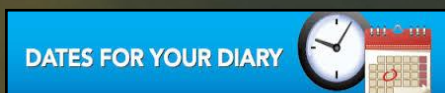


# connect

www.chinnor.org.uk

May 2017



Chinnor  
Community  
Church

Easter for this year has past and we now look ahead to Whitsun and Pentecost, another significant date in the Church calendar. These important seasons signify historical happenings and contribute to the way we mark the year but in the helter-skelter of our busy lives they can pass quickly without our giving them the reflection that might bring grace to our hearts.

Think again of Easter past. So often our thoughts and reflections move so quickly from the agony and sorrow of Good Friday to the Resurrection celebrated on Easter Sunday. In our eagerness to leave pain behind we move over Easter Saturday to the joy and exhilaration of meeting the Risen Lord on Easter Sunday. But what if we spent a little more time contemplating the thoughts, feelings and anguish of Mary and the disciples, through the darkness of the remaining hours of Good Friday and the heaviness of Easter Saturday.

Imagine the numbing ache that Mary was feeling as she remembered seeing her son murdered in front of her, seeing his blood flowing freely, sensing, as only a mother can, his agony; feeling intensely his shame and humiliation mixed with her own, going over and over in her mind, his last words from the cross. What did she make of his gut-wrenching cry, 'My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?' Did the prophetic words of Simeon, uttered so long ago come back to haunt her and were now being fulfilled, that a sword would pierce her own soul?

What did his disciples make of it? Jesus humiliated, scourged, crucified, dead and buried. How were they dealing with the suddenness of their loss and the pain and disappointment of it all? How were they processing the information about Judas and his betrayal of the one in whom they had placed all their hopes and dreams? One of their own number with whom they had eaten, joked, laughed, argued and worked with. Were they feeling guilty about running away and leaving Jesus to Judas and his captors? What immediate impact did Judas' suicide have on them? Surely, they were in turmoil, a mixture of anger, disappointment, sadness, hurt, a changing kaleidoscope of emotion, thought and feeling. What about Peter? Was he thinking of the argument he had with Jesus about washing his feet a couple of nights before, protesting his loyalty come what may and now weighed down with condemnation burning in his gut and brain that he had failed so abysmally? What were they to do

now when all their hopes and dreams of a new life, fulfilling future and a different ministry now lay broken in the dust? Peter suggested they return to their fishing. A return to the old way of life, turning back to the former pattern of things, because the dream had evaporated and only the ashes remained.

It is possible that Jesus may have had an experience of the absence of his Father on the cross, which might have been felt as abandonment or forsakenness. Jesus' possible experience is mirrored for his disciples and followers in their experience of the Saturday between Good Friday and Easter Sunday, an experience of lamentation, loss, darkness, emptiness, forsakenness, despair and absence, an experience that brings into relief the promise of covenant Jesus made with his disciples in the last meal he had with them and which was realized the following day when they met him again risen from the dead.

Sadly, the experience of feeling lost, of emptiness, forsakenness, pain, despair and absence is the experience of so many in our world today. For them it's like being marooned in Easter Saturday. They have never experienced the resurrection of Jesus Christ on Easter Sunday. The Christ we follow and worship is not a dead and buried Christ but one who is resurrected and alive. Yet even some professing Christians seem to believe in a Jesus who is more dead than alive.

As we move and look towards Pentecost we not only need to remember the sending of the Holy Spirit in power on the fledging Church but that the resurrected Christ is made real to us in the gift of the Holy Spirit. What is more necessary than simply remembering and marking the occasion is that we have a personal encounter with the Holy Spirit for it is this that makes the difference in a person's experience, transforming the experiences of Easter Saturday into the glory, joy and hope of Easter Sunday.

*John Gravett*



# Tearfund News

CHRISTIAN ACTION WITH THE WORLD'S POOR

## **TOGETHER WE CAN STOP TRAFFICKING**

Trafficking is the fastest growing crime in the world. It shatters the lives of 1.2 million children every year, along with their families. But there are effective ways to stop this evil trade in its tracks.

## **MODERN-DAY SLAVERY MUST END.**

Nazeeb was 14 when the men knocked on the door of his home. They offered Nazeeb a job for 6,000 Rupees (£60) a month. He had just left school to provide for his family. This was exactly the break he had been hoping for. There was one catch: he would have to go with the men to work in Punjab. But, his mother was told there would be food and lodgings. And he would be able to send money home every month. Once Nazeeb reached Punjab the reality was very different. He worked 21 hours a day in a zip factory with 11 other workers. They were locked in all week and had to sleep inside the cramped factory at night. Worst of all, they weren't paid - Nazeeb was the victim of traffickers and was now a slave. The one day they weren't locked into the factory - Sunday - the 12 of them were locked out and were homeless. Nazeeb grew weak and then ill. The factory manager refused to take him to hospital. Finally he managed to borrow the train fare home from someone he met in Punjab and fled.

