

connect

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May 2018



Chinnor
Community
Church

(c) Hobbielancie

The forgotten festival?

Andy Frost, director of Share Jesus International, and a member of the Alliance Council, explores this important festival in the Christian calendar.

Pentecost used to be a big deal in the UK. Churches would gather and march through town centers. Brass bands and choirs would play in the streets. There was even a special bank holiday on the Monday up until 1971. But somehow, Pentecost seems to have been lost from society and even from our Church calendar.

And I think it's time we re-discovered the celebration of Pentecost. Here are four reasons why:

First, Pentecost is a celebration of life. The term Pentecost comes from the Hebrew term *shavuot* which means seven weeks. It marks the 50th day after the Passover. Fifty days after the first Passover, the wandering Israelite tribe had arrived at Mount Sinai. Moses came down from the mountain top with the Law, to find the people worshipping a golden calf. That day, 3,000 people were executed. Some 1,500 years later, as the disciples were catapulted out of the upper room; they had received not the Law but the Holy Spirit. As Peter gets up to preach, anointed by the Spirit, 3,000 people respond to the message of good news and join the Jesus movement. Pentecost is in its very essence a celebration of new life.

Second, Pentecost is a reminder that all are welcome. We read the incredible stories in the Old Testament of the Spirit of God dwelling in or coming upon certain individuals who had a specific calling from God. This powerful anointing was available but only for the few.

But when Peter begins to preach in Acts 2, he quotes Joel 2:28: "And afterward, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions." Pentecost is a reminder that we can all receive the Holy Spirit. Whether we are Jew or Gentile, black or white, young or old, we can know salvation as the Holy Spirit seals it.

Third, Pentecost is our birthday. Lesslie Newbigin writes: "On that day (Pentecost) we may say that everything was ready for the Church's life to begin. Christ's atoning work had been completed. His revelation of the Father in word and deed was complete. The nucleus of his Church was chosen and ready. And yet they had to wait. All was complete: and yet

nothing was complete until the Spirit of God Himself should be breathed into the new race of men."

It was at Pentecost that the Holy Spirit ignited the disciples to be the Church. Too often we celebrate our own fellowship's anniversary, which is great; but we, as one Church, should also learn to celebrate our birthday together.

Fourth, we should celebrate Pentecost, which this year takes place on Sunday, 20 May, because it is a call to evangelism. In Acts 2, we discover the disciples had prayed; they had been empowered by God; they had left their building and they had started to communicate the good news.

In the UK, we have begun to discover that we can't just wait for people to turn up in our buildings on a Sunday morning. Over the past five years in London, the Pentecost Festival has used the tag-line "the Church has left the building" because we are not bricks and mortar. We are the people of God.

Pentecost is a reminder that we need to enter a hurting world to share God's love with hurting people. The disciples were supernaturally gifted with the ability to communicate in the language of the day and we must do the same.

As Jerusalem was full of different people groups, so the same is true today. We live in a society packed with different tribes and tongues. There are so many sub-cultures that range from the urban hip-hoppers to the suited and booted City bankers, to the football fan who travels the country religiously following his team. Each culture has its own language, which is more than mere words and which dictates dress, values, behaviour and belonging.

As we spill out of our church buildings, it is important that we communicate the message of Jesus to these sub-cultures. The message does not change but the way in which we reveal it has to show its relevance. And if we are going to communicate to the culture, we need to listen to what the culture is saying.

There is a church that I pass regularly that has luminous pink sign with big black letters that states "Jesus is the answer!" This sign for me sums up something of the communication issue that we have. We tell the world that the answer is Jesus but we have rarely taken the time to discover the question. Pentecost is about communicating relevantly the truth of Jesus.

And so, I am asking for your help. Will you help the Church rediscover the potent message of Pentecost and more importantly, will you help this nation discover the message of Pentecost.

