

## **Excited about Mission!**

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**Timothy Keller** @timkellernyc :- "Being public about your faith simply means not hiding the wellspring of your life, not hiding who you truly are."

### **Local Preachers Annual Retreat**

**Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> Oct** 10am – 3:40pm At Jump Church, Barnsley - Speaker :- Speaker Rev Mike Stringer and Paul Whalley LP Contact Carol Nichols for more info. [carolnicholls72@gmail.com](mailto:carolnicholls72@gmail.com)

### **WRU Half Yearlies Evening Meeting - Speaker Geoffrey Lee**

"The Problems and the Possibilities of the little Chapel."

**Saturday 21st Nov 6:30pm** - Jump, Barnsley

### **Mexborough** (Rotherham, Mexborough and Doncaster Circuit)

**Steve Hunt writes** : In July, we held our 5th annual **Football Crazy Outreach event**. Again this was held at Mexborough Comprehensive school with fun coaching and games on Thursday and Friday evenings followed by our Football Tournament on Saturday.

This year we included a Family Fun aspect to the Saturday with two bouncy castles and face painting along with food and refreshments served from our Refresh Cafe which added an extra dimension to the day attracting many families to spend the day with us. Throughout the day we had people connecting with each of the families represented and also **gave each family the Billy Graham The Cross DVD** to take away with them. Over 80 children/ young people participated in the event with many families coming along on the Saturday for the Family Fun day and this was supported again by a fantastic group of volunteers.

A few weeks later in the Summer, we held our annual **Summer Holiday Club** at the end of July at our building on New Oxford Road. Again this included lots of fun, games, crafts, drama and singing with this years theme being **Mission North Pole**. This is another event which like the football continues to grow each year and we had about 100 different children aged 4 to 9 years attend over the week with the place being packed to the rafters along with a fantastic team of volunteers.

In addition to these two events, we have also been involved with another project and initiative taking place over the Summer. In partnership with the local Miners Welfare Athletic Club, Youth Centre and local council MLC is supporting a project called the **Mexborough Community**

**Campus Project** which aims to provide positive activities for young people throughout the summer holidays and October half term. **Volunteers from the church** have been involved in going out into the local community on a **Mobile Bus** to meet and engage with young people as well as providing football coaching sessions for them during two weeks of the holiday. In the Autumn, the church will follow this up with a number of outreach activities through the **Blue Chair Youth Cafe** project to continue to build relationships with young people in our local community.

We are grateful to God for all these opportunities to serve the local community of Mexborough and share the good news of Jesus with children, young people and families and pray that He will continue to use these for His Glory.



## Bethel Community Church (Bierley - Bradford Circuit)



**Margaret Denison writes :** Over the summer we have had a **"Fun Day"** for the children of our Ignite Group and then had a day out with them at Malham. Both of these activities were very positive experiences and helped us build relationships with the children. In addition to our current midweek meeting for Primary aged children we are commencing an early evening "drop in" on an additional night. We are hoping that we will be able to build upon the work already started with what are, in the main, unchurched young people. In the last few weeks our **Youth Hall/Coffee Room has undergone an all over refurbishment** which we trust will make our premises more inviting. Our grand re-opening will coincide with the weekend of our **Chapel Anniversary and Gift Day when we will be celebrating 160 years of our church in Bierley.** We shall be inviting our friends and neighbours for a Cream Tea on the Saturday afternoon and our Celebration Service on the Sunday. Also in September we shall be holding a MacMillan Coffee Morning which if previous occasions are anything to go by will be a well attended event and another opportunity to meet those who live close by. **A Quiz night** is planned for later in the year. Many new homes have been built in our area and we hope to cover some of these homes with our invitations. On Sunday Mornings over the Autumn months the **Alpha Course** will be the content of our preaching and teaching. We are seeking God for growth in each of our congregations - Sundays, Church@5, and with the Young People as we seek to reach others with the love of Christ and also growth in our church facilities recognising that as our numbers grow so is the need for expanded premises. We are seeking to lay good foundations on which others will be able to build. We thank God for 160 years of witness in Bierley and look to Him for the years to come.