Neither Nazeeb nor his family had heard of trafficking before and so they were deceived by the men when they came calling. Nazeeb got home safely. Thanks to a loan from Tearfund, he helps his family raise chickens. The whole family now gets to eat regularly.

The traffickers returned and demanded Nazeeb back. Thanks to the EHA, Nazeeb's mother knows all about trafficking now and is spreading the word to others too. Needless to say, she sent the men packing.

\*If you would like to see Nazeeb's story again borrow the DVD from John.

### **Let's Pray**

**Father, we thank you for the work of Tearfund and its partners and Christians across the world doing what they can to protect children from traffickers. Thank you for the way you are restoring and strengthening**

Nazeeb's family, giving them the means to break free from poverty. We pray that through this they may come to know you as their Lord and Saviour.

We pray for the church in India, a minority, serving you in practical ways. We lift up to you Dennyson, the staff at EHA and others who are working in difficult places across the world. Please give them the energy, passion and resources they need. May they know and show your comfort as they walk in the darkest places.

We pray for vulnerable children across the world, at risk not just from trafficking but from disease and disasters. Please be close to them, please give them a hope and a future.

Open our eyes to see you at work around the world. We thank you for inviting us to be part of your plan to restore creation. We praise you, the giver of life, the redeemer and restorer. Help us to be patient and persistent in prayer in all the places we have not yet seen restoration, including the plight of vulnerable children. Help us to see your light and your plan to save.

We pray this in the name of Jesus.

Amen

## **BREAKING NEW GROUND**

A farmer whose land was destroyed by corporate greed finds a new lease of life; not only getting his livelihood back, but also becoming a leader in his community.

### **Flooded**

Devi\* lived a humble life, farming his small plot of land in Cambodia to provide for his wife and six children. But one day that was cruelly taken away from him. A private company, looking for soil for a construction project, took advantage of Devi's limited education and made an unfair deal to dig up his land. When the rains came, his field flooded. He was ruined. His family had no choice but to move closer to farmable land. They didn't have enough money to build a house so they lived under a tree on the bank of a river. A curtain was the only thing protecting them from the elements.

### **Fearing the worst**

Devi could no longer earn enough to support his family. Of all his children, only the youngest could stay in school, since they couldn't afford the

expenses for books and supplies. Their eldest son moved to neighbouring Thailand for a better paying job and his parents lost touch with him, fearing the worst. Despite these hardships, Devi's faith remained strong, and he attended church regularly. It was here that Devi first heard about Tearfund partner World Renew, who had opened a farming school nearby. Devi became a member and learned new techniques in vegetable growing and livestock farming.

## **Influence**

Devi started applying his new knowledge. As his own success grew, farmers in the community began coming to him for advice and training. He eagerly encouraged his neighbours to learn the new techniques and adapt their traditional methods in order to improve their income. Devi is now a recognised agricultural leader in his community, and has influenced other farmers to reduce their reliance on chemical pesticides and fertilisers. With his income growing, he's been able to build a new, safe home for his family. Most importantly, they were able to bring back their son from Thailand. Their children now help on their farm or have land of their own, and the whole family is committed to seeing the youngest child finish his studies.

\*Name changed to protect identity

## **PLEASE PRAY**

- Praise God that justice was restored for Devi, and that his family are safe and reunited.
- Pray that God will continue to bless our partner World Renew, and that their work providing farming training will continue to impact many lives.
- Lift up the country of Cambodia. Pray for those who have been held back by poverty and limited education. Ask God to break these chains.

•

## **A STITCH IN TIME**

**'I cried and hide myself at home for at least one week from my friends and relatives when my father asked me not to go to school anymore.'** Nandi\* was a good student and loved her studies but the family could not afford to let her study and she had to drop out of school.

## **Trapped**

As with so many in villages in north-west Bangladesh there were very few options. Nandi was then married into another poor family – the gruelling cycle of poverty seemed inescapable.

**'My husband used to make baskets and other handicrafts from bamboos,'**

she shares. 'Income from his business was very limited and we hardly ate twice a day. My father-in-law was sick for a long time and we could not give him good treatment and proper diet. Finally he died without proper treatment and medication. I will never ever forget those miserable days.'

### **Breaking the cycle**

Nandi was desperate to earn extra income and heard about an organisation working in the area. LAMB Hospital works in the north-west of Bangladesh, where over half the population lives in poverty. Working through the local church they show Christ's love to all as they strengthen and equip communities. Nandi was delighted to be selected by LAMB to join a six-month tailoring course. After successfully completing the training, she was given a sewing machine. With her husband's help Nandi opened a small tailoring shop at her home and threw herself into the business. She soon became a well respected tailor and has seen the family income increase considerably.

### **Passing it on**

'Now I am much happier than ever and eat three times in a day, my children go to school on a regular basis and my husband is busy with his traditional basket-making occupation,' she says with a smile. Young girls and women from her community come to learn tailoring from Nandi and she gladly trains them. 'I do not take money for the training,' she shares, 'as I learned from the Bible. In Matthew 10:8 Jesus said "Freely you have received freely give".' The student has flourished and is now the teacher – passing on the gift she received.