Pentecost

That is, the fiftieth day (from a Greek word meaning fiftieth), or Harvest Feast, or Feast of Weeks, may be regarded as a supplement to the Passover. It lasted for but one day. From the sixteenth of Nisan seven weeks were reckoned inclusively, and the next or fiftieth day was the day of Pentecost, which fell on the sixth of Sivan (about the end of May). (Exodus 23:16 ; 34:22 ; Leviticus 23:15 Leviticus 23:22 ; Numbers 28)

The Pentecost was the Jewish harvest-home, and the people were especially exhorted to rejoice before Jehovah with their families their servants, the Levite within their gates, the stranger, the fatherless and the widow in the place chosen by God for his name, as they brought a free-will offering of their hand to Jehovah their God. (Deuteronomy 16:11) The great feature of the celebration was the presentation of the two loaves made from the first-fruits of the wheat harvest. With the loaves two lambs were offered as a peace offering and all were waved before Jehovah and given to the priests; the loaves being leavened, could not be offered on the altar. The other sacrifices were a burnt offering of a young bullock, two, rams and seven lambs with a meat and drink offering, and a kid for a sin offering. (Leviticus 23:18 Leviticus 23:19) Till the Pentecostal loaves were offered, the produce of the harvest might not be eaten, nor could any other first fruits be offered. The whole ceremony was the completion of that dedication of the harvest to God as its giver, and to whom both the land and the people were holy, which was begun by the offering of the wave-sheaf at the Passover. The interval is still regarded as a religious season.

The Pentecost is the only one of the three great feasts which is not mentioned as the memorial of events in the history of the Jews; but such significance has been found in the fact that the law was given from Sinai on the fiftieth day after the deliverance from Egypt. Exodus 12 and 19. In the exodus the people were offered to God as living first fruits; at Sinai their consecration to him as a nation was completed. The typical significance of the Pentecost is made clear from the events of the day recorded in the Acts of the Apostles - Acts 2. Just as the appearance of God on Sinai was the birthday of the Jewish nation, so was the Pentecost the birthday of the Christian Church.

***"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, Summit

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 and other care homes

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



The Twelve Disciples 12 Months.....plus 1 Matthias

These are the names of the twelve apostles: 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 him....plus one.... Matthias.

In those days Peter stood up among the believers (a group numbering about a hundred and twenty) and said, “Brothers, the Scripture had to be fulfilled which the Holy Spirit spoke long ago through the mouth of David concerning Judas, who served as guide for those who arrested Jesus-- he was one of our number and shared in this ministry”

Two people were nominated to replace, the traitor, Judas Iscariot, one was Matthias and the other was Joseph Barsabbas, but only one could be chosen. The group then prayed, “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” Then they cast lots, and the lot fell to Matthias; so he was added to the eleven apostles.

It is interesting to note that Peter said of both Matthias and Joseph that one of these men must be chosen because “...they have been with us the whole time the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, beginning from John's baptism to the time when Jesus was taken up from us. For one of these must become a witness with us of his resurrection.” [Acts 1 v21-22]

Nothing else known as to what happened in his life from that time on. But like many Christians, he most probably worked tirelessly in the ministry that he was gifted with. He must have been full in the knowledge of both John and Jesus, and who could be quiet about that. Paul was locked away, but he kept writing. Many Christians pray, quietly, on their own, but they are in fact a Power House for God.

‘The casting of lots’ was a common and a popular way, in early times, to determine a result, sometimes as a method of divination. ‘The casting of lots [or dice]’ was used for allocating territory; determining policy; selecting people for certain tasks; for the robe of Jesus and, of course, by the Apostles for a successor for Judas. [Exodus 28 v29-30?]

Peter Brown

Imperfections?

In Judaism it was the custom for the pupil to select the rabbi of his choice and attach himself to him for instruction. Thus Paul sat “at the feet of Gamaliel” (Acts 22:3, KJV).

But here it was Jesus and not the disciples who took the initiative, “When day came, He called His disciples to Him; and chose twelve of them” (Luke 6:13) He called them personally and bound them to Him with bonds of affection that stood the test of time. Thus He chose to invest His life and channel it into that little group of men.

