

connect

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May 2020



Chinnor
Community
Church

Greetings to you my brothers and sisters in the Lord Jesus, you who are Chinnor Community Church.

My offering to you in this edition of Connect is a love letter. I say this genuinely and with heart felt love.

Two months have passed since we have gathered together in the CCC building as we had become accustomed to doing with great regularity, and I dearly miss not just that practice but you personally.

I have had the privilege of leading three local churches in the time that the Lord has called me to be a pastor and while I truly thank God for each local fellowship and each person, none has meant more to me than you. This calling and your love, friendship, and kindness has moved my heart like no other. I thank God for you my friends and I long for the day that we will be together again in person.

We should praise God at such a time as this because many of us are now more technologically equipped for connectivity than ever before (I particularly think of our first Sunday morning CCC Zoom meeting and how happy I was just to see your faces).

And while I'm thankful for the online technology and social media that connect some of us, as I am for the kind words and encouragement in phone calls, cards and letters that bring many more of us together whilst apart, I also remember that our true belonging is in Christ and our complete fellowship in his Spirit.

When the apostle Paul wrote to the church at Philippi, he referred to the people there not only as those whom he loved and longed for, but as those who were his joy and crown.

I speak of you in the same way also and I encourage you (as the apostle did those at Philippi) to stand firm in the Lord, rejoice in him always and let his peace be your guard.

Rejoice in the Lord always and let your gentleness be evident to all because the Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable-if anything is excellent or praiseworthy-think about such things...and the God of peace will be with you (Philippians 4:4-9).

With Christian love to you, *Pastor Pete*

***“Pray without
ceasing.”***

1 Thessalonians 5:17



On a SUNDAY pray for:

- The High Street, Doveleat, Grafton Orchard, Benton Drive
- Rectory Meadow, Musgrave Road, Lime Grove, Leverkus Court
- Those of the fellowship living there and their neighbours
- Village Centre and Coffee Shops, Library, Recreation grounds

On a MONDAY pray for:

- Keens Lane, Hill Farm Court, The Avenue, Church Lane, Church Road
- Those of the fellowship living there and their neighbours
- The shops, Post Office, Village Halls, The doctors surgeries
- St Andrews School, Mill Lane School, Nursery Schools
- The Parish Council

On a TUESDAY pray for:

- The Kiln Lakes Estate, Golden Hills, Wykeham Rise, Chinnor Hill
- Those of the fellowship living there and their neighbours

On a WEDNESDAY pray for:

- The Glynswood Estates (inc The Carriages, Oak Hill Park) etc
- Siareys Close, Timber Way, Orchard Way, Oakley Road, Crowell Road
- St Andrews Road etc, Station Road, Meadow Road, The Allotments
- Those of the fellowship living there and their neighbours

On a THURSDAY pray for:

- The Mill Lane and Cherry Tree Estates (Inc Windmill Chase, Driftway)
- Oakley Lane, Duck Square, Van Diemens Close
- Those of the fellowship living there and their neighbours

On a FRIDAY pray for:

- Thame Road, Burgidge Way, Dimbles Gate, Malyns Close,
- Springfield Gdns etc, Elderdene, Lower Road, Lower Icknield Way,
- Chiltern View, Henton, Wainhill
- Those of the fellowship living there and their neighbours

On a SATURDAY pray for:

- The other churches and their leadership teams
- The villages and towns around us
- Those of the fellowship living there and their neighbours



CHRISTIAN ACTION WITH THE WORLD'S POOR

VENEZUELAN REFUGEES FACING FOOD CRISIS AFTER CORONAVIRUS LOCKDOWN

Thousands of refugees who fled the political and economic crisis in Venezuela are facing weeks with very little food after a national lockdown in Colombia.

‘I don't know what I'm going to do without being able to feed my daughter,’ says 24-year-old Ana*, who has a four-year-old daughter. ‘If the government does not let us go out on the streets, I do not know what we are going to do to eat.’

Across the city of Barranquilla there are more than 15,000 Venezuelan families like Ana's. Most of them depend on being able to work in order to put food on the table, but now they can no longer leave their houses.