\* Name changed to protect identity

### **PLEASE PRAY**

- Give thanks that Nandi was given an opportunity to unlock her gifts and begin a great business. Pray that it will continue to prosper.
- Pray for her as she reaches out to others in her community and generously trains them.
- Pray for Tearfund's partner LAMB as they work to empower more people with skills and opportunities.

*John Gravett*

*Tearfund Representative*

***"Pray without  
ceasing."***

*1 Thessalonians 5:17*



This month's guide to encourage our partnership in prayer

Through May...

**On a SUNDAY pray for:**

- Those preaching, The Worship Group
- The Sunday Youth Groups: Pebbles, The Rock, Rock Solid

**On a MONDAY pray for:**

- Bruce & Gisela, The Leadership Team, The Trustees
- Our Fellowship, The Other churches in Chinnor

**On a TUESDAY pray for:**

- Those who work in mission
- Rainbow Tots, Ladies and Men's Groups and their leaders
- The Chinnor Schools, the Doctors Surgeries

**On a WEDNESDAY pray for:**

- Our small-groups, and their leaders
- Those living away from home

**On a THURSDAY pray for:**

- The older members of the fellowship
- Coffee Pot, Those living in Hempton Field

**On a FRIDAY pray for:**

- The children of the fellowship
- Girls Group, Older Teens Group, After School Group
- Friday Night Clubs and their leaders

**On a SATURDAY pray for:**

- Chinnor
- Your neighbours
- Your friends, family



## 2 Chronicles

Many people pass through the doors of your church strangers who visit for the day never to return, seekers who come to taste and stay to feast, scoffers who never taste at all, and the faithful who are there week after week supporting God's work. New people move into the community and choose your church as their place of worship, while others are transferred and leave your church behind.

Today, the church is something of a revolving door newcomers moving in, others leaving, a few staying for a lifetime.

Through it all, your church remains intact, continuing the ministry God intended. The church body, like the human body, is always in the process of changing, but there is a certain continuity that keeps life going.

But there are churches that don't make it, churches where worship and the very life of the church seem to fade and die. This is what happened to the Temple, God's house, in the days portrayed in 2 Chronicles. In one sense, this book is a history of the kings of Judah and of the nation itself. But more important, 2 Chronicles is a history of the Temple of God, the "church" of that day. It tells the story of bad kings who let God's house fall into disrepair and good kings who worked to restore it by restoring the spiritual vitality of the nation.

But unfortunately, each cycle of decay led the nation deeper and deeper into the quagmire of sin.

Finally they got in so deep there was no getting out. Does all of this sound familiar? A nation is honoured and preserved through godly people. God's house, the church, is honoured and preserved through godly people. The surest way to destroy a place of worship or a nation is to compromise the character required of godly people. Ungodly people promote ungodly agendas, whether in church, business, or government.

The best way to preserve God's church is to promote godly character and standards of living among God's people. The surest way to destroy God's house is to ignore the lack of godliness or even to encourage ungodliness. So it was with ancient kings, and so it is today. As you read 2 Chronicles, note the signs that led to Judah's demise. Then commit yourself to being the person God wants you to be. God has placed many of us in positions of leadership - in our homes, businesses, small groups, even of friends. Second Chronicles offers powerful lessons about influence others to be followers of God rather than be influenced to fall away from him.

*NLT*

# WHAT GLASSES ARE YOU WEARING?

*"Then Caleb silenced the people before Moses and said. "We should go up and take possession of the land, for we can certainly do it." But the men who had up with him said, "We can't attack those people; they are stronger than we are." Numbers 13:30-31, NIV*

As I was cleaning the creativity room, I saw a collage with a sticker which asked, "Which glasses are you looking through?" I couldn't get this sticker out of my mind for a long time, and kept thinking about it.

My thoughts went back to the spies who were sent to Canaan to explore the land. Joshua and Caleb came with positive, encouraging news, whilst the others brought discouraging news. They saw themselves as grasshoppers before the inhabitants of the land. Each of them looked at the same thing, but what glasses were they wearing?

When Gideon was about to lead an army against the Midianites, he had a big army, but God told him to ask those who were afraid to return home (Judges 7:3).

It's true that, when we face a discouraging situation, we can either look at it through God's eyes, or through our own eyes. We can then go on to make wrong choices, based on our feelings of fear and anxiety.

In life, there are many things which come our way and cause us to feel afraid or discouraged, but how are we looking at these situations? How does the Lord want us to see them?

Conquering Canaan was a big challenge, as the Anakites were giants, and there was every reason to be afraid and discouraged. But instead of looking at the situation through God's eyes, the fearful spies looked at it with their human understanding. Their eyes saw the situation magnified to such an extent that they saw themselves as grasshoppers.