They were not theologians or political leaders, just ordinary men who became extraordinary under the moulding hand of the Master Potter. That makes His selection of them the more wonderful.

Their imperfections were painfully apparent, but those did not debar them from His fellowship and friendship. If God required perfection before He admitted us into the circle of His fellowship, who would qualify? Quirks of temperament did not disqualify them, or Peter with his volatile nature would not have been counted in. Nor would James and John with their selfish ambition and callous racism. Thomas’s disbelief would have placed him outside the circle. But Jesus welcomed them all into the circle of His love and intimacy.

J. Oswald Sanders

Time with God, A One Year Devotional, New Century Version



What's in a Name?

We all have one. It's perhaps the only thing that we'll possess throughout our entire lives.

It's often the first thing strangers ask about us, and although we have the power to change it, few do. There's often a story behind it, and many people have strong feelings – whether positive or negative – towards it.

I'm talking, of course, about names. With a new prince being born this week, there has been much discussion about what the sixth-in-line to the throne will be called.

Whether we like it or not, our names define us. Although this is certainly less the case now than it has been in the past, names tell us a lot about a person – from gender to race to socioeconomic background and more. Our name can have the power to shape our self-esteem and influence how we're seen and treated by others.

Names are particularly significant in the Bible – bound up with identity, origin, birth circumstances, or even the 'divine purpose' of that person. Right from the start of Genesis, we see the importance of names. The name 'Adam' provides a pun on the word for 'ground', from which he is formed. Abram, 'exalted father' becomes Abraham, 'father of many nations'. Samuel, the longed-for child of Hannah, means 'God hears'.

Our names form a part of our faith, too. In Isaiah 43:1, it is said that God has 'summoned you by name'; a declaration that is reflected in the Anglican confirmation service: 'God has called you by name and made you his own'.

In Ephesians 3, Paul begins his prayer for the Ephesians with these powerful words:

'For this reason I kneel before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name.'

Whether we love, hate, or are completely ambivalent towards our given names, this verse reminds us that, ultimately, they pale in significance to our family name – that which is given to us when we become adopted heirs of God in Christ. Belonging, community, and family ultimately goes back to God himself, and are reflected most truly in relationship with him.

IF ...

A child lives with criticism, he learns to condemn.

A child lives with hostility, he learns to fight.

A child lives with ridicule, he learns to be shy.

A child lives with shame, he learns to feel guilty.

A child lives with tolerance, he learns to be
patient.

A child lives with encouragement, he learns
confidence.

A child lives with praise, he learns to appreciate.

A child lives with fairness, he learns justice.

A child lives with security, he learns to have faith.

A child lives with approval, he learns to like
himself.

A child lives with acceptance and friendship,
he learns to find love in the world.

Fix Your Eyes on Jesus

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? (Matthew 27:46, NIV)

The words came from the cracked lips and the crushed heart of God's Son as His tortured body and fevered mind were pushed to the outer limits of endurance. For the first time in eternity, the Father and Son were actually separated. They were separated by all of your sins and my sins, which came between them.

Even when Jesus had been alone in a crowd, or alone on a mountainside, or alone on the lake He had never truly been alone! His Father had always been with Him. He and His Father were so close they were one. To be separated with a spiritual death that was worse than a living nightmare. It was hell!

No one on this side of hell will ever know the loneliness Jesus endured on the cross—in your place and mine. When we claim the Lamb as our own sacrifice for sin, we will never be separated from God, because Jesus was.

Anne Graham Lotz

What is God Like?

- **His Character:** God is good and his goodness characterises everything he says and does
- **His Covenant:** God has entered into a binding covenantal commitment with his people
- **His Communication:** God speaks and his sheep (disciples) hear his voice
- **His Competence:** God is 'able' - there is nothing impossible for him, no situation beyond him
- **His Clock:** God is never late - his clock keeps perfect time

HE LOVES BETTER THAN I DO

“If one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them, doesn’t he leave the other ninety-nine in the desert and go after the lost one until he finds it?” Luke 15:4, NIV

Reading Luke 15 one day, I realised that I’ve never understood verse 4. In fact, if I’m honest, whenever I did read it, part of my mind was thinking, “I wouldn’t do that! Why leave ninety-nine perfectly good sheep in the desert for the sake of one wandering sheep?” Now, I’m not a sheep farmer. Perhaps this parable makes perfect sense to someone familiar with livestock. But the rhetorical question Jesus asks here has always left me wondering how the answer could be so obvious to Him, until that day, when I felt a gentle whisper, “You don’t understand, because I love differently from the way you do.”