To try and stop the spread of coronavirus, the Colombian government has ordered that everyone should stay home for the next three weeks. However, relief agencies such as Tearfund and local churches have been given special permission to carry on supporting people.

The need remains great

Before the lockdown, our local partners distributed food parcels to 600 Venezuelan refugee families in Barranquilla. But there are many more people still in need of food.

‘Children and families have been suffering from lack of food for a long time now and are at high risk because of how impossible it is to get food,’ says Rosa Camargo de Bravo, who leads Tearfund's work in Latin America and the Caribbean.

‘We expect to increase our support for families with elderly people and those without any means to earn an income during the quarantine.’

PLEASE PRAY

- Pray for Venezuelan refugees in Colombia, that they will be able to access food during the pandemic and be able to feed their families.
- Ask God to protect people who are likely to be particularly vulnerable to the virus, especially the elderly. But also women and children who are at risk of violence and abuse when confined to their homes.

- Pray for a quick end to the outbreak, so that people can start to rebuild their lives.

**Name has been changed to protect identity.*

PRAYER IS OUR GREATEST POWER

It can be difficult to know where to start when praying for a crisis as large as coronavirus. But as Tearfund Ambassador and founder of *24/7 Prayer* Pete Greig says: 'I am convinced that prayer is not only our greatest privilege, but also our greatest source of power.'

Our God is able to do immeasurably more than we can ask or imagine. So we've created [a prayer guide](#) to help you bring everything before God using the acronym PRAY (praise, reflect, ask, yield). Here's how you can use it so we can pray together during this time.

Praise

Listen to, or sing, a song of worship to help you focus on God and become aware of his presence.

Reflect

To help build our faith, we reflect on the nature of the one to whom we pray:

- We give thanks that God is enthroned in the heavens and yet is close to the poor and brokenhearted. (Psalm 103:19, Psalm 34:18)
- We give thanks that God hears and responds to our prayers. (Psalm 145:18, Matthew 7:11)

Ask

For many families in poorer countries, being in lockdown means no longer being able to earn enough to feed your children. In places where malnutrition is already a problem, even more people are going hungry and face the risk of starvation – like the 15,000 Venezuelan refugee families in Barranquilla, Colombia.

As Tearfund delivers emergency food and supplies to the most vulnerable communities, ask for God's provision for families in need.

Millions of people around the world who may get very ill from coronavirus will have no access to healthcare. People in rural villages might have miles to walk to the nearest clinic. Equipment, such as ventilators, is scarce – even in the larger hospitals. In South Sudan there are only four ventilators for a population of 11 million people.

Tearfund has created resources containing life-saving health advice, including crucial hygiene practices, to limit the spread of the virus. We're sharing these with communities around the world. Ask God to protect countries where there

is a lack of basic healthcare. Pray for governments to release funds to help these countries tackle coronavirus.

Yield: please pray

Lord, show me how you would have me show love to my local and global neighbours in this season, in both prayer and action. Amen.

HOLDING ON TO THE CONSTANTS IN A CRISIS

In these challenging and uncertain times, Tearfund is doing all it can to continue serving people in poverty. This is a reminder of what remains constant amid the coronavirus crisis:

Our **vision** stays the same: to see people freed from poverty, living transformed lives and reaching their God-given potential. We won't stop until poverty stops.

Our **faith** stays the same: faith is what motivates us to tackle poverty and injustice and what drives us on to do better. We pray as we make decisions, and for one another as well as the communities we work with. All our work is rooted in the life and teachings of Jesus.

Our **God** stays the same: it's written in the Bible. 'Before the mountains were born or you brought forth the whole world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God' (Psalm 90:2). And, 'Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and for ever' (Hebrews 13:8).

Our **hope** stays the same: 'May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit' (Romans 15:13).

Please continue to join with us in praying, giving and speaking up for those living in poverty.

PLEASE PRAY

- Pray for people living in poverty, particularly those who are most at risk from coronavirus.
- Thank God that he stays the same and that we can depend on him in these uncertain times.
- Ask God to guide you in how you can use your gifts to respond to the coronavirus crisis and to help people around you in need

John Gravett

Tearfund Representative

Albania and Radio Emanuel

In our prayer points we have mentioned Albania and Radio Emanuel. Steve Kelsey gives us news from Pastor Sean Mason in Korça and looking after a church in Erseka, some 25 miles south of Korça.