Joshua and Caleb were wearing a whole different pair of glasses. They looked, and saw victory, opportunity, and possibility, because they looked at the situation through the Lord's eyes. They could make the right choices, as their focus was in the right place. If Gideon had taken the fearful men along, they might have made the right choices, or they might have turned back in fear and discouragement.

Are you making choices based on fear and discouragement, or are you looking at the situation through the eyes of the Lord? Which glasses are you wearing?

*Joan Rono Ellet Ministries*



## The Twelve Disciples in 12 Months Number Four

*These are the names of the twelve disciples: first, Simon (who is called Peter) and his brother Andrew; James son of Zebedee, and his brother John; Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; Simon the Zealot and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed Jesus.  
[Plus his replacement Matthias]*

What motivates you? Is it the same thing that motivated **Judas Iscariot**? What motivated **Judas Iscariot** you may well ask? The answer is, of course, **MONEY, MONEY, MONEY**. We can read in Matthews account the following, ‘Then **Judas Iscariot** went to the chief priests and asked, “What are you willing to give me if I hand Jesus of Nazareth over to you?” So they counted out for him thirty silver coins. From then on **Judas** watched for an opportunity to hand him over.’ [Matthew 26:14-15]

There are about nine men called **Judas** in the writings of Old Testament times and later, but **Judas Iscariot** is generally mentioned as ‘**Judas Iscariot**’ or as ‘**Judas** who betrayed Him’ or as ‘**Judas**, Simon’s son’. John writes, ‘The evening meal was being served, and the devil had already prompted **Judas Iscariot**, son of Simon, to betray Jesus.’ [John 13:2] Others who were named **Judas** were sometimes referred to as ‘not **Iscariot**’. Again we can read in John that, ‘**Judas** (not **Judas Iscariot**) said, “But, Lord, why do you intend to show yourself to us and not to the world?”’ [John 14:22] In the lists of the Disciples, **Judas** is always mentioned last.

All four Gospels bring to our attention the traitorous way Jesus was betrayed by **Judas**. John’s Gospel gives, in my opinion, the more detailed view. For instance, when did Judas decide to betray Jesus? Why did the disciples not know that it was Judas that was going to betray Jesus? After all, they were all sitting around the table when Jesus told them what was going to happen.

John says, ‘After he had said this, Jesus was troubled in spirit and testified, “I tell you the truth, one of you is going to betray me.” His disciples stared at one another, at a loss to know which of them he meant. One of them, the disciple whom Jesus loved [John], was reclining next to him. Simon Peter motioned to John and said, “Ask him which one he means.” Leaning back against Jesus, he asked him, "Lord, who is it?" Jesus answered, “It is the one to whom I will give this piece of bread when I have dipped it in the dish.” Then, dipping the piece of bread, he gave it to **Judas Iscariot**, son of Simon. As soon as **Judas** took the bread, Satan entered into him. “What you are about to do, do quickly,” Jesus told him, but no one at the meal understood why Jesus said this to him. Since **Judas** had charge of the money, some thought Jesus was telling him to buy what was needed for the Feast, or to give something to the poor. As soon as **Judas** had taken the bread, he went out. And it was night.’ [John 13:21-30]

Satan had entered **Judas** prior to the Last Supper, but again, at the Last Supper Satan entered **Judas**. As **Judas** shared around that table, during a meal together with his friends and with Jesus, evil was permeating through the very soul of **Judas**. Betrayal was at hand. Jesus washed the feet of **Judas** that evening, full in the knowledge that the evil Satan was there at that time, and that his death on the cross was imminent.

Reading through the Gospels, it is possible to see the resentment building up in **Judas**. Jesus had to rebuke **Judas** on one occasion. [John 12:3-8] It is this passage that reveals that **Judas** is already a thief, and is already cooking the books.

Some think that **Judas** thought that Jesus would not be tried or even put to death, but as the trial proceeded and the situation developed to scourging and the eventual crucifixion of Jesus, **Judas** wanted out. He was seized with remorse, and said, “I have sinned, for I have betrayed innocent blood.” He took the money back to the chief priests only to be rebuffed with the words, “What is that to us?” they replied. “That's your responsibility.” So **Judas** threw the money into the temple and left. Then he went away and hanged himself. [Matthew 27:3-5]

In Acts we can read of the apostles praying as they chose a replacement for **Judas**, thus, “Lord, you know everyone's heart. Show

us which of these two you have chosen to take over this apostolic ministry, which **Judas** left to go where he belongs.”

**Judas** was dead, but Jesus was alive. All the scheming of **Judas**, the chief priests, the Scribes and Pharisees and the rest of the Jews was to no avail. God’s plan had proceeded exactly as God’s plans always do.

The apostles believed; **Judas** did not believe and that is as God planned. In John 3:16-18 we read, “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because he has not believed in the name of God's one and only Son.”

The final question remains, do you believe or not?

*Peter Brown*

## **THE KNOTS PRAYER**

Dear God,

Please untie the knots that are in my mind, my heart and my life.

Remove the have nots, the can nots and the do nots that I have in my mind.