Suddenly, my heart was deeply touched by the depth of God’s love for even the very weakest and most undeserving of us. In my selfish love, I would have focused on the ninety-nine sheep I had, and I would have cut my losses with the sheep which had wandered off. Why risk so much for one foolish sheep? Not so with our Creator! He loves differently. To Him, one lonely little sheep is worth risking everything. If you’re lost, He’ll pursue you. He’ll never have so many other ‘sheep’ that He stops caring about you, that He stops longing for you to be part of His flock and His family.

He loves better than I do. He loves better than you do. And for that I’m so grateful.

*Catherine Bariho
Ellel Ministries*



Do What You Can

Some of those present were saying indignantly to one another, "Why this waste of perfume? It could have been sold for more than a year's wages and the money given to the poor." And they rebuked her harshly.

"Leave her alone," said Jesus. "Why are you bothering her? She has done a beautiful thing to me. ⁷The poor you will always have with you, and you can help them any time you want. But you will not always have me. She did what she could. She poured perfume on my body beforehand to prepare for my burial. Truly I tell you, wherever the gospel is preached throughout the world, what she has done will also be told, in memory of her." Mark 14:4-9

We rarely hear the results of us serving Jesus in some way. Not all of us are called to serve Him in spectacular ways, or travel to the far ends of the earth to share the Gospel. But we're called to serve Him where we are; with the gifts He's given us, and to use every opportunity to do this. We need to leave the results to Him, and there will be results (Isaiah 55:11). I hope the following will encourage you.

Have you ever heard of Edward Kimball? Probably not, very few have. Kimball was a Sunday school teacher who not only prayed for the more difficult boys in his class, but also sought to win each one to the Lord. One young man, in particular, didn't seem to understand what the gospel was about, so Kimball went to the shoe store, where he was stocking shelves, and confronted him in the stock room with the importance of knowing Jesus Christ personally. That young man was Dwight L. Moody. In the stockroom on that Saturday, he was born again. In his lifetime, Moody touched two continents for God, with thousands declaring Jesus as their Saviour through his ministry.

Fantastic! Yet, the story doesn't end there. Under Moody, another man's heart was touched for God, Wilbur Chapman. Chapman became the evangelist who preached to thousands. One day, a professional baseball player had a day off and attended one of Chapman's meetings, and Billy Sunday got saved.

Billy Sunday quit baseball, and became part of Chapman's team, before eventually starting his own evangelistic crusades. Through him another young man was converted, whose name was Mordecai Ham. He was a scholarly, dignified gentleman, but wasn't above renting a hearse and

parading it through the streets, advertising his meetings. When Ham came to Charlotte, North Carolina, a sandy-haired, lanky, young high school student, called Billy Frank by his family, vowed not to hear him preach. However, when other local students decided to try and interrupt the meetings of Mordecai Ham, Billy Frank was interested, and decided to go along and see what would happen. That night Billy Frank went and was intrigued by what he heard. Returning another night, he responded to the invitation and was saved. Billy Frank eventually became known as Billy Graham, the evangelist who preached to more people than any other person who ever lived, including the Apostle Paul.

This fascinating chain of events was triggered by one Sunday school teacher's concern for his boys.

If you're like a lot of Christians, you've served the Lord in some capacity and probably wondered at times if your small efforts were really making a difference. Perhaps you've even thought about quitting, because you didn't think there was much point. Maybe nobody was taking any notice. Perhaps you were, or are, feeling tired and discouraged. Next time you're tempted to give up, please remember Edward Kimball, whose persistence and faithfulness was tremendously honoured by the Lord. The story would have looked very differently if Edward Kimball hadn't bothered to take that Saturday to seek out young Dwight Moody, to make that extra effort, and to persevere in the face of little encouragement.

