

insight

the magazine of
Easthampstead Baptist Church

May/June 2009



Reverbing with Unity

A look at youth work

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Insight

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The importance of friends

Welcome to this edition of **Insight, our Easthampstead Baptist Church (EBC) magazine.**

We produce *Insight* every two months and it includes articles, updates, diaries, prayer pointers and news about our church. If you are part of the EBC community it is vital to update you on things that are going on across the church and if you are not yet part of our community we hope that it will help you understand a bit more about us. This is the seventh edition of *Insight* which means it has now been going for over a year. I hope that you find it helpful and I also want to thank Matt Bugg who has put so much work into editing and bringing it all together.

In April we celebrated Easter together and I hope that if you were a part of our Easter events you found them helpful and inspiring. For me the highlight had to be the Easter Sunday morning service when nearly 200 of us gathered together to remember Jesus' resurrection from the dead and to share with four people who were baptised. I love baptism services. They remind me what we are all about at EBC – helping people to find God and grow in their life with him. Baptism is a great way of showing the transforming power of God at work and I really enjoy hearing people's stories of what God has been doing in them. What I really enjoyed about the baptisms on Easter Sunday was the variety of people who were being baptised and how different things that we do in the church have helped them. It was really exciting to see



Chris Porter

two of our young people being baptised and they talked about how our youth work has helped them. We have dedicated this edition of *Insight* to the youth work at EBC and various leaders and participants in that work are interviewed and talk about why they work with young people and their hopes and dreams for the things that they are involved with.

The other thing that struck me about the stories we heard from those being baptised was how each of them included friends who had played a vital part in their journey. Over 80% of people who become Christians say that the most important thing in their coming to faith was a friend. It seems that God has chosen for better or for worse to work through people like you and me to help those who don't know God to encounter him. For those who are Christians that is quite a responsibility but also an enormous privilege. To be partners with God in the work of life transformation is the most amazing thing. We have the opportunity to do just that and all it requires from us is some prayer and some courage. At EBC we run all kinds of social events and gatherings aimed at those who want to find out more about God and all we have to do is extend invitations to people to come and then sit back and see what God can do. Then who knows, maybe it will be one of our friends or family members who is baptised next Easter Sunday. How cool would that be?

Chris.



Church News

Did you know in the last two months at EBC...

We have a new member of staff

At our Church Meeting on 19th March we agreed to take on Ruth Porter on a part time basis as our Children's Worker. Ruth has been leading our Remix children's work for 2-11 year olds and was finding it increasingly difficult to juggle leading Remix as it continues to grow, her family and her job as a nurse. By employing her for 18 hours a week we can release her from a lot of her nursing commitments and free her to concentrate on Remix. We have been thinking and praying about this for some time as part of our steps of faith. As a church we believe that this is a step that we should be taking and we are now trusting God for the finances we need to pay Ruth! We are really looking forward to what will happen in our children's work and to seeing what God might do to grow and develop what happens with our youngest members.



Our architects have been working hard

At our January Church Meeting we agreed to go ahead with the feasibility study to look at the possibility of expanding our building at South Hill Road. We have employed Allen Associates architects to look at the possibilities to give us more space for hospitality, children's and youth work and for a permanent Storehouse facility. Ralph Allen has been visiting the building and working with other members of his team and they will present the first draft of their findings to the

leadership team on 21st April and then to the church on Thursday 14th May.

We have had some great social events

On Saturday 21st March we had a barn dance led for us by a local band called Pitchfork. It was an amazing evening with lots of people of all ages dancing (or attempting to dance!) We had great food and everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

Our social clusters have also been expanding. As well as running bigger social events like the barn dance we also have a number of social clusters running, which are smaller social events based around a common interest. Our crafts cluster is starting up and our walking cluster have been out and about. We also have a curry and cinema cluster and a sports cluster. For more information about these please check out the church website at www.ebc-bracknell.org and click on Social Activities.

Our next joint social event is a trip to the beach at Bournemouth on Saturday 13th June. Book the date in your diaries and watch out for more details.

We celebrated Easter together

Over the Easter weekend we used a variety of services and events to remember the events of the very first Easter. On Maundy Thursday a number of people gathered for an Agape meal to remember the last supper and then on Good Friday we had two services. Finally on Easter Sunday we celebrated together the resurrection of Jesus and shared in the baptisms of Olive, Lynne, Danny and Sam. For more information about baptism and what it means please contact Chris Porter.