Erase the will nots, may nots, and might nots that find a home in my heart.

Release me from the could nots, would nots and should nots that obstruct my life.

And most of all, dear God, I ask that you remove from my mind my heart and my life all of the am nots that I have allowed to hold me back, especially the thought that I am not good enough. Amen.

# Comfortable shoes

*"Do not conform yourselves to the standards of this world, but let God transform you inwardly by a complete change of your mind. Then you will be able to know the will of God – what is good and pleasing to Him and is perfect." Romans 12:2, GNB*

After a busy day, there's nothing I enjoy more than putting on a comfortable pair of shoes, preferably my rather elderly slippers, and sitting down before a blazing fire. I guess that there are many of us like that. We like shuffling around in comfy shoes, although they probably aren't very good for our feet. New shoes sometimes pinch a bit, until we have worn them in a little. They may even raise a blister or two.

Sometimes sin is rather like a comfy pair of slippers. We're used to it. It's a habit that we're comfortable with, a behaviour pattern that's part of our lives. It may even be something we don't recognise as sin, or something we excuse as a behaviour that's the result of past hurts. But is it good for us and for those around us? Are we actually hurting others by our bad or unpredictable behaviour? None of us likes change. Sometimes it can be painful, so we resist it. We make excuses for ourselves, such as, "I've always been like this," "I can't help how I react, because I've been hurt", "People know me well enough by now, and they excuse me."

It's time we got some new shoes. We need to check our behaviour and make sure that God approves of it – remember that He can't look on sin. And if He doesn't approve, then we have to make the changes. If we've been hurt we need to forgive those who've hurt us, release the pain, and then examine our behaviour patterns. At first the changes will feel unfamiliar and maybe a bit awkward, but as we persist they will gradually become our accustomed reactions.

*Angela Weir Ellel Ministries*

# CCC Services for May 2017

## Theme for the Year 'Knowing God'

### Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> April

Cafe Church 9:00-9:45am

Morning Service 10:45am Knowing God through Planets & Science  
- Introduction by Bob Sluka

### Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> May

Cafe Church 9:00-9:45am

Morning Service 10:45am Philippians 1 - Lanver  
- This service includes communion

### Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> May

Cafe Church 9:00-9:45am

(Christian Aid Service 10.30am at Chinnor Methodist Church)

Morning Service 10:45am Philippians 2 - Jess Merrow-Smith

### Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> May

Cafe Church 9:00-9:45am

Morning Service 10:45am Philippians 3 - Bruce Crawforth

### Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> May

Cafe Church 9:00-9:45am

Morning Service 10:45am Philippians 4 Bruce Crawforth

### Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> June

Cafe Church 9:00-9:45am

Morning Service 10:45am

“For I know the plans I have for you”, says the LORD.

“They are plans for good and not for disaster,  
to give you a future and a hope.”

Jeremiah 29:11 NLT

# DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



## Sunday Services

Café Church 9am - 9.45am  
Morning Service 10.45am to 12.15pm

Chinnor Community Church  
High Street, Chinnor, Oxon OX39 4DH

## Rainbow Tots

Tuesdays (Term Time)

9.45am at CCC

## FN@6 and 7

May 5<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>

## Coffee Pot

May 4<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>

At the Village Centre  
from 10.30am

## Small Groups

May 10<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>

If you have any articles  
for the next Connect they  
need to be in by  
**21 May 2017**

## Dates for your Diary

- May 02 The Bridge 7.30pm  
Older Teens Group 8pm
- May 04 Prayer for Israel 9.30am  
Mums Alpha 9am  
Mums Bible Study 10.30am  
Coffee Pot 10.30am
- May 08 Girls Group 4.30pm  
**Church Meeting 7.30pm**
- May 09 The Journey 11am  
Older Teens Group 8pm
- May 10 Small Groups 8pm
- May 11 Mums Alpha 9am  
Prayer for Israel 9.30am  
Mums Bible Study 10.30am  
After School Club
- May 14-20 Christian Aid Week
- May 14 Girls Group 4.30pm  
CLT Prayer 8pm
- May 16 The Bridge 7.30pm  
Older Teens Group 8pm
- May 18 Prayer for Israel 9.30am  
Mums Alpha 9am  
Mums Bible Study 10.30am  
Coffee Pot 10.30am
- May 22 Girls Group 4.30pm
- May 23 The Journey 11am  
Older Teens Group 8pm
- May 24 Small Groups 8pm
- May 25 Mums Alpha 9am  
Prayer for Israel 9.30am  
Mums Bible Study 10.30am  
After School Club

See [www.chinnor.org.uk](http://www.chinnor.org.uk) for more info



# More Dates For Your Diary And things for you to pray for ...

**Church Meeting**

Monday 8<sup>th</sup> May 7.30pm

**Christian Aid Week 14-20 May**

Christian Aid service at the Methodist Church on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> May at 10.30am.

Charity Fashion Show on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> May at the Village Hall

Musical Coffee Morning Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> May

There will also be a house to house collection during the week.