In March / April, we heard from Tani and his wife Efti (Radio Emanuel): We really hope you are doing well and the situation of Covid-19 is not affecting you and your families. These seem to be uncertain times, but the only weapon we have is God's Word. Let this time be a time we share the Word more boldly, because only God is in control, and He is the Healer.

The Albanian Government had taken severe precautions, asking for people to self-quarantine. At the station each take turns, to avoid more than two people at the same time in the radio station and live broadcasts are temporarily cancelled.

We are using the radio station as a powerful tool to share hope during this time, and we are receiving feedback from listeners, who are greatly being encouraged by the Word of God during this time.

Tani has asked us to pray for: this situation to pass smoothly and people won't be affected by Covid-19. The radio staff and their family members not to be affected during this time so that they can continue to work even though they are more exposed to the virus than the other people. And an emergency plan for the Easter Season, as we cannot involve as many people as usually, but we pray that the Radio programming will bless people's hearts with hope.

You (CCC family and friends) are daily remembered in our prayers!

Keep praying, serving, and trusting in Jesus,

Tani & Efti

door. There's also bottled water and clear plastic bag with toiletries to pick up. By 9.15 a group of around 35 men has gathered. Five or six arrive a little later.

Staff serve everybody as quickly as possible and encourage them to move on. Yesterday they fed and dispersed everyone in 20 minutes. It's about keeping contact time to an absolute minimum, says Acting Manager Nick Labiche as he arranges the tables outside and organises the queue to ensure everybody keeps their distance.

In the normal running of the centre, serving the teas and coffees is first opportunity to check in with guests, and give a proper welcome to the centre. Today the drinks are poured before the queue starts moving, guests are expected to pick up either a tea or a coffee and move on straight away.

Mission Associate Daniel Taylor is handing out food, greeting each person by name, passing the bags with a brief friendly word and keeping the queue moving.

The whole of London is feeling tense, and this group feels it too. A minor skirmish threatens to break out between two of the guys near the drinks, and staff move very quickly to quash it. Moving people takes a bit of persistence. For the guests, Webber Street is an essential point of connection for conversation and friendship, and it's natural to want to chat and linger for a while. Fifteen minutes later everyone has their food and dispersed. 'It wasn't pretty was it?' Nick observes of the hasty delivery as he carries tables back inside.

The team is doing everything it can to balance day-to-day care of the guests with limitations of government guidance and of taking responsibility for curbing the infection.

What's being demonstrated here, as every day at the day centre, is that the staff at Webber Street are in for the long haul, that their message of good news in Jesus Christ is part of an authentic commitment to the guests which endures through good times and bad. **God Bless You All.**

Peter Brown

The Heating Plant ...

Five young college students were spending a Sunday in London, so they went to hear the famed C.H. Spurgeon preach. While waiting for the doors to open, the students were greeted by a man who asked, "Gentlemen, let me show you around. Would you like to see the heating plant of this church?"

They were not particularly interested, for it was a hot day in July. But they didn't want to offend the stranger, so they consented. The young men were taken down a stairway, a door was quietly opened, and their guide whispered, "This is our heating plant."

Surprised, the students saw 700 people bowed in prayer, seeking a blessing on the service that was soon to begin in the auditorium above.

Softly closing the door, the gentleman then introduced himself. It was none other than Charles Spurgeon

Charles Haddon Spurgeon (19 June 1834 – 31 January 1892) was an English Particular Baptist preacher. Spurgeon remains highly influential among Christians of various denominations, among whom he is known as the "Prince of Preachers".

Spurgeon was pastor of the congregation of the New Park Street Chapel (later the Metropolitan Tabernacle) in London for 38 years.

In 1867, he started a charity organisation which is now called Spurgeon's and works globally. He also founded Spurgeon's College, which was named after him posthumously.

Spurgeon authored many types of works including sermons, one autobiography, commentaries, and books on prayer, devotionals, magazines, poetry, hymns, and more. Many sermons were transcribed as he spoke and were translated into many languages during his lifetime. He is said to have produced powerful sermons of penetrating thought and precise exposition. His oratory skills are said to have held his listeners spellbound in the Metropolitan Tabernacle and many Christians hold his writings in exceptionally high regard among devotional literature.

