



# Newsletter

## HARVEST

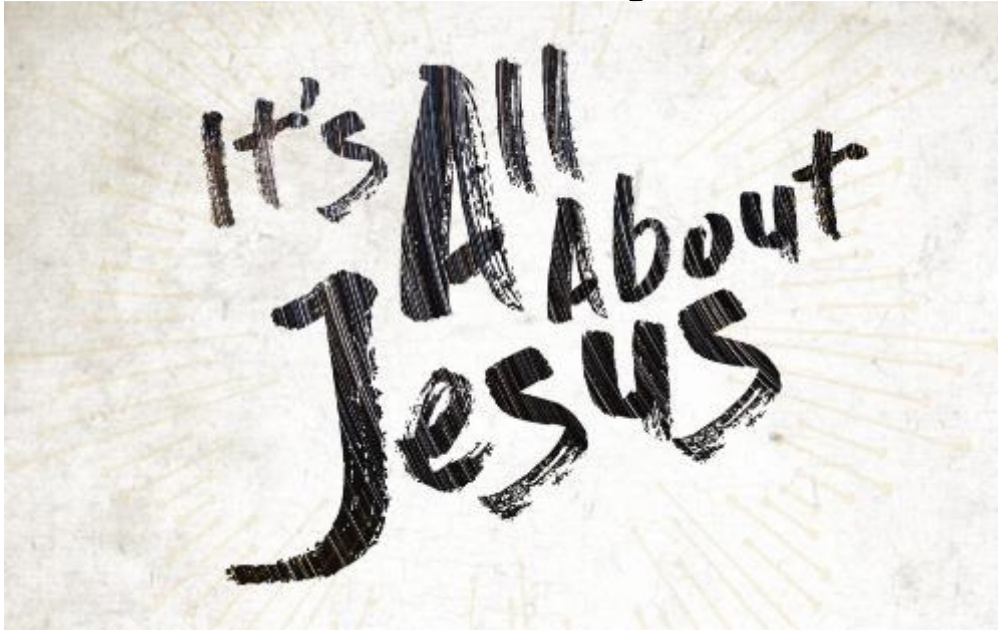


*Fields of corn give up your ears  
now your ears are heavy  
Wheat and oats and barley spears  
all your harvest levy  
Where your sheaves of plenty lean  
when once more the grain shall glean  
of the Ever-living God  
the Lord will bless the field  
bringing its Autumn yield  
gladly to Thanksgiving*

**Come ye thankful people come**



## *Pastor's Page*



Cary Grant once told how he was walking along a street and met a man whose eyes locked onto him with excitement. The man said, 'Wait a minute, you're... you're – I know who you are; don't tell me – uh, Rock Hud – No, you're...' Grant thought he'd help him, so he finished the man's sentence: 'Cary Grant.' And the fellow said, 'No, that's not it! You're...' There was Cary Grant identifying himself with his own name, but the man had someone else in mind.

John says of Jesus, 'He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognise him. He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him' (John 1:10,11). The Message, a modern version of the Bible, translates John 1:10-12 as 'He was in the world, the world was there through him, and yet the world didn't even

notice. He came to his own people, but they didn't want him. But whoever did want him, who believed he was who he claimed and would do what he said, he made to be their true selves, their child-of-God selves.'

This is my last Newsletter article before Jim and I move from Knaphill to take up the pastorate of Abbey Baptist Church, Reading in November. I do not have much time left to communicate what is really important. There is only one thing. It is that IT IS ALL ABOUT JESUS. He is the focus of our lives. We often sing, 'Jesus be the centre. Be my source... Be my hope... Be my vision... Be my path... Be my guide.' May we not just sing the song but live the life.

On one of perhaps many occasions when Jesus visited his friends Martha, Mary and Lazarus in Bethany, a village a few miles outside Jerusalem, Martha was so absorbed with the busyness of preparing the meal that she became distracted and anxious. Her sister Mary did not allow herself to get so bogged down and went to sit at Jesus' feet listening to what he said. She had been helping but knew when to stop because there was something more important to do. Jesus said to Martha, 'You are worried and upset about many things, but only one thing is needed. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her.' Martha allowed herself to be pulled away, but Mary kept her focus on Jesus. May we be more like Mary sitting at the feet of Jesus listening to him, learning, resting in him, deliberately taking time to be with Jesus and making him the centre of our lives. It really is all about Jesus.