## Mission Toolkit : Home Missions Publication

The Mission Toolkit, is an exciting resource FREE for your WRU Church. Just download from here <http://www.thewru.com/home-missions/> or ask Andy for a copy. It enables you to prayerfully take a look at your own church and make plans for the future. For example looking at is you **Church a Place of Welcome** and Belonging, **Worship and Prayer**, Nurture, **Discipleship** and Vocation. Do you have a Clear Mission and Purpose and **Good Collaborative Leadership**? Are you a **Base for Evangelism**, Outreach and Numerical Growth.



## Pitstone and Ivinghoe

**Terry Lamb writes :** Our monthly "First Thursday Friends" tea events continue.



We are planning a special harvest festival service on the afternoon of September 20. It will be held in a large barn at the village farm museum where we will be surrounded by old farming equipment. A silver band will entertain for 30 minutes and they will then lead us in the traditional harvest hymns during the service, after which refreshments will be served.

Colourful posters are publicising the event and flyers handed out. We pray that we will be blessed with many visitors for this unique occasion.



## The Little Chapel (Bedworth)

**Graham Johnson writes** : Along with Natalie and a few other local Christian motorbike riders we have formed the **Heart of England Christian Bikers**.

We meet at The Little Chapel (TLC) formerly known as Bedworth WRC, on the last Saturday of each month.

We have only been in existence for a few months but have already met with friends from North East Derbyshire & Sheffield Christian Motorcyclists (NEDS), and some of their number came down to TLC for a barbecue recently.

The **barbecue** took place on the church forecourt and it attracted some attention from local residents. Or maybe it was the rather impressive line up of motorbikes?

We are starting to attract attention from other Christian bikers too, and we have one member who is not a Christian but is, in his own words, 'intrigued' by us!

We are planning more events and ride outs for the rest of the year, aimed at making Jesus known to the local community.



## Griffydam (Ashby-de-le-Zouch)

**Cliff Darby writes** : At Griffydam we are **undergoing some changes to the inside of chapel**. We have removed the rostrum and the end of building along with the old pulpit. The floor is now completely level which will enable us to use it more effectively for our mid-week activities, and our friends at Jump are in the process of building a new (movable) pulpit which will enable us to use the worship area more flexibly. We



are now eagerly awaiting a repaint as we are due to host an **Alpha course** jointly with the St Helens CofE church in Ashby de la Zouch starting mid-September.

While all of this has been going on, we ran a **two day**

**Holiday Club** in the nearby village of Swannington which attracted over thirty youngsters. This was held in that village's primary school thanks to the generosity of its headmaster. We were also able to run two of our Sunday morning services there while our own church was out of commission.

## Worsbrough (Barnsley Circuit)

**Emma Wilcock writes** : We are taking part in the above weekend as a fellowship and are just deciding what we will do on the Saturday and Sunday. We have produced a prayer diary so that we are all praying for the same street, business and people we know each day.

We are having a morning serving bacon butties free to the community (nothing to do with the prayer weekend) but a hope that we will be able to meet members of our community in a relaxed environment. That's on Wednesday 9th September (will have to check that date and will email you if it's not right. Also we are holding a Macmillan Coffee morning on Wednesday 23rd September so you can imagine how busy we are and will be!

We have today circulated local businesses, schools, councillors etc asking for prayer request - and we keep think of others we need to contact such as the police etc.!

We have just ordered new signs for outside the church in the hope to help people to see we are open!

We have a new website but need help to link to the wru church one - is this something you would be able to help us with please.

## Heckington (Sleaford Area)

**Phyl Redpath writes** : Here at Heckington we have been very busy in that we now have a new kitchen, notice board outside and Cross outside, making Chapel more noticed. We shall be starting in Sept hopefully to do another study with Rev Chris from C of E and open for whoever wishes to come, we pray constantly for revival, but it's all in God's time.

## **Beacon** (Bradford Circuit)

**Michelle Norton writes :** The new building was Officially opened in June with over 120 people attending. The Friendship Group held a Coffee Morning in aid of The Nepal Earthquake disaster. A full coach of members and friends enjoyed a lovely Church Outing in July to Crich Tram Museum and Haddon Hall in Derbyshire enjoying the best of the summer sun. The Community Choir is a very important part of life at The Beacon and held a very enjoyable evening of songs and poems to entertain a packed church hall. The Pie & Pea supper after the entertainment was also top class. The Community Choir also enjoyed their 'End of Summer Term' quiz and supper night. In September our Harvest Festival will take place with our Pastor Ron Stockley leading the service together with help from other members. After this service we shall be having a Harvest lunch - homemade harvest vegetable soup with bread rolls and buns & cakes to finish!