Inspired and Sustained by Joy

“Do not grieve, for the joy of the Lord is your strength.” Nehemiah 8:10b, NIV

Have you ever listened to a great choir sing the Hallelujah Chorus from Handel’s *Messiah*? Most people have at least listened to part of it, whether Christians or not. It is incredibly uplifting. It was clearly inspired by God and, amazingly, Handel wrote the entire *Messiah* in just three weeks. He said that the music literally “came to him” in a flurry of notes and motifs. So fast did God download it to him that Handel wrote frantically to try and keep up with what the ‘Great Composer’ was giving him.

That would be incredible enough, but the circumstances he found himself in at the time were very grim; enough to prevent most men or women from doing anything. It was written at a time when his eyesight was failing. He was alone. He was also facing the very likely threat of being forced to die in a debtors’ prison because of a mountain of outstanding debt.

For many, reading this ‘Seed’ at this massively testing time, being able to create something wonderful might seem impossible. We can list the many problems facing us and be encouraged by the enemy of our souls to focus on our problems. Therefore, we need to ask ourselves how Handel was able to do what he did when faced with so much stress, fear, worry and loneliness. Handel credits the completion of his masterpiece to one single thing. joy. He is even quoted as saying that he felt he would “burst with joy” at what he was actually hearing in his mind and heart as he raced through those three weeks in creating a masterpiece.

He was convinced he would die before seeing his oratorio be performed, but he lived. He also saw it succeed in raising a great deal of money for the poor and destitute and become a hugely famous piece of music. Joy. What the enemy really wants is your joy. Don’t give it to him. If you feel joyless as you read this, then go to the One who promises that “These things I have spoken to you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full” John 15:11. Notice that our joy comes from the Lord (‘My joy’) and that it is to ‘remain in you’. As we turn to Jesus, He will give us His joy and we are to ensure it remains in us. Don’t give it away or let anyone steal it from you.

With that joy filling you and inspiring you, ask the Lord what He would have you do. Write a book, paint pictures, email/text/phone people in need and encourage them, work on something you have wanted to for years, but have been too busy. Now is the time. From today onwards be inspired and sustained by His joy remaining in you.

Philip Asselin, Ellel Ministries

After Easter

Some places and territories we might call 'borderlands' are places 'betwixt and between'; for example, those territories at the edge of countries or between land and sea. In life we travel through spiritual borderlands too. They are places of passage, often of dislocation and pain, yet places through which we grow.

I think our culture, by contrast, does little to equip us for life transition. It seduces us with self-modification through retail purchase, cosmetic surgery, or tabloid 'seven steps' to self-improvement. It does less, however, to acknowledge the downward, challenging aspects of personal change. William Bridges, an expert on human transitions, says many people going through personal change in contemporary culture drift in "an unritualised life-passage". By this, he means a process not held within any larger container of meaning.

This was my experience in my 20s and 30s when, as an agnostic, I was psychologically wounded, spiritually hungry, and looking for answers in all the wrong places. Stranded in this bleak cultural territory, my life felt confusing for too long. Yet God, I believe, calls men and women into such territory throughout the pages of scripture for the purposes of new formation

Equipped with the example of Jesus and His disciples, we discover that personal transition and suffering can invite us into fruitful growth. We no longer feel lost. Accepting God's invitation, we release the past. We open ourselves to emerging realities. As Christians, we owe it to ourselves to understand the costly relationship between human growth and suffering. The church will never witness potently to a hurting world unless it is filled with people of Christ-like depth who have grown through struggle.

From Easter to Pentecost: the 50-day cycle

As evangelicals, we emphasise personal conversion and surrender to Jesus as Lord but sometimes neglect a considered model of discipleship for growing further in Christ. In fact, scripture offers us rich resources, most notably in the narrative of the great 50-day cycle from Easter day to Pentecost. In this period we see enacted dying to self, rising with Christ, and blessing and power for new life. This cycle embodies the suffering intrinsic to human growth, as well as the revitalising new life that God brings forth from the grave. The cycle offers a roadmap to our working with change and to growing in Christ. It is both spiritually profound and existentially truthful.

