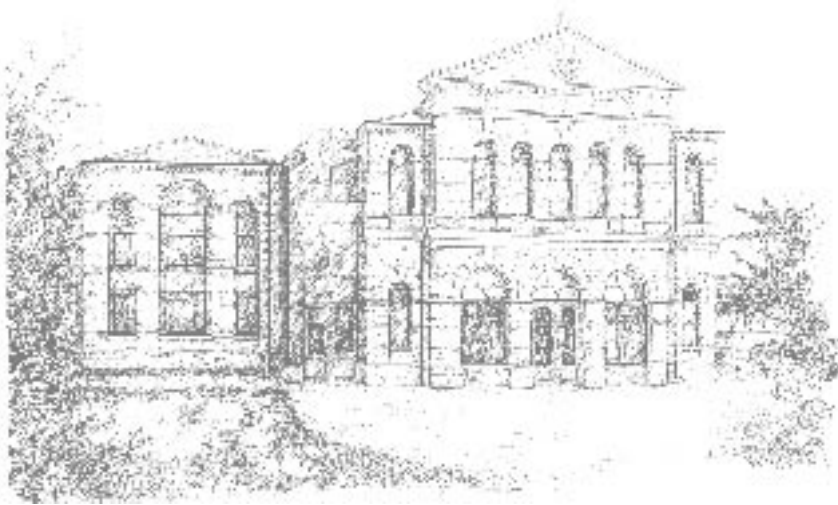




**Wokingham
Baptist Church**



The Magazine

September 2006

Pastoral Letter



Dear Friends,

Before we get stuck into another season of mission and ministry as a Church it is always good to pause to take stock and celebrate! Because sometimes we get so focused on what is coming next that we fail to appreciate all that God has been doing and is doing right now. Celebrations along the journey stir up great thankfulness in our hearts, refresh us in our vision, energise and inspire us for the next leg of the journey. Remembering what God has done up to this point also strengthens our faith and trust in God so that we can journey on with boldness and continue to move out of our comfort zone and into the faith zone! Now it is going to be hard for me to capture all that God is doing in and through us in one short pastoral letter, but I offer my own reflections and maybe you would let me and others know how you see God at work and see our vision to “Make disciples and make room for them” a becoming a reality. I would love to hear from you!

In making disciples and making room for them we need to be careful that Jesus is always the centre of our life together. If this gets lost in the midst of everything then we are seriously off beam. But I want to celebrate our prayer life as a Church. We now have three groups meeting during the week and this in addition to all the praying

that happens in services, corporate prayer gatherings, the deacon’s prayer meeting, the deacons and Champions prayer meeting, small groups and prayer triplets. And leading and resourcing this area is Val Radley, our Champion for Prayer. When it comes to prayer there is always more that could be done, but I believe that we should celebrate where we have got to and thank God that He is stirring us to take prayer seriously.

When it comes to actually making disciples there is no doubt that we have much to celebrate! Through personal witness, courses like Alpha and Journeys, through the ministry of the Church, people are finding faith in Jesus Christ. Recently a newly baptised young person said to me, “I only came to Youth Alpha because someone said there was free food, but when I came I was interested to hear more. If it wasn’t for that free food I wouldn’t be where I am today!” It is fantastic to share with people in their journey to discover faith and then to celebrate with them as they are baptised. We have already had three baptisms so far this year and there are eight more planned at the moment! Each one is a special celebration of God’s grace and power.

But making disciples is not just about bringing people to faith in the first place, it is also very much about a lifetime’s commitment to follow Jesus and learn from Him. I have been really encouraged to see people responding to God’s call to serve in different ways. Some are seeking to live their lives for God as Ministers, evangelists and in youth ministry. Many are seriously engaging with what it means to live for

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Jesus in their everyday lives. I believe we should also celebrate the many times when people have gone out of their way to serve and help others in practical ways. I am seeing the Church being the Church; reaching out to those who do not yet know Christ and also being a loving community not only within the “family”, but also in the community. And when it comes to the number of people who have volunteered to serve through The Big Idea, well I just want to praise the Lord from the roof-tops! How can we not celebrate when there are so many finding faith and living out that faith day by day?!