We held an Action Sunday
On Sunday 29th March we had an action Sunday which was a great success. After enjoying

bacon sandwiches and a short service we participated in a variety of action events serving our local community. Teams went off to three local schools to undertake various projects, others went out litter picking and others stayed at South Hill Road to pray for our local community and make up book bags to go to children in need in Kazakhstan. Loads of people participated and we were able to show God's love through our deeds as well as our words. Thanks to everyone who was involved.

Our Alpha courses finished
Alpha is a course for those who want to find out more about Christianity and from January we ran three different Alpha courses. They all went very well and we will be running more in the future. Thanks to everyone who was involved in organising and running these courses.

We had a visit from CAP
At our Songs of Praise service in March Andy Jackson from Christians Against Poverty (CAP) was interviewed and talked about the work of CAP. CAP are an amazing organisation who help people with debt and finance issues. They have helped many people get themselves out of debt and to manage their money much better. It was so inspiring to hear Andy talk about what CAP are doing and the lives that they are changing. For more information about CAP please ask in the church office.

We welcomed some new members

At our Church Meeting in March we welcomed Danny Perchard, Lynne Barraby, Lisa Chambers and Samantha Edgson as Church Members.

We praise God for all the good things which are happening in the life of the church and for all those involved in helping in all the different ministries.

Reverbing

Three tourists were driving through Wales. As they were approaching Llanfairpwllgwyngyllgogerychwyrndrobwllllantysiliogogogoch (a real place by the way!), they started arguing about the pronunciation of the town's name.

They argued back and forth until they stopped for lunch. As they stood at the counter one asked the teenaged employee, "Before we order, could you please settle an argument for us? Would you please pronounce where we are. . . very slowly?" The girl leaned over the counter and said, "Burrrrrr, gerrrrrr, Kiiiiing!!!"

A fifteen-year-old boy came bounding into the house and found his mum in bed. He asked if she were sick or something. He was truly concerned. His mum replied that, as a matter of fact, she didn't feel too well. The son replied, "Well, don't worry a bit about dinner. I'll be happy to carry you down to the stove!!!"

Young people sometimes get a hard time in Britain today. We like to judge young people on what they wear or where they hang out or how old they are. Very often these judgements are completely

unjustified. One of our values as a church is that: "We want to be an inclusive, attractive community." This means that anyone regardless of their age should be welcomed and valued at EBC. This includes children and young people.

Another one of our values states that: "We desire to be culturally relevant in everything that we do and in particular to use the arts to effectively communicate the message of Christ." This means that as well as valuing and including young people we need to be organising and running activities and events that are relevant to young people. These sort of relevant events are often very different to those that we might run for other age groups.

At EBC we run a whole variety of activities for young people that help them no matter where they might be on their spiritual journey, from social events designed to build friendships to courses and groups to help them become Christ centred.

In this edition of *Insight* we are aiming to provide information about these activities and to promote them.



with Unity



Reverb is a youth café which runs twice a month for teenagers based at Crown Wood Primary School where the Refresh coffee shop operates. It is open on the 1st and 3rd Fridays of the month and the vision is for a place for the young people of the Crown wood area to meet, offering them a place to chill out. Refreshments and activities including Wii games, table football and snooker are available.

Unity

Unity is an action packed young people's programme that includes monthly clubs, social events and Sunday morning activities appropriate for different age groups.

It is led by an enthusiastic team of people who aim to make each activity an exciting and memorable time for every young person. The aim of the leaders is to be good role models to each young person they come into contact with.

Club Unity

is for Young People aged 11-16 and meets at our South Hill Road building on the second Friday of each month from 7.30 pm to 9.00 pm.

A typical evening will include: Music - Food - Air Hockey - Dance Mats - Snooker - Table/ Board games - Non Alcoholic Cocktails - Ball and Team Games.

Unity Plus

is for Young People aged 16 - 21 and meets at South Hill Road on the First Thursday of each month from 8.00pm to 10.00 pm [except September and January when we meet on the second Thursday of the month].

A typical evening includes all that Club Unity offers with an emphasis on integrating physically disabled young people with the able bodied.