Expanding the 50-day cycle further, we observe a contrast between the disciples' flight from Gethsemane and their flight from Jerusalem after Pentecost, to spread the gospel to the nations. The first fugitive move represents an evasion of the call of the cross. The second expresses the willing engagement of matured men who now know their purpose and personal and collective destiny. Although the disciples' actions through the 50-day cycle are frequently spiritually wide of the mark, this is precisely why they transparently witness to the challenges of spiritual growth.

One of their key lessons is to absorb the truth of Jesus' insight in John 12:24: "I tell you the truth, unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds". Dying to self is foundational to Jesus' teaching through His earthly ministry. Yet any Jesus follower may struggle with its knotty reality. This dying is, though, the vital prelude to spiritual growth. This is the lesson that the disciples learn in retrospect once they meet the risen Christ. They see that no tomb need prove final, and that what may feel for a while like agonising death is actually a doorway to new baptismal rising.

Dying to self

So, it is when I pastorally counsel people in local ministry. Sometimes one has to let the person hit rock bottom and know a personal death of their old identity. Sometimes one has to resist pulling the nails out of their crucified flesh and resist seeing them rise before they have fully died. There is a resurrection to come but there is also a Good Friday to endure first, a good one being the bitterest of ones. There must be a rigorous dying to self.

The 40-days between Easter and Ascension illustrate a further lesson. For the disciples to grow in Christ, they must let go of Jesus. This they will do at His Ascension. Jesus prepares them for this over the preceding 40 days. He effects this through periods of presence and then absence, a form of spiritual weaning which the psalmist describes thus: "I have stilled and quietened my soul; like a weaned child with its mother, like a weaned child is my soul within me" (Psalm 131).

The disciples also have to learn to stop dwelling in the past or future. We see this in Jesus' reprimand them at his Ascension not to await a political inauguration of the kingdom and the angel's command for them to turn their eyes away from heaven. To grow spiritually in the post-Ascension borderland, a disciple must be grounded in the present. He or she is called to thirst after the Holy Spirit that Jesus has promised, seeking God's kingdom on earth rather than in any nationalistic kingdom or heavenly abstraction.

Emptying themselves in worship and prayer over the following 10 days, the disciples “stay in the city” (that is, close to God’s presence) and prepare to be “clothed with power from on high” (Luke 24:49). This spiritual dressing and infusing by the Holy Spirit is not something that can be controlled, though it can be thirsted after. It is pure gift from the sovereign God.

When the Spirit comes, He equips the disciples to live out their destinies and extend God’s kingdom on earth. Divine tongues hover over them, releasing apostolic witness. When the authorities respond with persecution, these filled, empowered disciples now travel to and across new borderlands with resilience. Where they formerly cowered within a locked room, they now prove to be threshold adventurers. They tenaciously spread the gospel to the ends of the earth.

These, then, are just a few of the lessons of spiritual growth from the 50-day cycle: dying to self, balancing dependency on the ascended Christ with our captaincy, hungering for the Spirit, and receiving Him fully. Keeping our eyes trained on Jesus, “the author and perfecter of our faith” (Hebrews 12:2), we navigate life’s unexpected borderlands with grace. Most importantly, we grow deeper in Christ. In doing so, we come to understand ourselves as borderland people whose spiritual life is lived in exile. We learn to regard each territory this side of eternity as a further borderland. For it is only in the glorious homecoming to come that all our travelling will cease.

*Mark Brickman is associate minister at St Aldates Church, Oxford,
(Published June 2018).*

Editors Notes:

Ascension Day: May 21 2020
See Luke 24:44-53 and Acts 1:1-14

Pentecost: May 31 2020
See Acts 2

Pentecost (Shavout) is a Jewish feast celebrating the giving of the Torah and the summer wheat harvest. It was celebrated 50 days after Passover and was marked by pilgrims coming to Jerusalem from all over the world to celebrate the event.