Making disciples is also about releasing a people who will have local and global impact through sacrificial giving and generosity. I see many people giving their time to care and love others in ongoing supportive relationships. I also am moved by the way people have been generous and open-handed in funding different mission and ministry

opportunities. To be able to give from our plenty to meet the needs of others is a huge privilege and cause for celebration. To be able to bless others and make possible the impossible in God’s name is awesome. Let’s celebrate all God’s blessing to us and share generously with others.

Does all this celebration mean that the job is done? Of course not! There are many people in Wokingham who have not yet had the opportunity to respond to the Good News that is Jesus Christ. There are many who still need our love, care and support. There is much still that the Lord has in store for us and ways that he wants to use us in the building of His Kingdom. But it is good and right to pause on the journey and say, “Wow, God has done amazing things in us and through us. Praise His name. Let the glory go to Him!”

Your fellow disciple,
Lynn Green

Church lunches

We will be back serving church lunches on Thursday 7 September at 12 noon. Come and enjoy a snack lunch with soup, filled rolls, quiche, jacket potatoes and a special for the month. There will be yoghurts, fresh fruit and gateaux available too. Come along and catch up after the summer break. We take last orders at 1.30 p.m.

Deirdre Williams and Enid King

Tuesday Prayer Meeting

We will be meeting each week in September from 2 p.m. for an hour in the lecture room. Come along and join us for all or part of the time. If you have any prayer requests, either contact me or leave a note in the pigeon holes.

Enid King

Thursday Bible Study

We will restart on Thursday September 14, at 11 a.m., in the lecture room.

Enid King

News From The Pastoral Care Team

Congratulations are due to Anne and Malcolm Ray-Smith on the birth of their first grand daughter Charlotte, a daughter for Liz and Martin, also congratulations to Gary and Ann Tuttle on their recent Silver Wedding Anniversary. Cath Moss has retired from her part-time job, and we wish her every blessing for the future.

Give thanks for Kelly Marshall who was recently baptized and for all those who helped her on her journey of faith.

David Eaton continues to make excellent progress after his second major heart operation and we thank God for this. Dorothy Sacree is making good progress at home and Brian is able to take her out in a wheelchair. Ethel King suffered a stroke recently and is making good progress and we pray that her speech may quickly return to normal. Val Radley has had a spell in hospital but is now home and recovering also Alison Mitchell-Dwelly spent some time in the cardiac unit but is now home. Phyllis Kay is now settled in a home in Crowthorne, we remember her and Deirdre and John.

We continue to pray for those seeking work and those facing redundancy, and we thank God that Stuart Green has now found a six month contract. We were pleased to hear that Kin-Yip has successfully completed three month’s probation and he has settled in and is enjoying the work.

Rob Wilkie and family, as well as Rob’s mother are very much in our prayers as they care for Rob’s father who is very seriously ill. Please continue for Lyn and George Green as Lyn’s Mother is very ill with cancer. Continue to remember many of the older friends, including Marie and Ted Solly, and John and Gwyneth Mason who need our prayer support.

We would like to thank all those who have given up so much of their time to help Anne and Malcolm in the major task of the clearance of Rhoda Hotten’s bungalow.

Please continue to let any of the team know if you hear of any problems with people in our fellowship.

Mary and David Garrod on behalf
of the Pastoral Care team

October Magazine

The deadline for the September magazine is 12 noon Sunday 10 September. Please email items to matt@endash.net or place in the pigeon hole as normal.

Any articles, or short thoughts from the Big Idea will be most welcome.

Matt Bugg

Church Meeting

Wednesday 20
September
at 8 p.m.

Called to be an Evangelist

As you will be aware if you were at the July Church Meeting, Karl Relton has a strong sense that God is calling him to seek training and recognition so that he can become an accredited evangelist with the Baptist Union. Karl shared his sense of call with the Church Meeting and at the September meeting there will be another opportunity for questions, discussion and prayer before we make the decision about whether we also perceive this to be God's call and therefore as a Church feel it right to commend Karl onto the next stage of the discernment process. I would encourage you to prepare for the meeting by taking the opportunity to talk with Karl and Karen and also by praying. But I also wanted to give you some background information from the Baptist Union as this is the first time we have been asked to discern a calling to be an evangelist.

The Baptist Union of Great Britain offers national recognition to those whose primary vocational calling is to evangelism within a Baptist context.

What is an Evangelist?