# *Editor's Ramblings*

## **Welcome**

We keep a welcome in the hillside, we keep a welcome in the vales and we keep a welcome when we come back home to Wales. A lovely ballad sung by the late Sir Harry Secombe.

I love Wales and we have friends there and we welcome their correspondence and news from time to time.

It is always good to receive a welcome and to be able to welcome people whatever the circumstances.

Many years ago I happened to be home at lunch time and about 12-30 there was a knock at the door. When I answered it there was a young lady standing there. I obviously didn't recognise her and before I spoke she said it was Pret. She was Todd Lloyd's daughter who was a stalwart of the Church of Christ and was a good friend. She had married and was on her way back home to Scotland and wanted to use the loo. It was a short welcome but a joy to meet up again. She wouldn't stay as she was on her way home, we still keep in touch.

We have been and are still a welcoming church and it is nice to feel welcome wherever you go. On our coaching holidays when we arrive at the hotel the first thing the driver does is to let the manager or the receptionist know we have arrived. They usually come to the coach and welcome us and tell us about the accommodation etc. It's usually a welcome with tea, coffee, biscuits etc. before we go to our rooms.

When we had our old dog and we had been out for a bit we certainly got a welcome from her when we got home.

You can probably think of many other kinds of welcome.

To those who love and have accepted Jesus into their lives there will be a welcome home as Jesus promised in John 14:

Jesus comforts his disciples

"Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God, trust also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms, if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. You know the way to the place where I am going".

When my thoughts "turn to welcome" I wasn't expecting to include a farewell as well. It seems as if it was only yesterday that we welcomed Julia to be our Pastor, but it is with not a little sorrow that we announce Julia's Resignation as minister on her acceptance of a call to serve as minister at Abbey Baptist Church, Reading. Julia and Jim's last Sunday with us will be 28th October. We wish Julia and Jim every blessing in their new and exciting calling, and pray that God will make plain his plans for KBC in the coming months.



My thanks again to those who have contributed to the magazine.  
There must be some budding writers among you, so what about it?  
The next magazine will be the Winter edition, what about your thoughts on "What does Christmas mean to me?"

It needn't be long, just your thoughts. What about a Christmas poem?

## *IT IS IMPORTANT*

We don't know how long we will be without a minister / pastor.  
Our prayer is that it won't be too long, but we are in the Lord's hands and timing. What is important is that we continue to bind together and gather together for Sunday worship.

Remember we come to worship Him, not whoever is in the pulpit.

But those who come to preach need our full support.

When and if somebody comes with a "view" let's make sure we - have a full congregation.

I have always had a vision for the church and God hasn't let us down yet. I believe with the right leadership we can still go places, so keep on praying.

## *FELLOWSHIP NEWS*

Craig has been very unwell and is seeking new employment. It was good to see him back on Sunday. Please pray for the whole family.

Ellen Goode had a short spell in hospital. It is good to see her back in church again. Our thanks to Sohan for bringing Ellen and Eileen to church on Sunday mornings.

Congratulations to those who did well in their recent exams.

HARVEST Pray for the Harvest service on 30th September and sign up your names for the meal.

## *"John in Gethsemane"* (by Sherwood E Wirt)

The grass is pleasant here  
rains have given the earth a chance to soften  
I wonder we have not come to Gethsemane  
more often.

We are worn out from the Temple crowds  
I can hardly stay awake  
I wish he would join us and get some rest  
for his own sake.

But ever since supper he has seemed strange  
something on his mind -  
I expect it will all work out tomorrow  
and we can unwind.

How drowsy it all seems this evening  
and the earth  
how kind.