Hopefully in the Autumn we will have a Quiz & Curry(or some other delicacy). We have set up a Social Diary on the wall but await suggestions! Ann & myself keep meeting to discuss and plan and encourage others to get involved with events.

A few of us have been involved in a Worship Leaders Course and have met together a few times. We hope to lead the weekly services

## **Oughtibridge** (Sheffield Circuit)

**Jackie Shapland writes :** We are continuing to hold social events to which we can invite our friends who are not yet believers, and, encouragingly, they seem to enjoy joining us at these.

- Recently we had a [Treasure Hunt](#) around the village followed by a picnic in the park.
- The [Men's Forum](#) group is open to all men in the community who are free on alternate Tuesday mornings (therefore mainly retired men) - they have talks and go on outings, go walking (and lunching at a convenient pub!) and taking on small work projects around the village (eg at the primary school, for elderly people, helping keep the village green in shape.
- The [Ladies of Leisure](#) group similarly hold monthly meetings/outings on the last Wednesday of each month.
- On the first Saturday evening in September we will hold another [Safari Supper](#).
- Our Harvest celebrations in early October include our [Harvest Supper and Quiz Night](#) which has been oversubscribed in recent years.

God has given us some good friendships through these activities and among our neighbours, such that we have been able to invite some of these friends to investigate the gospel with us. We have found the Christianity Explored course a helpful tool with some people, but we have also used other means of introducing these friends to Jesus through the gospel message. Some have already responded positively and we continue to ask that God would continue to work in the hearts of others by His Spirit. We are also conscious of our need to keep praying for further opportunities with other friends.

This summer we began a programme of building improvements in an effort to make our 160 year old facilities more comfortable and convenient both for ourselves and groups in the community who use them. Most of this is unseen work like insulation - more visible things are planned for next summer. We are seeking funding and considering our giving towards this work. It is a different aspect of our outreach but one we feel necessary.

A new venture for September/October is a plan to hold a series of Ladies' Nights. These weekly (five) will focus on the newness of life, future, perspectives and priorities which Christianity offers. It is open to all our womenfolk from the age of 16 and to interested friends and relations. Each evening will include food and chat, small group discussion of a Bible passage, and a DVD talk. We wait to see how God will use this initiative! We hope for new things!

## **Richmond Church** (Sheffield Circuit)

We have been encouraged recently by our children's work. Tiddlywinks, our mother and toddler group, has seen 100 different children and their parents/carers come along over the last year, with a regular core coming most weeks and around 20 children each week. One Mum contacted through Tiddlywinks came to our barbecue and then asked to do the Christianity Explored course, culminating in her trusting Christ as her Saviour and rejoicing in her new found faith. We are looking forward to her baptismal service at the end of September.

A few other families have been to other events and the contacts made through this work are gradually

developing. Please pray for this continuing outreach and for opportunities to share the gospel. Please pray too for our children's clubs. "Thursday Night Upload" was in danger of shutting down earlier this year, but answered prayer, extra children and more helpers have saved this from extinction! Praise the Lord! Friday Night Download is going well, but more children and regular attendance at both these clubs would be great – please pray!

We have our Harvest Festival Supper on Saturday 19th September, our main autumn outreach event, when David Middleton will be giving an evangelistic talk following our usual pie and pea supper. Please pray for folk to come that the Lord is calling and also that our Harvest Festival Services will draw visitors in.

## Cliffe Bridge (Barnsley Circuit)

**The President Writes :** To celebrate Yorkshire Day this year Anne-Marie, Myself, Julia and Edwin took a trip out to Barnsley for a great Yorkshire Day Celebration of Pork Pie, Wensleydale cheese and great Cakes. Cliffe Bridge



had used the Yorkshire Evening material, for Quizzes but instead of running a programme of activities, they held a Coffee Afternoon, with quizzes on tables and around the walls.