Evangelists are those whose gift and calling is to make Christ known on the frontiers between Church and society (Acts 21:8, Eph 4:11, 2 Tim 4:5)

The Term 'evangelist' is used as an inclusive term to avoid stereotyping the work of evangelism. Used in this way it includes not only preachers, personal evangelists, apologists and musical evangelists, but also church planters, whose gift and calling is to pioneer new

congregations.

Whilst the BU gladly recognises the work of evangelism undertaken by many Baptists in connection with other societies or organisations, the purpose of this scheme is to recognise those who work on behalf of Baptist churches, Clusters or Associations. It is envisaged that such ministry will normally be undertaken within the context of a team.

Qualities

The following qualities will be looked for in those who apply:

- A proven Christian commitment
- Evidence of growth in Christian maturity
- A compelling sense of call to evangelism
- A personality suitable for the work of evangelism
- Evidence of the necessary gifts and graces
- Evidence of having been used effectively in evangelism
- Particular gifts in personal evangelism: as an evangelistic preacher, as an apologist, as a church planter, or other particular evangelistic skills
- Perseverance
- Good interpersonal skills
- Experience in church-related evangelistic work
- The ability to work as part of a team
- A vision for and commitment to God working through Baptist churches

Please pray for Karl, Karen and Anna Relton as they seek the Lord's will for their future.

Lynn Green

That was the week

Pictorial highlights of the main week of



Over the next few pages are some very limited highlights of The Big Idea week. If you have any thoughts, comments or experiences you want to share, please let me have them in time for the October Magazine.

Matt Bugg



This Page: Pictures from the Elms Field launch event and Divine Innovation.

The Events



This page:
Pictures from the
three community
events.

Spot the difference!





Above and previous page: Selected highlights of the community projects



Left: An Evening with Syd Little
Below: Closing Finale at Cantley Park

**And its not over...
Ideas Day**

*An opportunity to brainstorm ideas for
future events*

Saturday 30 September

9.30 a.m. 'til 1 p.m.

Wokingham Baptist Church

Feel free to drop-in.



Women's Meeting

Sadly I was away at the time & unable to attend Rhoda Hotten's funeral. I have since heard the tape that was made, which brought back so many memories and I wanted to add my own.

My first were of our early days with a young family that she encouraged with little gifts and cards, and still regularly asked after them long after they were married, sending gifts and cards on the arrival of babies and other special occasions.

Of more recent years she and I have worked together leading the Women's Fellowship. A year or two back Rhoda popped in while waiting for a bus one Thursday and had been coming ever since. She loved the meeting and all the ladies in it, and they loved her.

More recently we have together been attending a monthly meeting at the Hurst Gospel Hall which she has much enjoyed.

Visiting her in hospital she spoke of the Women's Meeting telling me of speakers she wanted me to telephone while she was indisposed and encouraged us to 'Keep going'. We miss

her greatly.

The Women's Meeting has never been a secular meeting and each week we enjoy a time of singing, prayer and sometimes sharing, with a speaker each week. Our aim as it has always been, is to speak of Jesus and of His love for each of us and to learn more of His Word – a time of happy fellowship while encouraging others to join us.

Sadly this year we lost Rhoda; Marion and Phyl went into care. Also Ethel is presently unwell, but we continue to meet & enjoy our time together.

Mary Webb has kindly agreed to be our new Secretary/Speaker's Secretary. and Doris and Meg continue to play the piano for us. Three of us now share the leading of the meeting.

We welcome any new members or visitors, so do come and join us.

Angela Burrell.

Following the summer break, we look forward to seeing all those who would like to join us on Thursday afternoons at 2.30 p.m. in the Lecture Room. A warm welcome awaits you.

The September programme starts on the Thursday 14.

14 September – Revd Lynn Green will be our speaker.

21 September – Visit to the home and garden of Nina Preston (Air Ambulance).

28 September – Joan Sherman will be holding a Bible quiz.

5 October – Pete Siggery will be speaking about Tools with a Mission.

Mary Webb

Harvest Lunch

Sunday 1 October

Harvest Lunch for the whole Church family and friends.

More information will follow, but please start to think about who you could bring along.

Jonathan Edwards welcomed at Leading Edge

Hundreds of Baptists prayed for the incoming Baptist Union of Great Britain (BUGB) general secretary, the Revd Jonathan Edwards, on Sunday, the last day of Leading Edge.

BUGB President, the Revd Dr Kate Coleman led prayers for Mr Edward's new ministry at the Baptist holiday week held at Warwick School.