There's an old saying I've just come across that fits in well here, 'you can count the apples on a tree, but only God knows how many apples are in a single seed'. When you get to glory, you may well be astonished at the number of people who are there because you were faithful and never gave up. Salvation is the gift that goes on giving!

Philip Asselin
Ellel Ministries





CCC-Coffee Pot and Christian Aid

Coffee Pot invites all our readers to a Christian Aid Quiz, with free coffee/tea and biscuits. This “one of special” is being held in the Village Centre on Thursday 17th May, 2018, at 10.30, in the Chilton Room. All monies raised at this meeting will go the Chinnor Christian Aid week. Entitled ‘RUBBISH’, questions will cover a limited range of subjects, including what other people do with do with ‘RUBBISH’ in times of emergencies. If you go to no other quiz during the year, then this quiz will be the only one you will be able to ‘RUBBISH’. All welcome.

CCC-Coffee Pot and Millionaire

The excitement increased as the morning approached. The long awaited day was finally here and the tension in the air was almost unbearable. The exhilaration was apparent as members arrived at the Village Centre for the ‘Who Wants to be a Millionaire’. Was the great man here? Who would get the opportunity of being on the ‘telly? Where was the TV recording van?

On entering the meeting room, members were met by the usual bearded wonder and there was no Chris Tarrant to be seen. There was only a lap-top computer and a CD-ROM. Well, it was better than nothing, I suppose.

Members decided to play the game and to enjoy the morning anyway. The first two contestants were Joyce and Derek. Between them, and with the help of the audience, they sailed through all fifteen questions to reach the ultimate goal of attainment the £1,000,000 objective. This was no mean achievement under the circumstances. It left the question master in a difficult situation as he had recently paid for his lunch and only had small change in his pocket. Fortunately, the two champions were agreeable to accept an unsigned IOU.

Seeing how the first two contestants did so well encouraged others to attempt the same achievement. Unfortunately, none of the other teams were able to realize higher than the £1,000 mark. This alleviated a lot of problems for the quiz master, as not only had he run out of paper to write IOU’s, but his pen had run out as well.

Due to no CCC Coffee Pot during the last month due to holidays, this is a report from 10 years ago. How many of the readers remember this?

Peter Brown

An unexpected Encounter

One day as Jesus was standing by the Lake of Gennesaret, the people were crowding around him and listening to the word of God. He saw at the water's edge two boats, left there by the fishermen, who were washing their nets. He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little from shore. Then he sat down and taught the people from the boat.

Luke 5:1-3

The morning sun skips over the surface of the water as it ripples and washes against the sterns of small, wooden fishing boats. Burly men call to each other as they sort through their catch, and children gather to 'supervise' the operation. I wonder what the sights, sounds, and smells of your frontline are? That was (Simon) Peter's.

But on this particular morning, Peter's voice is not heard amongst the chattering. No, last night was a complete waste of time. Lots of rowing, plenty of net throwing, a whole load of try over there-ing, but to no avail. Not only have Peter and co. toiled all night for nothing, now they have to clean their mangy nets before returning home to a disappointed family, and perhaps a few hours' kip. I wonder what kind of day you'll have on your frontline today? That was Peter's.

On the shoreline, a crowd gathers and bustles around an up-and-coming young Rabbi called Jesus. 'I wonder what he's doing here?' Peter thinks to himself, as he paws a lump of mud off his net before it goes 'plop!' in the lake. Peter doesn't stop what he's doing, but Jesus does.

The crowds are confused but continue to swarm around Jesus as he makes a beeline for Peter. These are not optimal preaching conditions; what Jesus needs is a platform and Peter's boat will do just the trick. But the boat alone won't do. If it stays on the shore, Jesus continues to be swamped. If it's just pushed out into water, it will be a drifting and spinning pulpit. Again, not optimal preaching conditions.