It was a lovely time of Chatting, Eating and drinking proper Yorkshire Tea. They have recently had a major

refurbishment, by way of removing their pews and repainting the chapel. It look really good, and there is now space to hold events like this for their local community.



## Ibstock (Ashby Circuit)

At the end of July a number of Churches in Ibstock held a week long Holiday Club - 2-4pm based around the Scripture Union material Explorers. The picture below are some of the crafts made during the week. Please pray for the "Not so Great Escape" holiday club that will reach many of the same children during the October Half Term. Andy Wilcock will be running the activities and people from the church will be helping out with crafts and games and providing a light lunch for us all. We will be looking at the Letter of Philemon and the subject of Forgiveness, and New Life.

Their Harvest Supper will be on Saturday 26th September at

6:30pm when Colin Woods from Christian Motorbikers will be speaking. Tickets are £6 and you need to contact Ian Relf as there is limited space. A Harvest celebration service will be on Sunday 27th September.

**The not so.... Great Escape!**  
 135 Melbourne Road, Ibstock, LE67 6NQ  
 Storytelling Games  
 Great Food!  
**Holiday Kids Club**  
 Mon 19<sup>th</sup> Oct 10am to 2pm  
 Tue 20<sup>th</sup> Oct 10am to 2pm  
 For anyone aged 5 to 11  
 Crafts **Free!**  
 Activities - Games, Crafts, Stories, Quizzes, Light lunch provided  
 Contact Barbara Relf on 01753 889266  
 To book a place and for further details



## Mayfield Camp (Sheffield Circuit)

**The President writes :** We had a wonderful weekend in August camping again in the beautiful Mayfield Valley. Dave and Elaine Tuckett hosted the weekend fantastically. Dave also organised a Music Festival for the Saturday afternoon and evening. There was a wide range of music from some very gifted people. On the Sunday Hampden View Church joined us for a service, followed by lunch wonderful lunch cooked by Anne-Marie and Alina and we were able to sit outside to eat it. These kind of events are great for inviting friends for a relaxing time, maybe some who don't get a chance to go away for a holiday, and build up good friendships with them.



## Ashington Word of Life Church & Guide Post

**Michael Hedley writes :** We are now doing services in a local school each month, as well as from Guide Post holding weekly coffee mornings as outreach where we are starting to see new people attend.

We also have held a summer fair in August to raise funds for the outreach activities which was extremely successful.

We have also established a new choir and hold weekly rehearsals at the church and have a couple of non-churched people coming to that. We are starting this month a Parent Toddler Group, which will be held weekly and are also starting a luncheon club (Called FRIDAY DINER) monthly for elderly and lonely people. We have a Harvest festival supper with DIY Concert at which the choir is singing in October and have many more events planned in the coming months. We have not wasted any time in working with the good people in Guide Post and are appreciative of their help in all of our outreach activities.

We extended our coffee morning yesterday into the afternoon as the Round Britain Cycle Race passed by the church, so we had music, refreshments food etc as that was going on and that too was extremely successful in letting people know that there is a church there and introducing them to our other events.

We completely redecorated the church hall in Guide Post and made it much more attractive for people to come into, as it was looking a bit past its best, and organisations who used to use it pulled out of using it. As you saw from the pictures on facebook it looks almost completely brand new now and we are using it and will continue to use it even when we move to Ashington, when the building is refurbished on North Seaton Road, of which I am told work will commence on the 1st week in October. It is our intention to continue to run the same events in Guide Post whilst replicating them in Ashington as well as the many other things we have planned for that venue.

## Stonedge Chapel

**Philip White writes :** On Sunday October 25th we are having a special afternoon/evening at our Uppertown Centre venue. From 3.00pm - 4.00pm we are hosting an invited panel for 'The Big Questions' fielding questions from our audience as well as questions pre-submitted by email/social media etc.

The panel will include Dr Jim Bathgate - local GP

Rob Scothern- Crowded House, and former Major British Army

John Bown - retired Police Superintendent Derbyshire Constabulary, Chesterfield Street Pastors

Paul White - Nurse and former student of Welsh Evangelical School of Theology

We will follow this with food and then John Pickering will be rounding off the evening from 6.00 pm singing and speaking.