## **OPERATION AGRI HYMN**

(Tune: Go Forth)

Praise God, whose grace has guided hour by hour,  
From small beginnings, by his Spirit's power.  
When first the call was answered, none could know  
How deep and wide God's Kingdom work would grow

Praise for the lives enhanced by timely aid:  
Land growing more, by simple changes made;  
Food for the family and with some to sell,  
And healthy water from a village well.

Praise for the Partners, patient, skilful, wise,  
Ready to help, to teach and to advise:  
Training to keep accounts, to start a shop,  
To learn a trade, or try a different crop.

Praise for the many working in this land,  
Bringing their gifts of money, time and hand,  
All work in faith, and most will never see  
How Christian love in action, can set free.

Praise for the glimpses given in Scripture's page,  
Showing the vision of God's golden age.  
Hope and a future are his will for all,  
And this we humbly take to be his call.

By Stella Read. © 2007 Operation Agri.

## *I Met Jesus*

I had walked life's way with an easy tread,  
Had followed where comforts and pleasures led  
Until one day in a quiet place I met Jesus face to face.

With station and rank and wealth for my goal,  
Much thought for my body, but none for my soul,  
I had entered to win in life's mad race, when I met Jesus face  
to face.

I met Him and knew him and blushed to see  
That His eyes, full of sorrow, were fixed on me;  
And I faltered and fell at His feet that day, While my castles  
melted and vanished away

Melted and vanished and in their place  
nought else did I see but Jesus' face,  
and I cried aloud "Oh make me meet to follow the steps of  
thy wounded feet!"

My thought is now for the souls of men,  
I have lost my life to find it again,  
E're since one day in a quiet place, I met Jesus, face to face.

## Memories from May

It's the last Saturday in May. As I write this I am sitting just outside a tent. It's about [9pm](#) and I am listening to worship music being played live on stage and watching a hot air, with a very special message balloon rise up over the campsite.

"But where are you?" I hear you ask. Well I'm spending the weekend volunteering at BCDO. "What's that?" It's Big Church Day Out. A two day Christian music festival set in the stunningly beautiful grounds of Wiston House in West Sussex. It's probably best described as a party for Jesus, with Jesus.

There are multiple music venues across the site with lots of different Christian music artists playing sets all day and well into night. Many different musical tastes are catered for and the line-up includes well known artists such as Matt Redman, For King and Country and Graham Kendrick as well as many lesser known, but equally fantastic artists. Plus there are loads of activities for children of all ages (and I mean 0 to 90 plus!)



I'm serving on the welfare team - a little bit like Street Angels (but also very different - a big Christian camp is not quite like Woking on a [Friday night](#)). We've been helping out wherever and however we can, whether that's

ferrying water and food to very thirsty staff and volunteers, providing information, giving out sun cream or helping people put up tents to name but a few activities. Just as with Street Angels, every hour was different.

In return for 2 eight hour shifts I've been provided with a camping pitch (with decent 'facilities') 2 meals a day, unlimited tea, coffee and water as well as free entry to enjoy the festival when I'm not working. I've also made some lovely new friends.

It's great to see and hear thousands of Christians together, praising God and celebrating His great love for everyone. One of the best things was hearing from some car park stewards how grateful they were when some of the BCDO team had sent them food and water. Their employer had just left them to get on with their job, out in the baking sun, with not rest breaks scheduled and no refreshments provided. We never know the difference even a small act of kindness can make. This was a great reminder that we should always love the person in front of us, just as Jesus did.



# *Ruth's Page*

All of the following well-known sayings are found in the Bible but do you know where they appear? (or if you are stumped by this maybe you could just try guessing whether they are Old or New Testament?). Answers are at the bottom of the page.