'Peter?' enquires Jesus, 'I need to use your boat, but I need you to pull out a little from shore and then do your thing to keep it still. Can you do that for me?' 'Yeah, yeah I can do that'.

Jesus has this great habit of not just meeting us and working through us when we are happy and in a 'holy' place, he equally does these things when we are sad and in a so-called 'secular' place. He meets us where we are, he uses what we have, and through us, he communicates something of himself and his kingdom to the people around us. Wherever you are, however you feel, may you too experience the joy of Christ using you and your 'boat' today, for the purposes of his kingdom.

Joe Warton, LICC



Living in the remote forests of Estonia, Pille and her 5 siblings grew up in a 2 bedroom house. With no running water or central heating in their home, Pille and her family faced many difficulties. She vividly remembers the day she received an Operation Christian Child shoebox. The local Church had invited her to come along to a special event - she was overjoyed with her shoebox gift! Through this event it was the first time she had heard the name of Jesus.

Years later she came to know Jesus as her personal Saviour, but it was the day she received that shoebox when her journey began.

Its true stories like this that thrill our hearts and make the opportunity of serving God in the simple way of filling shoeboxes such a joy. What a blessed and privileged position we are in.

During the month of May we'll carry on collecting soaps and flannels for the boxes, as we still need quite a few more. Remember to pray for Pille and the millions of others like her who are now our brothers and sisters in the Lord, and who found Him as the result of receiving a shoebox, and of realising He died for them and that we care for them!

My thanks as always,

Lots of love from

Pam Dunn. Xx

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 13th - 19th MAY

Vilia and her family lived in Port-au-Prince when the earthquake hit in 2010. Vilia was on her way home when she heard people running and shouting. She saw wires fall and houses crumble. She couldn't recognise her home or neighbourhood. Bereaved and homeless, Vilia went back to her hometown with her husband and children, but life was a struggle and she had nowhere safe to stay. Christian Aid's partner KORAL saw how dire Vilia's situation was and reached out to help her. They built her a new home, safe and strong enough to stand up to natural disasters.

In 2016 Hurricane Matthew hit Haiti. Vilia's neighbours quickly realised that her house was the only one in the area sturdy enough to cope with the hurricane. One by one, they fled to her house and she welcomed them in. As the storm raged on, she shared food and a safe shelter for several days. 54 people sheltered safely from the hurricane in Vilia's house. Despite the ferocity of the hurricane, her house lost only one roof panel and wasn't damaged in any other way. Many other homes in the area were totally destroyed.

Christian Aid Week brings tens of thousands of Christians together to achieve incredible things with some of the poorest people in the world. £210 will train a local builder in Haiti to build homes that will withstand fierce storms and provide a safe place to live and a fighting chance to build a better life.

This Christian Aid Week there will be a:

- Christian Aid Service
At Chinnor Community Church on Sunday 13th May at 10:45am
- A House to House Collection in Chinnor
- A musical coffee morning to include the sale of new/nearly new clothes, cake stall, raffle, preserves and Fair Trade. This will take place at the Church Hall on Tuesday 15th May 10am – 12noon.

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

Mavis Shortman: email tony-mavis@shortman.eclipse.co.uk or phone 01844-350014

Fliss Akehurst: email flissofchinnor@gmail.com or phone 01844-698843



CCC Sunday Services for May 2018

Theme for 2018 - One Thing (Plus One)

Sunday 6th May

Cafe Church 9:00-9:45am

Morning Service 10:45am The Door, John 10
- Jess Merrow-Smith
This service includes communion
Followed by a Bring and Share Lunch

Sunday 13th May

Cafe Church 9:00-9:45am

Morning Service 10:45am United Christian Aid Service

Sunday 20th May

Cafe Church 9:00-9:45am

Morning Service 10:45am Light of the World, John 8
- David Morgan

Sunday 27th May

Cafe Church 9:00-9:45am

Morning Service 10:45am Resurrection and Life, John 11
- Steve Ludlow

Sunday 3rd June

Cafe Church 9:00-9:45am

Morning Service 10:45am Good Shepherd, John 10:11
This service includes communion