**CCC Retreat at Stanton House - Friday 26<sup>th</sup> May 2017**

The cost is £25 per day, but there is an offer of help with funding if money is an issue. Transport is available.

**Just One Event**

Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> July 2017

J John at Emirates Stadium. Speak to Ann Long for details

**Youth Lighthouse**

Monday 24<sup>th</sup> - Friday 28<sup>th</sup> July

At Thame Showground. Details on how to enrol your child/ren are on their website: <http://www.lighthousethame.org.uk>

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## HOUSE OF PRAYER

Prayer moves mountains and there are a few to move!

Pray continuously, gather together and seek the Lord.

If we are going to change things we need to pray

Our revival opportunity is now so let's pray

And see how the Lord works sovereignly

**The Bridge - Encountering the Presence of God**

Alternate Tuesdays 7.30 - 8.45pm

**Prayer for Israel**

Thursdays

9.30 - 10.30am at 14 Hill Farm Court

# CHRISTIAN AID WEEK: 14<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> May

## Standing with the refugees

Nejebbar and her family have fled the horrors in Afghanistan, where her husband was threatened with torture and death for being a government worker.



Nejebbar, with her sons Hinayat (left) and Sudai, outside their home in Agios Andreas, Greece

But now they've arrived in Greece, all they have is a tent. They have no other protection against wind and rain. There's no school for their five children and they have no certainty or clear idea of what will happen to them now. They thought they would stay here for 10 days, but it's already been six months and there's no end in sight.

Nejebbar's husband Noor describes their initial reaction to arriving in the camp in Greece: 'It was like suicide for us. But we took the decision that it is better to die here than to die there from war.'

## You've helped us be there for refugees since 1945

Thanks to you, Christian Aid has been there for refugees like Nejebbar since 1945, providing essential food, shelter and legal assistance for people far from home.

This Christian Aid Week, 14-20 May, our churches are continuing to walk with refugees. There will be a Christian Aid service at the Methodist Church on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> May and a house to house collection during that week. Our other fund raising activities will include a Charity Fashion Show Evening at the Village Hall on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> May and a musical coffee morning on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> May.

If you can deliver and collect Christian Aid envelopes or get involved in any other way, please contact:-

Mavis Shortman 01844350014/email [tony-mavis@shortman.eclipse.co.uk](mailto:tony-mavis@shortman.eclipse.co.uk)

Fliss Akehurst 01844698843/email [flissofchinnor@gmail.com](mailto:flissofchinnor@gmail.com)



Soaps, flannels, toothbrushes and toothpaste may not be "top of the wish list" for our children when it comes to thinking about presents, but to millions of children around the world who find these in their shoebox they are exciting and make them feel important and special. Children like 13 year old Jeanico from Madagascar who had never heard of Jesus until he was invited to an Operation Christmas Child shoebox distribution, where as well as receiving a shoebox he was invited to attend the Greatest Journey Bible course. These are his words:

"As I went to The Greatest Journey classes, my life was turned upside down, I am now full of joy. I became a new creature because I received new life in Jesus."

Jeanico immediately led his siblings to Christ. "All of us are now sharing Jesus boldly in our community" he said. "Praise the Lord and thanks to Operation Christmas Child"

Thanks indeed to this fantastic Organisation, and my thanks again to you for all you collect each month to fill the boxes. These toiletries will be our items for May.

God bless you all,

Love,

Pam Dunn x

<https://www.samaritans-purse.org.uk/operation-christmas-child-knitting/>



## CCC Coffee Pot

### **CCC Coffee Pot's Mountains & Rivers**

[Or Pots', alternatively Pots, take your pick. At Coffee Pot we require no school leaving certificate or Grade 9 GCSE, so feel free to come along and join us.]

Barbara prepared a few picture questions for us to view. There were only twenty questions to answer. So we were expecting a fun, but easy morning. The answer sheet had enough space for our answers, so no problem there then; at least not until we looked on the back of the pictures! Not only did we have to name the river or mountain, but there were auxiliary questions for us to contemplate.

Where was it? Who climbed it first? What year? Who was H and T? What was the name of the train? How long is the river? How high is the mountain? Where did the man on the punt come from? What time is lunch? The 20 questions had suddenly trebled in number. Barbara's pictures were stunning and it was like a trip around the world in 80 minutes rather than 80 days, and there was no cost involved, so we had an enjoyable time. The pictures evoked conversation about visits that had been made to various sights. Comments such as, "You've been there." received an answer of "Oh no I haven't." I failed to recognise Ben Nevis although I had partially seen it quite a few times. I expect they have a few clear days in Scotland, but my view had usually been obscured by rain, mist, snow, fog or cloud. Anyway, that was my excuse. So we went to India, Egypt, Mount Rushmore, in the US of A, Australia, Japan, and Germany, plus a few other countries on our challenge to name the mountains and rivers. Whatever the scoring method was it ensured that S and L had the most points. Somehow they were given 100 points for giving an answer that sounded a lot like 'quack, quack!'