Where is Our Faith

Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight. Proverbs 3:5-6

What do we wish for? Do we wish that things would be different in our lives? Or someone else's life? Or wish we had something more, or were somewhere else, or that something would go away? I wish ... I wish ... Some people throw money down a well. Some cross their fingers. Some cry out in distress. But to what avail? Wishing doesn't do anything or change anything. It's basically just a strong emotion. It's all centred around me - I wish, I want, I need.

Hope is much deeper. Hope has an element of possibility. It's a strong desire with an expectation that it is reachable. Hope and aspiration are what many people build their lives upon. It's scriptural. *'May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him'* (Romans 15:13). Jesus is our hope. *'Christ in you, the hope of glory'* Colossians 1:27). As the old hymn says: *'Our hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness.'*

Faith is not a strengthened hope. Faith is not a determined wish. Sometimes we feel we haven't enough faith to believe that something will come about. And yet we're told that faith even as small as a mustard seed can move mountains (Matthew 21:21). So, what is faith?

Hebrews 11:1 gives us the answer: *'Faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.'* I can hope for many things, but I'm not sure if they'll happen. How can I be sure of something that might not come about? Where is my faith when times are hard?

The real question is, "Where do we place our faith?" Our faith must be in Jesus. Faith is not a special power given only to selected people. Faith is in an intimate relationship with Jesus, that we have a spiritual bond with Him and He with us. It's all bound up in love - both ways. *'Draw near to God and He will draw near to you'* (James 4:8).

This is the kind of relationship God desires to have with us. *'We know that we live in him and he in us because He has given us of his Spirit'* (1 John 4:13). Then we will come to know His will and purpose for our lives as we are able relate to Him in all circumstances, especially during these testing times. Do we know Him? Do we love Him? This is the faith we can hold on to - faith in Him.

As we place our complete confidence in Him and live as much as we can within His principles, we can depend on His faithfulness and mercy. Let us then walk with confidence in the joy of His love and commit our ways to Him. He will not let us down. He has already told us that He will give us the desires of our heart (Psalm 37:4). Can we trust Him?

Ron Scurfield, Ellel Ministries



CCC Coffee Pot

Report from October 2009

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 laptop 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.

Two weeks later, we were able to enjoy another morning of fellowship with one another. After a time for a chat over a cup of tea or coffee and finding out how much excitement we had experienced recently, we had the opportunity to exercise 'our little grey brain cells' with a challenge from Derek and Kathleen. And what a challenge it was! A mere twenty-five questions! A couple of the anagrams turned out to be very easy, especially with the clues' that we had to receive. For instance "My castings need to be agile for this" turned out to be 'Gymnastics' and "Drill bias on the slate" turned out to be 'Billiards.' Some of our members were quite clever. Martin, Lillian, Viv and Margaret turned out to really be on the ball, but

as for me, least said the better. At this moment I have the questions and answers in front of me and I am still trying to work out how they were arrived at. Guess who you will not be seeing on 'Eggheads'.

Come and join us and stay for lunch afterwards. Look for the Coffee Pot signs.

For future dates and times of our meetings, visit www.chinnor.org.uk

Peter Brown

Alpha

We are looking forward to our first Alpha session this Tuesday 21st April at 7:45pm.

What is Alpha?

Alpha is a series of sessions exploring the Christian faith, typically run over eleven weeks. Each talk looks at a different question around faith and is designed to create conversation.

Alpha is run all around the globe, and everyone is welcome.

If you would like to join or invite your friends please let Sarah know:
skmak2011@gmail.com

If you missed this date and want to know more please contact Sarah



Over the years folk have often asked me why I feel so passionate about the work of Samaritan's Purse. I thought about this - is it:

1. Because they do such a great work wherever a disaster of any kind strikes in helping to clear damaged sites and rebuild houses.
2. Because they install water treatment systems to provide clean water and proper sanitation to remote villages.
3. Because they tirelessly work alongside folk teaching them how to raise their families, giving seeds, machines and livestock so that they can provide for their families. Give them the knowledge and skills to break free from poverty and then stay alongside them helping and guiding them until they are able to fend for themselves and have pride in their own achievements.
4. Because they send medical teams to care for pregnant women, deliver their babies and then teach them how to care for their babies
5. Because they work in hospitals (some of which they have built themselves) performing lifesaving heart operations, operations to correct eye problems etc. and operations to correct cleft lip and palates to avoid that child being bullied or even thrown out of the village because they are thought of as cursed.
6. Because they provide education for children often resulting in teenagers getting a degree and going on to a successful career
7. Because they help through their Operation Heal our Patriots project personnel returning home traumatised by war etc. to adjust to civilian life again and in many cases rebuild their marriages.