Club Unity and Unity Plus

are offered without charge to all young people, however admission is by invitation only. To receive your invitation please contact Philip Darby via our church office.

As well as the Clubs, Unity organise a variety of social events during the year. These events have included Ice Skating, Bowling, Lazer Quest, a trip to Warwick Castle and a visit to Oakwood Youth Challenge.

Unity PRAYZ

Unity Youth band usually meets each Friday from 6.30 pm to 7.30 pm to rehearse for church services or special club events. In addition to the band, tuition for guitar and other instruments are offered free of charge according to availability of tutors. A selection of instruments are available for the young people to use.

On the fourth Friday of each month we spend some time in praise and worship youth style!

Unity Live

includes outings and events featuring Christian artists. In 2008 Unity went to the Nth fest in Yeovil Somerset and the

Greenbelt Christian arts festival at Cheltenham on August Bank Holiday weekend. This year they are planning to go to the Ultimate Event at Alton Towers in May and then to Soul Survivor in August.

Sunday Unity

is for young people who attend secondary school. It meets on the first three Sundays of the month at South Hill Road between 9.15 am and 10.30 am. They usually join in with other church attenders for the first 15 minutes or so before going out for their own session. A typical session will take a fresh look at what God has to say about living life to the full in today's world. They use a variety of ways to engage with the young people. The young people occasionally write and produce their own dramas and getting involved with practical tasks is also encouraged.

Working with young people is an incredibly valuable and rewarding experience. It is lots of hard work but seeing lives changing makes it well worth it. We are always on the look out to recruit more volunteers to help out with our young people. If you would like to be involved or just want to find out a little more about working with young people please speak to Chris Porter or Steph Littlejohn who will be able to help.



“to help young people become Christ centred”

Classifieds

At EBC we believe that everyone who comes regularly to the church should serve in some way in the life of the church. We want to do this for several reasons. We believe that it builds a sense of community as we serve together to achieve a common goal, we also believe that it is a great way to become involved with EBC and to get to know people better.

Listed below are a variety of roles that are available to you to serve in at the church. Some of these require more time

Unity Youthwork Helper/Leader (12 year olds and older) Unity is one of the fastest growing ministries in our church. Unity run Sunday morning work at our 9.15am gathering, a monthly club on a Friday evening and various social events and trips. If you would like to be involved with this dynamic work please contact Phil Darby via the church office.

Drivers. Have space in your car? Happy to give people a lift to church on a Sunday? It would be great if you could help those who can't get to church unless they have a lift. Contact Eileen Charlton for more information.

Welcomers WANTED people to make visitors feel at home, if you have interpersonal skills and possess a good handshake, come and join our welcoming team. Contact Eileen Charlton for more information.

Coffee Break Helper On Wednesday mornings during term time we run Coffee Break for parents/carers and their pre-school children. Could you come and be part of this amazing event that serves our local community so well. We need people to welcome, make teas and coffees and help setup and take down the equipment. Contact Karen Bugg via the church office for more information.

Sound Team. We could have the best musicians, the best preachers but if they can't be heard there would be no point. Our sound team are some of the most important people at our gatherings. We are looking for people to control the sound. You need to have some understanding of technical things but full training is available. Contact Chris Porter for more information.

than others. However much time you feel able to give, we hope that there is something that interests you and we would encourage you to get in touch with us about what you might like to do. If you want to discuss any of these roles in more detail or would like to chat about what might fit you best, then please contact Chris Porter on 01344 487744 or email him at chrisp@ebc-bracknell.org. Eileen Charlton is contactable on 01344 487744 or via email at officestaff@ebc-bracknell.org.

Musicians and singers wanted to play at our Sunday morning and evening gatherings. Need to be competent on your musical instrument or be able to sing in tune! Contact Chris Porter who can put you in touch with the band leaders.

Multimedia creators wanted to produce great looking medias for our Sunday morning and evening gatherings. You will need to be able to use a computer. We can provide the right editing software and training. Contact Chris Porter for more information.

PC Operators On a Sunday at each of our gatherings we use PCs to show song words, medias and film clips on our big screens. Would you be able to help operate a PC – its very simple and training is available. Contact Eileen Charlton for more information.

Office Staff Volunteer On Monday to Friday mornings our church office is staffed by volunteers. They answer the phones; help people using the building find their way around and offer a great welcome to those using the building. If you have some free time during the day and would like to volunteer please contact Eileen Charlton who can provide you with lots more information.