Viv finished a great morning of fun and enjoyment with reminding us that the Mountains and Rivers were made by God for man to enjoy. Seeing nature around us and enjoying the beauty of the countryside helps us to appreciate God's handiwork and to realise that we have a lot to thank Him for.

### **CCC Coffee Pot and our Christian Aid Quiz**

All proceeds from this morning will be given to the Chinnor Christian Aid Appeal, so join us at 10.30 on Thursday 18 May in the Chiltern Room of the Village Centre.

'The Worst Quiz in the World' will be a challenge to remember. No one will get full marks, so don't despair; just be there. The minimum charge for this event is £2 although more is fully acceptable, Coffee, tea and biscuits available at no extra charge. Only 20 questions and we finish by noon, though, if you feel desperate, you can sneak out early. Is this an event not to be missed?

*Peter Brown*

## Pulse

Pulse, the holiday club, organised jointly by the churches in Chinnor, will be running again this year. It will be held on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> August and Friday 25<sup>th</sup> August in the marquee on Whites Field.

This year it is proposed to run it in a different way, along the lines of "Messy Church" as a club for families with children of all ages, although the planning is still in its early stages. Children will need to have a parent or carer over the age of 18 with them. It is proposed to have pre-school and babies' area, a selection of crafts and activities based on Biblical themes for any ages and half day mini-projects for the year 6 children and teenagers. There will be a quiet area available. Families will be asked to register for specific half days, running from 10 – 1 or 12 – 3, joining together for packed lunches, between 12 and 1. Each half day will have a different theme. There will be plenty of games equipment available. As with previous Pulse holiday clubs, there will be some singing, and "Wake and Shake" and time to sum up the theme for the session.

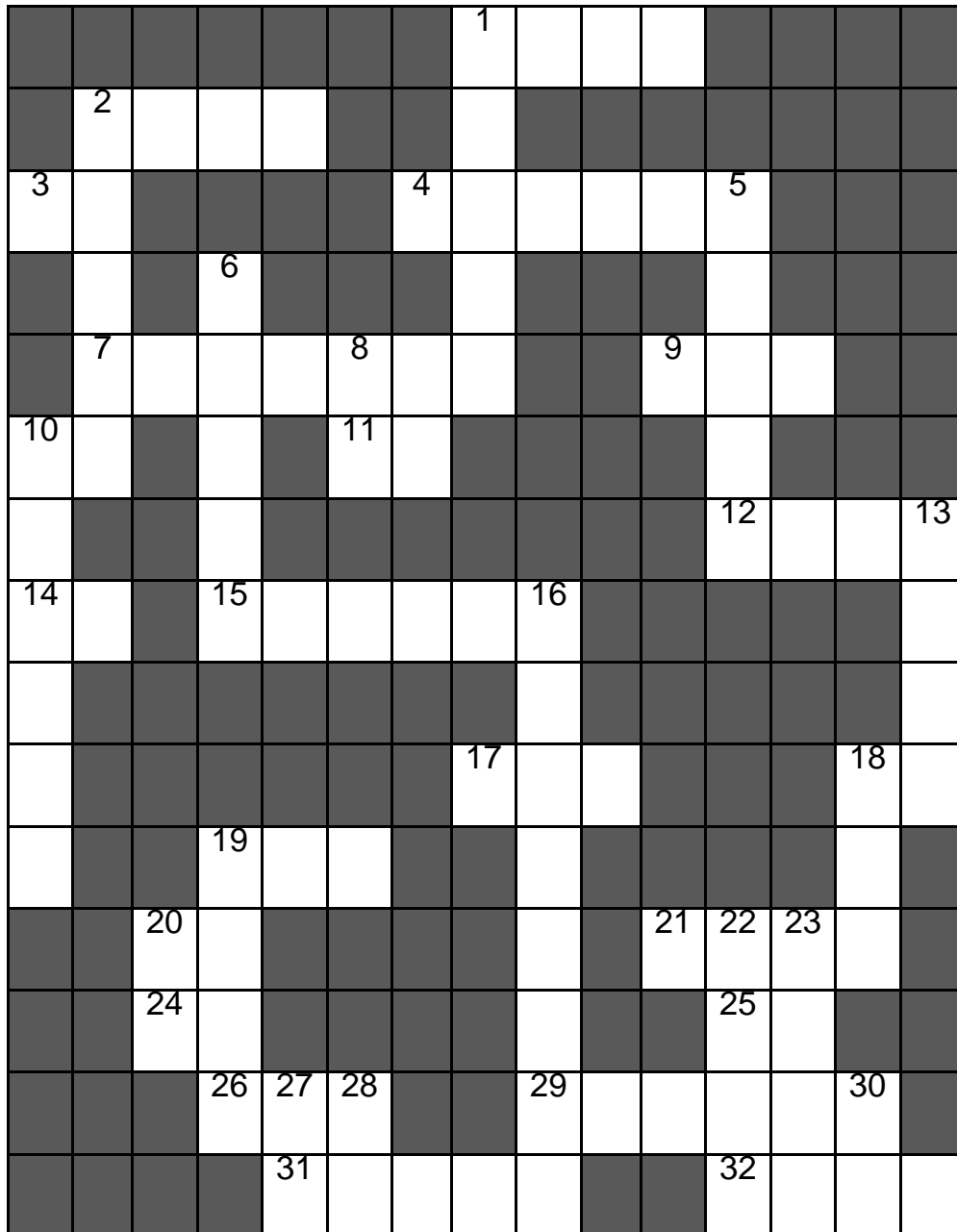
Without enough voluntary helpers, Pulse cannot happen. With the changed way of organisation, it is hoped that there will be less pressure on those who have previously been group leaders. Could you help us out on these 2 days? Would you like to know more about Pulse and why the format is being changed? Please speak to me about it!