- |                                    |  |
|------------------------------------|--|
| 1. The skin of my teeth            | 11. Spare the rod and spoil the child          |
| 2. Wolf in sheep's clothing        | 12. Am I my brother's keeper?                  |
| 3. Salt of the earth               | 13. Fat of the land                            |
| 4. Holier than thou                | 14. A lamb for the slaughter                   |
| 5. Woe is me!                      | 15. The blind leading the blind                |
| 6. Can a leopard change his spots? | 16. No peace for the wicked                    |
| 7. A drop in a bucket              | 17. An eye for an eye                          |
| 8. Eat, drink and be merry         | 18. Cast the first stone                       |
| 9. Pride goes before a fall        | 19. It is more blessed to give than to receive |
| 10. He gave up the ghost           | 20. Red sky in the morning                     |

1. Job 19:20; 2. Matthew 7:15; 3. Matthew 5:13; 4. 1 Timothy 6:10; 5. Isaiah 6:5; 6. Jeremiah 13:23; 7. Isaiah 40:15; 8. Ecclesiastes 8:15; 9. Proverbs 16:18; 10. Job 14:10; 11. Proverbs 13:24; 12. Genesis 4:9; 13. Genesis 45:18; 14. Isaiah 53:7; 15. Matthew 15:14; 16. Isaiah 48:22; 17. Exodus 21:24; 18. John 8:7; 19. Acts 20:35; 20. Matthew 16 2-3.



# *IT'S SHOEBOX TIME AGAIN!*

## *Important changes for 2018/9*



It's time to dust off the Christmas wrapping paper, find some empty shoeboxes and start filling them with gifts for a child who may not receive anything else this Christmas. OCC "Ready to go" boxes (which don't need wrapping) will soon be available at the back of the Church for 50p each, together with this year's leaflet giving information on what to put in (and what not to put in) your box.



Some important changes to the items allowed in our shoeboxes are being introduced for **2019** as toothpaste and sweets will no longer be allowed. The local team would like us to start



implementing the changes this year and recommend that we don't include sweets and toothpaste, although you will notice that in the leaflet toothpaste and sweets are still mentioned in the list of gift suggestions.

I was quite surprised to learn that it was only the UK and Germany that still included toothpaste and sweets in their boxes. This could mean that if a country receives boxes from more than one donor country, some children in a group may have sweets in their boxes while others may not, which could cause disappointment. But much more importantly than that, the strict customs regulations in some countries mean that last year when 88,000 boxes went to Liberia from the UK, the customs officials wouldn't let them into the country unless OCC could tell them the use-by date and contents of the



toothpaste in each box! In the end OCC had to pay a £16,000 fine to get the shoeboxes released. If banned items are found during a spot check on shoeboxes in some countries, not only does OCC face hefty fines but our partners in that country could end up in prison.



But please don't worry - every box is carefully checked by the teams of volunteers before being sealed and sent off and so if you do include something that cannot be sent it will be removed and passed on to local food banks and charities where they are very gratefully received and put to good use.



Last year 11,012,840 Shoeboxes were donated worldwide with 678,942 from the UK. Shoeboxes are often sent out to areas that have suffered a disaster. Having seen the outstanding effect Shoeboxes had on their children when boxes were sent to Japan after the Tsunami, they now make up their own shoeboxes to send around the world.

If you are unable to get out-and-about anymore or don't feel up to doing a Shoebox (or if it simply isn't your thing!) there are other ways in which you can still be an important part of Operation Christmas Child. Please speak to Ruth Moore or check out the display which will be appearing at the back of the Church after the Harvest celebrations.



Please speak to Ruth if you would like to be involved with checking boxes this year - it need only be for a couple of hours one morning (although often people do find that after their visit they start clearing their diaries to make time to go again!).

**"It is difficult for one person to change the world, but you can change the world for one person"**

## *We Will Remember Them*

A poem that was found on a dead U.S. soldier- he had written it just before losing his life during a battle in the Second World War.

"Look God, I've never spoken to you  
but now I wanna say 'how are you',  
You see God, they told me you didn't exist  
And I like a fool believed all this

Last night from a shell-hole I saw your sky  
And figured right then they told me a lie  
And I'm taking time to see things you've made  
I have known they weren't calling a spade, a spade

I wonder God if you'd shake my hand  
Somehow I feel you would understand

Funny, I had to come to this hellish place  
Before I had time to see your face

Well, I guess there isn't much more to say  
But I sure am glad I met you today

I guess the zero hour will soon be here  
But I'm not afraid since I know you are here  
And there's the signal

Well God, I like you a lot, I want you to know  
Look now, this will be a horrible fight  
Who knows, I may come to your house tonight