Refreshments Food is very important in the life of our church! With our new format of Sunday morning services it is very significant. Our refreshments times help people meet up, chat and build community. Would you help with this vitally important area. If you are a bit handy with a kettle and have a passion for doughnuts, come and cater for us. Contact Eileen Charlton for more information.

Lunch Club On the fourth Thursday once a month we run a lunch club for older people. And we also run Midday Munch on the second Thursday of the month. We are looking for people to come and help on these days. You need a Food Hygiene Certificate (or be prepared to work with us to get one). Contact Eileen Charlton for more information.

Remix Children's Helper/Leader (2-11 year olds) There is never a dull moment in our children's work! Would you like to help out this dynamic area of our church life? You need to like children and have lots of energy and enthusiasm! Contact Ruth Porter on 01344 482162 or email her at rej.porter@googlemail.com for more information.

reviews



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After years of creating songs for the church, travelling the world leading worship, winning Grammy awards and developing the New Breed movement, Israel is back with a studio project.

The Power of One features songs of hope, redemption, and revelation. Guests on The Power of One include Toby Mac, Martin Smith and Mary Mary.

Israel Houghton returns with his seventh album for Integrity and his first as a solo artist since his 'Whisper It Loud' in 1996. 'The Power Of One' is a spectacular progression from the increasingly predictable live worship albums Israel & New Break enjoyed US sales success with and this ambitious set is an inventive fusion of rock, funk, gospel, reggae and pretty much everything in between. Israel rips through the 14 tracks here and sounds like he's having a blast. It's hard to listen to this album without a smile. The lyrical theme flowing through the record (and also illustrated in the accompanying booklet) is that we all have the power to make a difference. It starts with us. "The Power of One" opens with the line "What if it all depended on me, to change the world. let me be the one." There are guest appearances aplenty with something for everyone, Mary Mary and Tommy Simms provide some gospel flavour, Martin Smith does a great vocal on "Sing Redemption's

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Interviews

Continued from Page 8

and make friends, chill out and develop their spiritual interests in a relaxed and non threatening format.

Why do you give up your time and energy to be involved with youth work?

Because God told me to! Previously I was involved with leading an outreach team for adults at the South Hill Road congregation and on a leaders day in 2005 God said to me "If you want to catch more fish for me cast your net to the other side and concentrate on young people."

What are your hopes and dreams for the youth work that you are involved with?

I believe that the more contact we have with young people the more we can be good role models to them and offer to them stability in an unstable world as well as the opportunity to develop their spiritual lives. I do not see a limit to the number of young people we can be involved with although an initial goal is 300. We are currently involved with just over 100 on a regular basis.

We've heard from some of our youth leaders and we thought it would be great to hear from someone who has been a part of Unity as both a young member and now a leader. Danny Perchard came to EBC through Unity and is now one of the leaders.

Tell us a bit about yourself

My name is Danny Perchard and I'm 18 years old. I live in Bracknell with my mum. Within

the last few years I have had to look after my dad as he has Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease (CJD) so this year I have made a group on Facebook which then shows support from other people. I am currently studying at a college in Wokingham which is called E2e. My course involves studying IT and Youth Work and also adult Mathematics and Literacy. In February this year I had my driving theory exam and failed by 6 marks, so at the moment I am studying to try and pass my next theory exam. Every year I like to visit my friends in Spain and this year I'm visiting again. I like to spend time with my friends and family. I have family that I keep in contact with that live in Hong Kong and Australia.

What roles do you fulfil within the youth work in the church?

At Unity I have many roles which include being a team leader for the Entertainment and Sound and Light Teams. I also produce the Unity website and I'm also part of the Social Team. In my Entertainment Team I have Kimberley Smith and Catherine Edgson helping design and make games for all the Unity clubs. At our July and December club nights we try to do a production which the young people can perform in. In the past we have done 'Unity's Got Talent' just like 'Britain's Got Talent' and we have also done the 'The Final Countdown'. In those productions I have had excellent teams of people to help. I also update the website every so often so youth members can check for important information.

What do you think the young

people that you work with value and appreciate about what goes on?