My answer to the question why I am so passionate about SP is because they do all of the above and much, much more - even AS YOU READ THIS they are working on the frontlines of the Covid -19 pandemic Some of you may have seen on the BBC news the huge number of tents that SP have erected and are using as a hospital to treat patients with coronavirus in America.

They have also air lifted one of their emergency field hospitals and dozens of medical personnel to Northern Italy, the epicentre of the pandemic, to do all they can in this crisis

These are just some of the reasons I'm so passionate about the work of Samaritan's Purse but the biggest reason of all is because whatever they do and wherever they are doing it it is all done in the name of Jesus. They make sure that on every occasion the people they are helping hear the message of the Gospel.

Of course there's one project I haven't mentioned!!!!!! Operation Christmas Child and we all know about that and the Greatest Journey discipleship course - and every year the number of boxes we've sent has grown.

Franklin Graham visited Saipan and whilst there felt moved to encourage people to provide shoeboxes to children on all of the 1000 Pacific Islands. The SP team had already distributed tarpaulin sheets, solar lights, generators and other needed items to 7600 families following massive destruction caused by super typhoon Yutu. They had also distributed 4100 Bibles. To date 65000 children have now received boxes in the Pacific Islands and of them 20,000 have just finished the G J course.

17 years ago the 25 members of Grace Baptist Church in Texas packed 25 boxes to send. The numbers of boxes they sent increased every year until last year they sent 11,139 and their church membership is still only 51. We've a long way to go!

As we are unable to meet together at present collecting items for our boxes is going to be more difficult. I suggest perhaps you could keep anything you already have until we are able to meet and we'll get it then. We'll have to make a determined push at the end!!

Take care and remember OUR GOD REIGNS.

Lots of love.

Pam D xx

THE FUN PAGE

Hidden books

There are 30 books of the Bible in this paragraph. Can you find them? This is a most remarkable puzzle. It was found by a gentleman in an airplane seat pocket, on a flight from Los Angeles to Honolulu, keeping him occupied for hours. He enjoyed it so much, he passed it on to some friends. One friend from Illinois worked on this while fishing from his john boat. Another friend studied it while playing his banjo. Elaine Taylor, a columnist friend, was so intrigued by it she mentioned it in her weekly newspaper column. Another friend judges the job of solving this puzzle so involving, she brews a cup of tea to help her nerves. There will be some names that are really easy to spot. That's a fact. Some people, however, will soon find themselves in a jam, especially since the book names are not necessarily capitalized. Truthfully, from answers we get, we are forced to admit it usually takes a minister or a scholar to see some of them at the worst. Research has shown that something in our genes is responsible for the difficulty we have in seeing the books in this paragraph. During a recent fund raising event, which featured this puzzle, the Alpha Delta Phi lemonade booth set a new record. The local paper, The Chronicle, surveyed over 200 patrons who reported that this puzzle was one of the most difficult they had ever seen. As Daniel Humana humbly puts it, "The books are all right here in plain view hidden from sight." Those able to find all of them will hear great lamentations from those who have to be shown. One revelation that may help is that books like Timothy and Samuel may occur without their numbers. Also, keep in mind, that punctuation and spaces in the middle are normal. A chipper attitude will help you compete really well against those who claim to know the answers. Remember, there is no need for a mad exodus; there really are 30 books of the Bible lurking somewhere in this paragraph waiting to be found.

Little Competition for Connect Readers:

HOW MANY AND THEIR VALUE

The wine bottle (0.7L) we have been using to collect 5p pieces is now full, including the neck of the bottle.

There is a small prize available for the person who can get closest to their value and actual number.

Answers by 1 June 2020 to:

grampsh44@gmail.com



Guess Who?

I've asked some members of our fellowship some questions, can you guess who they are from the clues given. They will all be involved in working with our youth. Answer next month.

