songs (and it's not David!)?
6. Who brought King Solomon presents of gold, spices and jewels along with some juniper wood which he used to make harps and lyres for his musicians?
7. What instruments do you sound like if you speak in the tongues of men and of angels but have not love?
8. Which prophet prophesied while accompanied by a musician playing a harp?
9. When Nehemiah dedicated the city wall of Jerusalem, the priests played trumpets. What did the Levites play?
10. Who managed to destroy a city by making a lot of noise with trumpets?
11. Whose song of praise is often referred to as "The Magnificat" and who sung the song known as the "Nunc Dimittis"?
12. What is the nature of the songs attributed to Solomon in "The Song of Songs"?
13. What happened after Paul and Silas prayed and sang hymns to God in jail at midnight?
14. How many different instruments are mentioned in Psalm 150?
15. What will happen when the last trumpet sounds?

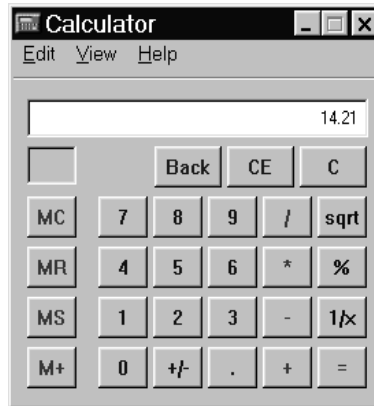
1. Jubal (Genesis 4:21); 2. Harps (Revelation 14:2-3); 3. Miriam (Exodus 15:20-21); 4. David's Harp playing (1 Samuel 16:23); 5. Solomon (1 Kings 4:32); 6. The Queen of Sheba (2 Chronicles 9:1-12); 7. A noisy gong or a clanging bell (1 Corinthians 13:1); 8. Elisha (2 Kings 3:15-16); 9. Cymbals and harps (Nehemiah 12:27); 10. Joshua (Joshua 6:1-20); 11. Mary, mother of Jesus (Luke 1:46-55) & Simeon (Luke 2 28-32); 12. Love songs. 13. A violent earthquake shook the jail (Acts 16:25-26); 14. Seven - trumpets, harps, lyres, drums, flutes & cymbals (Psalm 150); 15. The dead shall be raised incorruptible and we shall all be changed (1 Corinthians 15:52); (References taken from the Good News Bible – answers may differ slightly in other translations!)

# From The Treasurer's Calculator

Perhaps you remember back to the day of prayer we held in 2015? There was a definite vision of God's Spirit pouring out through the doors of the church out into the community, and these small green shoots are evidence of that.

As we've moved into 2017, it's been very interesting to see how the church's heart for the community is beginning to show real fruit. Our support of Woking's Foodbank is probably the most visible, but there are plenty of other conversations and initiatives going on quietly and effectively.

What does it need for the church to lift its concern for the community to another level? After all we adopted a new strapline, or catchphrase last year: "Caring Christians at the Heart of the Community".



At our Prayer and Focus Meeting in January we adopted a budget for 2017. 2016 had been a good year financially, putting us in strong position to take on whatever God asks us to do in 2017. We need to maintain that momentum, but as you can see from the numbers below it's not quite happening.

If God does lead us into the community at a different level, who knows what that might bring?

So keep praying, and ask God to speak to you about how you can give, not only in financial terms, but also in your overall commitment to the His Church – time, skills, gifts - so you can play the part God has planning for you in the unfolding of His vision here.

*Eric*

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Our recent offering figures...Thank you.

	Sep '16	Oct '16	Nov '16	Dec '16	2016	Jan '17	Feb '17	YTD
Actual	£731	£768	£692	£911	£ 808	£619	£757	£681
Target	£813	£813	£813	£ 813	£ 813	£833	£833	£ 833