I think that the young people appreciate the amount of work that we have to do to organise their entertainment/activities. The amount of work that the staff put in demonstrates that we place a huge value on the young people. I also think that the young people value the outings that we organise like Warwick Castle, Oakwood Youth Challenge, Bowling, Laser Quest and others.

Why do you give up your time and energy to be involved with youth work?

The reason why I give up my time and energy is because I have a vision of young people having fun, so to me I love to see every young person that we have contact with to have as much fun as they can with a smile across their face.

What are your hopes and dreams for the youth work that you are involved with?

My hopes and dreams for the future for youth work is that we have a lot more space to use within the church building

so when and if we do get the building extended then my hope is to use as much of the space as we can for youth activities. I also have visions about Unity going on holiday overseas.



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Song" and "You Found Me" has the not inconsiderable presence of Toby Mac with his hybrid rock/rap signature. Central to all of this is Israel's amazing voice. This is not a congregational album, the arrangements and production do not lend themselves to be sung on a Sunday morning. This is an album to be listened to, absorbed

and enjoyed. The album flows beautifully from rock out roof down stomps to worshipful, upward focussed ballads. A personal favourite is "Moving Forward", a song that just builds and builds and literally makes the hairs on the back of my neck stand on end. The closing medley "My Tribute" blends Andrae Crouch's "My Tribute" with "How

Great Is Our God". I've had it on constant rotation since I got it. This is the sound of an artist at the peak of his talent, this is a great album, a must have and deserves to be recognised as a classic though it will be intriguing to see what the church goes expecting neo-gospel live worship will make of this boldly inventive project.

Reviewed by Paul Kerlake

interviews

Steve and Miriam King run Reverb – our youth café at the coffee shop at Crown Wood Primary School. We wanted to find out a bit more about them and about why they are involved with young people.

Tell us a bit about yourselves

We were both born locally, Steve in Bracknell and Miriam in Crowthorne and have been married for 27 years with 2 daughters, Rachel and Louise. We met at Bracknell Baptist Church in 1980 where Miriam worked in the crèche and Steve as a steward(!) We've 3 grandsons at the moment with the hope of maybe a granddaughter in the future. Miriam works at the University of Reading as undergraduates admissions secretary for the Psychology Dept. Steve works from home pursuing a career as an artist/Illustrator since redundancy from his office designer job in 2007.

What roles do you fulfil within the youth work in the church?

We run the Youth Café "Reverb" with Phil Kerslake at the coffee shop situated at Crown Wood School currently on the 1st and 3rd Friday's of the month. We offer a few games (Wii, Table Football etc), free tea, coffee, toast and other refreshments. We are looking to offer a monthly movie (with popcorn) night to attract a

few more young people and other ideas too.

What do you think the young people that you work with value and appreciate about what goes on?

We think they value the opportunity to use a facility designed to give them a base, other than the streets, and somewhere safe to meet with their friends. They also appreciate the fact that much of what is on offer is free.

Why do you give up your time and energy to be involved with youth work?

We feel there is a need for a place in Bracknell where young people can just hang out and socialise away from the streets where they can be perceived as trouble. This is fulfilling an idea spawned over 15 years ago. Even though we travel from Reading for this commitment we feel it is worthwhile to make the effort.

What are your hopes and dreams for the youth work that you are involved with?

Our aim is to run this cafe weekly for more continuity, which is so vital to young people, but this can only be achieved with the commitment of more volunteers. A facility similar to this on every estate in Bracknell would be great.

Phil Darby runs Unity our work for 11-21 year olds that includes all kinds of different activities. We wanted to find out a bit more about the man behind Unity!

Tell us a bit about yourself

My name is Philip Darby. I am married to Pam and have been a member of EBC for about 17 years. I am on the leadership team. I work as a caretaker for the church as well as owning my own mobile disco which sees me out and about providing music for all sorts of occasions.



What roles do you fulfil within the youth work in the church?

I am the overall leader of the Unity team. Unity has two clubs... Club Unity and Unity Plus which provide social outlets for young people ages 11–21 as well as two spiritual teaching outlets... one on a Sunday morning for ages 11–16 and another on a Monday evening for ages 16–21. There is also a youth band which meets weekly and performs at Sunday services and in the clubs and a monthly Praise and Worship session known as Unity PrayZ. In addition there are various outings for both the social and spiritual.

What do you think the young people that you work with value and appreciate about what goes on?

An opportunity to meet
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