Above all your prayer support is needed that the ideas will gel and that the right number of volunteers will come forward.

Liz Thorpe (01844 351565)

# THE FUN PAGE

## An Interesting Game of Scrabble



### Across

01. What "Pilgrim" fell into (4)
02. Rippled like hair (4)
03. Definite article (French) (2)
04. Flower (6)
07. Persians hung them on walls (7)
09. Kitchen equipment (5)
10. Sigh (2)

11. Hope you can spell in Greek (2)
12. Nothing southern (4)
14. Sodium (2)
15. Scottish landowners (6)
17. The cattle are far, far away (3)
18. 3<sup>rd</sup> person singular (2)
19. Receptacle (3)
20. Bismuth (2)
21. Archaic poison (4)
24. Prefix (2)
25. Stop! (2)
26. Vague unworldliness (3)
29. Not so long ago (6)
31. Hinged, slides or revolves (5)
32. Look at (4)

### Down

01. Exits (5)
02. Not necessarily a prostitute! (5)
05. Proverbs 22:6 AV (5)
06. Interrogate (5)
08. Prefix - out! (2)
10. Mammal, bird or reptile (6)
13. Lewis Carroll played with this concept (4)
16. People who set corn upright (8)
18. Shade (3)
19. 'Wait a moment' (4)
20. Hamlet didn't know (2)
22. Wondered (4)
23. Pronoun - nix (4)
27. Suffix forming adjectives (2)
28. Teenage greeting! (2)
30. Before doh (2)

### Last Month - The Answer:

- |  |                           |                                 |
|--|---------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 01. A Cross                                | 02. Bread                 | 03. No - it is a moveable feast |
| 04. Chile                                  | 05. Forty days            | 06. Shrove Tuesday/Pancake Day  |
| 07. With nails through his hands and feet  | 08. Eggs                  |                                 |
| 09. Holy Week (week preceding Easter week) | 10. Three                 |                                 |
| 11. The Mount of Olives                    | 12. Spanish               |                                 |
| 13. The Last Supper                        | 14. A chief tax collector | 15. Chocolate Eggs              |

## Who's Who at



## Chinnor Community Church

### Our Leadership Team:

Janine Adams  
Will Austin  
Bruce Crawforth (Elder)  
Tabby Crawforth (Youth Leader)  
Viv Haywood (Church Administrator)  
Peter Hopgood  
Ann Long

### Small Group Leaders:

Viv Adams  
Will Austin  
Karen Dewar  
Barbara Francis  
Sheila Hazell  
Peter Hopgood  
Ann Long  
Pete Mellow-Smith  
Susie Kelsey  
Sheila Tipping  
Steve Tipping

### Youth Work: Sundays:

**Pebbles:** Barbara Francis  
**The Rock (Yrs 2-6):** Anna Chalk  
**Rock Solid (Yrs 7-9):** Sarah Mak

### Fridays:

**FN@6** 6-7.15pm  
(Yrs 2-6): Viv Haywood  
**FN@7** 7-9.00pm  
(Yrs 7-9): Tabby Crawforth

**Men's Own:** Peter Hopgood

**Coffee Pot:** Peter Brown

**Ladies Nights:** Kim Hopgood,  
Sarah Mak, Anna Chalk

**Meadowcroft Residential Home  
Services: 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday**  
Gail Roberts

**Tear Fund Rep:**  
John Gravett

**Evangelical Alliance Rep:**  
Janine Adams

**Christian Aid** via Church Office  
01844 352938

**Samaritans Purse** – Pam Dunn

**Health and Safety:**  
Bruce Crawforth

**Child Protection:** Fiona Ludlow

**Connect Editor:** Barbara Francis  
b.francis@btinternet.com

**Contact Details:**  
Church Administrator:  
Viv Haywood 07974442967  
[secretarychinnorcc@gmail.com](mailto:secretarychinnorcc@gmail.com)

CCC Prayer Chain operates 7 days a week from 9am – 9pm. If you have a prayer need and want it to go onto the chain, contact Angela Martin on 01844 344945, Viv Haywood on 01844 355935 or Sheila Gravett on 01844 353138.