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)

9am at CCC

FN@6 and 7

May 4th and 18th

Coffee Pot

May 3rd, 17th and 31st

At the Village Centre
From 10.30am

Small Groups

TBC

If you have any articles
for the next Connect they
need to be in by
20 May 2018

Dates for your Diary

- May 01 The Bridge 7.30pm
Older Teens Group 8pm
- May 03 Food for Thought 9am
Prayer for Israel 9.30am
Coffee Pot 10.30am (VC)
- May 04 FN@6
FN@7
- May 08 The Journey 11am (VC)
Older Teens Group 8pm
- May 09 Freedom in Christ 1.30pm
- May 10 Prayer for Israel 9.30am
After School Club 3.15pm
- May 14 Autism Support Group 9am
Girls Group 4.30pm
Church Meeting 7.30pm
- May 15 The Bridge 7.30pm
Older Teens Group 8pm
- May 17 Food for Thought 9am
Prayer for Israel 9.30am
Coffee Pot 10.30am (VC)
- May 21 Girls Group 4.30pm
Hope Runs Deep 7.30pm at
- St Andrews Church
- May 22 Rainbow Tots
The Journey 11am (VC)
Global Vision Group 7.45pm
Older Teens Group 8pm
- May 23 Freedom in Christ 1.30pm
- May 24 Prayer for Israel 9.30am
After School Club 3.15pm
- May 31 Prayer for Israel 9.30am
Coffee Pot 10.30am (VC)

See www.chinnor.org.uk for more info

More Dates for Your Diary

And things for you to pray for ...

Christian Aid United Service Sunday 13th May 10.45am at CCC
Envelopes provided for people to give to this

CCC Church Members Meeting Monday 14th May 7.30pm

Hope Runs Deep Monday 21st May 7.30pm St Andrews Church

Father's Day Family Service Sunday 17th June 10.45am

Pulse Mornings of Fun exploring heroes Saturday 23rd June

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 is our mid-week prayer experience group which meets to seek the presence of God and exalt His name.

We are focused entirely on seeking the Lord's presence through prayer, worship and prophetic gifting.

- First and Third Tuesdays 8pm in the hall

Prayer for Israel

- Thursdays 9.30 - 10.30am at 14 Hill Farm Court

"If we would understand the potential power of our prayers,
We would be on our knees a hundred times a day and ask Him
things that would turn the world upside down"

Brother Andrew

Great Commission

Evangelism's all about a heart for God and a heart for people. As people whose lives have been changed by Jesus, we all have a story to share. But sometimes we can struggle to find the words to talk about what Jesus has done.

And while the UK Church has become known and praised for its amazing social engagement, churches are telling us that they find it hard to take the next step and share their faith with those they've got to know in their communities.

Now is the time to build on this foundation of social action, and inspire and resource the Church in evangelism.

And that's why the Evangelical Alliance has launched a new website hub greatcommission.co.uk – to equip the UK Church to communicate the gospel clearly, confidently and powerfully to those who don't yet know Jesus – and see people come to faith.

The Great Commission website, launched in October 2016, equips and inspires the UK Church through:

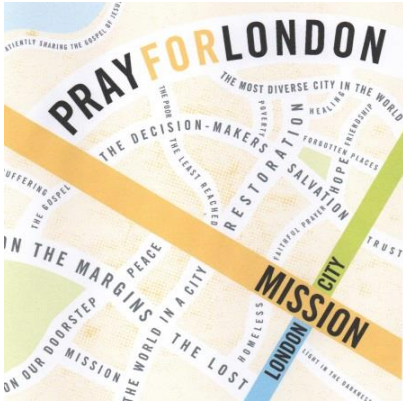
- Sharing inspiring stories of lives transformed by Jesus throughout the UK
- Signposting to a wide range of evangelistic initiatives, tools, resources and stories
- Telling stories of how individuals and church communities in the UK are talking about Jesus, and what they've learnt along the way
- Encouraging us all to be praying more for those who don't yet know Jesus.