'This is not strictly an act of commissioning,' explained Dr Coleman. 'But it is an opportunity to totally saturate Jonathan in prayer and to recognise the moment.'

Representatives from BUGB senior management, Baptist House staff and regional ministers laid hands in prayer on Mr Edwards.

The congregation then formed a 'prayer tunnel' in the aisles that Mr Edwards, his family, regional ministers and BUGB staff walked through.

Addressing the 500-strong congregation, Mr Edwards thanked the Leading Edge team for including the ceremony in the event.

'Thank you for allowing this moment

of prayerfulness with tens of thousands of other Baptist Christians today, praying for us,' he said.

Talking about his new role as BUGB general secretary Mr Edwards said, 'I'm here today, not because I have great confidence in my ability, but I have great confidence in God and I'm here I believe in a step of obedience.'

Mr Edwards emphasised his passion for the local church and his desire to return to local Baptist ministry in the future.

'I want you to hear that I'm utterly committed to the local church. And as I do my stuff day- by-day in Didcot, it will be with your church in mind, the local church in mind,' he said.

Mr Edwards (50) officially starts as BUGB general secretary on Friday, September 1.

His successor as team leader for the South West Baptist Association, the Revd Jez Brown, also starts his new role next month.

Baptist Times

St Crispin's School Needs You!

Do you know someone who goes to St Crispin's School? Or do you work there?

I am re-starting the St. Crispin's prayer group, so come along and support the school, its pupils, and its staff in prayer (and have a coffee and a chat too).

I have planned two dates for the autumn term:

Thursday 21 September and Monday 13 November.

Both evenings will start at 8.00 p.m, end at 9.30 p.m, and the venue will be 32 Headington Drive, Wokingham, RG40 1XB.

If you cannot get to either evening, but are still interested in praying for the school, please contact me, and I will try to arrange subsequent meetings to best suit those who want to be involved.

Jocelyn Hawkins

The ministry of Reconciliation in a torn and divided World

Men's Day – at Sindlesham, 21 October

This is a reminder about the above event which covers a particularly relevant topic for all Christian men, both abroad as in the Middle East and Iraq as well as at home where threat of terrorism is leading to suspicion and alienation between ethnic and faith groups especially in recent months.

What is meant by Christian teaching on tolerance and reconciliation will be the subject of this year's Men's Day at Sindlesham.

There will be a couple of speakers and discussion sessions. Lunch will be provided. The day will run from 10 a.m. to about 4 p.m.

You will be most welcome to attend this event and it promises to be a thought- and prayer- provoking day to deepen our consciousness of, and understanding of these crucial issues in our world from the Christian perspective!

David Garrod, Men's Co-ordinator,
Thames Valley Association

Thank You

The family of Marion Campling would like to express their thanks for all the prayers and support they received following Marion's death.

Christmas is coming!

Christmas is on the horizon already! Offers are invited from those able to play musical instruments, and singers to make our Carols by Candlelight service a memorable occasion this year. We need to prepare well in advance, so please consider how you could help, and have fun at the same time.

It would only require four practices towards the end of November up to December 17 when the service takes place.

Please give it thought now and contact David Garrod, Mick Orlandini or anyone in Revelation or the Singing Group.

Proposed visit to Langesand, Norway

With reference to previous notices, remember that a trip to Langesand, Norway is being planned for next year, 22-25 June 2007 so we could take part in mid-summer festival celebrations. This should be an excellent and memorable visit so please support it if you can.

Mary and David Garrod

Cath, Wally and family would like to say how grateful for the many prayers, cards and flowers they have received while Wally was so very ill in hospital. He is making good progress now and hopes to be home in the very near future.

Cath and Wally Moss and Family

THE BAPTIST TIMES

WEEKLY SINCE 1855

Find out what's going on in the Church today

THE Baptist Times is Britain's only Baptist newspaper, and its readership extends all round the world.

It has been produced weekly since 1855 and it is the first full-colour Christian weekly newspaper in the UK.



The paper reports on the news from the Baptist denomination. But it also reflects the major events in the wider Christian Church and provides analysis of news from across the world.

It offers thought-provoking comment pieces, written by expert communicators which will help you live out your faith in the 21st century.

It provides testimonies, a regular Faith At Work profile, interviews the great and the good, reports from churches in rural and urban areas, and has a strong film, book and arts review team.

Writing for a different world