1. Where were you born? *Burnham*
2. What is your favourite colour? *Green*
3. How long have you been at CCC? *Many many years*
And can you give us a clue to the youth group you work with.
The young ones
4. What are your hobbies? *Craft of all sorts*
5. Where do you spend most of your Mondays? *Chinnor*
6. Who is your favourite character from the Bible? *Peter*
7. What sort of dwelling do you live in? *A house*
8. What is your favourite food? *Egg and chips*
9. Do you have brothers and sisters? *Two sisters*
10. If you were on a desert island and were allowed one luxury item (remembering you already have a Bible and the complete works of Shakespeare) what would it be? *Scissors*

Last month's guess who was Susie Kelsey

CCC Services: For Such A Time, I Believe ..

Sunday Services until further notice can be viewed via CCC's website:
<http://chinnor.org.uk/messages/> or via Zoom on the day as they happen:

If you are new to this technology, the whole idea of Zoom is that every participant will be able to see and speak to every other participant on the screen. It is used often for video conferencing. Please click on this link:
<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/3049662326> (See the notices for the password)

If you joined last week already or have used zoom before: 1) You just need to start zoom, and then click on 'join a meeting', and enter Meeting ID: 3049662326. 2) You may then need to click 'join' and then click on 'join with computer audio' and 'start video' (bottom left of screen).

If you are new to Zoom: On a **PC**, you might need to download the file by clicking on 'Run', and then when prompted, click on 'join with computer audio', and then click on 'start video' (bottom left of screen) On a **Mac**, there might be a few more steps, but if you're a Mac user, you can probably figure it out. Whatever the case, if you are prompted to enter a Meeting ID, type in: 3049662326

Once you're in the Zoom meeting, remember to click mute (bottom left of screen) and only unmute when you speak to the other participants. As this is a free package for now, our meeting will last only 40 minutes...so it might end abruptly. But if needed, we can all login again for another 40 mins.

Sunday 3 May 2020

Morning Service 11am - Forgiven and Forgiving
Pastor Pete

Sunday 10 May 2020

Morning Service 11am - Ezekiel 34; The Good Shepherd
John Gravett

Sunday 17 May 2020

Morning Service 11am - Ezekiel 37; The Valley of Dry Bones
Steve Ludlow

Sunday 24 May 2020

Morning Service 11am - Ezekiel 47; From Trickle to Stream to a Flood
David Morgan

Who's Who at



Chinnor Community Church

Our Leadership Team:

Pete Walley (Pastor)
Bruce Crawforth (Elder)
Will Austin (Christians Together)
Ann Long (Missions)
Janine Adams (Evangelical Alliance)
Sophia Botchway (Treasurer)
Viv Haywood (Administrator/Premises)

Our Trustees

Susie Kelsey
Steve Ludlow (Chair)

Small Group Leaders:

Ann Long & Janine Adams
Viv Adams (Daytime)
Sarah Mak (Food for Thought)
Jean Sutcliffe (Daytime)
Barbara Francis
Viv & John Haywood
Susie Kelsey
Steve & Fiona Ludlow
Jean Sutcliffe & Ian Swaffield

Youth Work:

Sundays:

Pebbles (Under 5s): Barbara Francis
The Rock (Yrs 2-6): Anna Chalk
Rock Solid (Yrs 7-9): Fiona Austin
Summit (Yrs 10-13): Zoe Powell

Fridays:

FN@6 (Yrs 2-6): 6-7.15pm
Gail Roberts / John & Viv Haywood
FN@7 (Yrs 7-9): 7-9pm
Ian & Shane Swaffield

The Bridge: Steve Kelsey

The Journey: via the Church Office

Rainbow Tots: Sarah Mak

Call in for Coffee: Cath Walley

Men's Own: Peter Hopgood

CCC 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 the Church Office

Samaritans Purse – Pam Dunn

CCC Bookshop: Pam Dunn

Health and Safety: Bruce Crawforth

Child Protection: Jo Wootton &
Anna Chalk

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

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

Contact Details:

Church Administrator/Premises:
Viv Haywood 01844 352938
chinnorcommunitychurch@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 or
Viv Haywood on 01844 355935 or
Sheila Gravett on 01844 353138.