The website's all about inspiring a passion for evangelism in our communities – empowering each one of us, and our churches, to be talking about Jesus and praying for those who don't know him yet.

You'll find things to watch and read, and resources to help you pray and act.

So visit greatcommission.co.uk today and be inspired, equipped and encouraged you to share your story of how Jesus has changed your life.

How to make new friends



As Christians, we know we should show compassion, kindness and care for those in need. But how depends on the circumstances.

The church often feels inadequate and unqualified to meet the complex needs of a marginalised individual. As a result we may not engage at all. Here are three ways you can put into action Christ's love for the needy.

BEFRIEND

I believe the fundamental starting point is simply to begin a friendship, even if it's basic. The host of complex needs - practical, emotional and spiritual - are unlikely to be met in one encounter.

I encourage you to view a marginalised individual as a person to know rather than a set of problems to solve. Tea, coffee and conversation are compulsory, if friendships are to grow!

I find God moves in the longevity of relationship, through Christ's love imparted over time in an active friendship. Simply be kind, inclusive and non-judgmental: the friendships that develop will be unique, rewarding and - God willing - very fruitful, both in individuals' lives and for the church family.

BE WILLING TO CHANGE

These new friendships may look different to the ones you already have, requiring more patience, discernment and perspective.

Your view of the 'proper' way to talk, live or dress might need changing, often a difficult and uncomfortable change. Humility and gentleness is paramount since there is a real danger of appearing patronising or superior.

Find out details of your local authority's homeless outreach team - a referral to them by phone or email is the best way to help, but have common sense - think carefully before giving out personal addresses or numbers. Share responsibility as a church community - everyone plays a part in being warm and friendly to all visitors

BE PRAYING

We can always pray. Though praying directly with someone isn't always appropriate, praying for someone on the margins of society is true care. Pray for our workers, and for every Christian building such friendships.

Neil Gillespie
www.lcm.org.uk

THE FUN PAGE

Land and Sea Quiz

1. Which is the only country in the world to display a map of its land on its flag?
2. Named after the Dutch explorer, the Tasman Sea lies between which two countries?
3. Originally in a play called 'The Birds' by Aristophanes, which 'land' is sometimes used to refer to an unrealistically idealistic state?
4. Where would you find the Serpent Sea and the Sea of Cleverness?
5. What is the most populated country in Europe to have a name ending in 'land'?
6. The Suez Canal links which two seas?
7. In the famous novel, what name is given to the land that is made up of four countries called Winkie, Gillikin, Munchkin and Quadling?
8. The Gulf of Venice is situated in which sea?
9. Which planet of the solar system was named after the Roman god of the sea?
10. Which is the only country in Europe to be doubly landlocked, meaning that a person in this country would have to cross at least two borders before they reach a coastline?

Last Month (March) The Answer:

5	6	7	4	9	8	1	3	2
9	4	8	1	3	2	6	5	7
2	3	1	5	7	6	9	8	4
3	7	4	6	8	9	2	1	5
1	2	6	3	4	5	7	9	8
8	9	5	2	1	7	3	4	6
6	8	3	7	5	1	4	2	9
4	5	2	9	6	3	8	7	1
7	1	9	8	2	4	5	6	3

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)
Ann Long

Small Group Leaders:

Viv Adams
Will Austin
Karen Dewar
Barbara Francis
Sheila Hazell
Peter Hopgood
Ann Long
Pete Merrow-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):
Tabby Crawforth
Summit (Yrs 10-13) Tabby Crawforth

Fridays:

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

Men's Own: Peter Hopgood

Coffee Pot: Peter Brown

Ladies Nights: Kim Hopgood,
Sarah Mak, Anna Chalk

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

Family Worker: Kim Hopgood
familyworkerccc@gmail.com
07480334617 9am - 5pm only

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

Contact Details:

Church Administrator:
Viv Haywood 07974442967
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.