Though I wasn't friendly to you before  
I wonder God if you'd wait at your door  
Look, I'm crying, me shedding tears

I wish I had known you these many years  
Well God, I have to go now,  
Goodbye

Strange, since I have met you  
I'm not afraid to die"

## *A Final Thought*

### FAILURE VERSUS SUCCESS

We learn many lessons in the book of Jonah, but the thread that connects them all together is the mercy of God. We see it in His pursuit and restoration of Jonah, His sparing of the sailors and His miraculous salvation of Ninevah. Also in full view is the spiritual failure of Jonah:

Who experienced mercy but gave none;

Who received love but returned none;

Who benefited from the patience of God but resented God  
for showing that same patience to Ninevah;

It's easy to forget that the one who is forgiven much should love much and the one who as received mercy should be merciful. There's an old hymn that says "There's a wideness in God's mercy like the mercy of the sea". But even that's not wide enough. The ultimate expression of the wideness of God's mercy is that of the outstretched arms of Christ nailed to a cross and dying for our sins.

How each of us responds to that mercy is the issue on which our eternity hangs. Jonah was "successful" in running from God's mercy, but his greatest failure was in not wanting others to be allowed to experience that mercy. God grant that we would succeed in gratefully and obediently taking his mercy to those who need it as much as we do.

## From The Treasurer's Calculator

I wrote last time about the importance and hence the stress of taking exams. The results are now in and I know most are pleased with the outcomes. Congratulations, and may God go with you onto the next stage of your career or education

But of course I have to turn my attention to the news, received with sadness, that Julia and Jim will be leaving us at the end of October. A change of minister is disruptive to a church and to the minister, moving them both from a comfortable relationship (I hope) to uncertainty, anticipation, nervousness, perhaps not quite terror, but above all it leads us to a much stronger dependence on the Lord.



We need that stirring up occasionally, that making uncomfortable, because we do need that reminder that we need God. And it's in our dependence on Him that we are strengthened, and in that strength we are then able to do so much more for Him.

But perhaps you're also asking questions about where God is leading us as a church. Is he saying that the vision of a community based and focussed church, that we've been working towards with Julia, is wrong? Is He

looking for a change of direction?

I personally don't think either of those are true. I've had all of those thoughts, and more, but keep coming back to the understanding that He is in control, this was always His plan, and that having got us started on this vision through Julia's ministry, He both needs Julia to be in Reading, and somebody new to be with us so that He can all take our service for Him forward. And maybe, just maybe my first point comes into play – it's time for us to take the next step without being able to hide behind a minister or let the minister do everything. Yes, it will be uncomfortable, but we will be blessed for taking it, and better able to serve too.

And so to what is supposed to be the subject of this page, our finances.

We have now completed the annual external Independent Examination of our 2017 accounts. There is very little to report on the numbers, they all stood scrutiny, but we have been reminded of a number of control processes to which we must give more attention, and have expanded a number of the accompanying notes and disclosures that go with the numbers to make the full accounts.

- Our process for internal accountability and scrutiny are not bad, but could do with some sharpening – counting the offering should always be done by two people and preferably not the treasurer, sign-off of expenses should be formal not implied, decision making for significant expenditure more carefully recorded.
- The Baptist Pension Fund deficit continues to weigh heavily on the Baptist Family, and whilst great work is being done to whittle this down to manageable levels in less than a generation, there remains a significant cloud over our and every church's accounts.
- Julia's departure brings that into sharp relief as yet again we have to negotiate the legal minefield so as not to trigger the theoretical £80,000 debt into suddenly becoming due.

The good news is that our examiners are Christians, they understand small churches, and whilst they express the formal disappointment necessary, they understand these things are more difficult, in small churches. BUT, we do need to listen to their advice, and continue to aim towards the highest possible standards.

Finally I return to my first theme. Thank you to all those that have already volunteered to take on new duties as Julia and Jim leave –

I pray and ask that many more will join them!

Eric

Our recent offering figures... Consistently below last year, but so is our expenditure at the moment. Thank you.

[illegible]