

Issue 124

THE LADYGROVE CHURCH



MAGAZINE
May 2017

The Ladygrove Church meets at the
Ladygrove Community Centre, Tamar Way
every Sunday at 10am

www.theladygrovechurch.org.uk

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Thank you to all our contributors this month:

Hugh Boorman, pupils from All Saints' School Worship Club,
Sarah Lawfull, Mary Parker and Pastor Gay Rasgo.
It would be great to see your name here next time!

The **June magazine** will be available on Sunday 4th June and the
deadline for articles to go in it is **Sunday 28th May**.

Please give your contributions to Hugh Boorman or Mary Parker.

Thought for the Month

...and the rest!

As I walked to church on St George's Day, it seemed hard to believe that it had only been seven days since I was last making that short trip. It felt as though I had been away for at least double that. Interestingly, when I ran my thoughts passed Lindsey later, she had felt the same.

All we had done was have a few days off – Monday to Saturday – not even a full week but we both felt very rested. Not that we did that much resting as such.

We redecorated the dining room, tidied the garden, made trips to the re-cycling centre, had our dental check-ups, took Daniel to Kilkenny Lane Country Park in Carterton (highly recommended), took Daniel and his friend from school to Blenheim Palace, entertained Daniel's godparents, did our usual weekly shopping and all the other stuff that being a parent/grandparent entails and not forgetting getting trapped in by Virgin Media as they dug up the footpath. But we also did find time to

relax – do some reading, painting and watching TV (and *Rogue One* quite a bit) – and, on reflection, what Lindsey and I decided was that we had got the balance right.

And I hope that I am not simply preaching to myself when I say that finding that balance is seldom easy. Our busy, busy, busy world is constantly piling on the pressure to do more. We're offered breakfasts that we can eat on the go, coffees in take-away (non-recyclable) cups and so-called labour-saving devices that enable you to get more done. Many of us are expected to start work early and/or finish late. Lunch (if we have one) is taken at our work station. We have mobile phones so that we can be on call 24/7 and we check our emails even when we're meant to be off.

We feel obliged to work that extra hour to keep the boss happy. After all, we don't want to be overlooked next time there's a wage increase or promotion and, heaven forbid, we



don't want to be first in line when the boss is looking to restructure or streamline the business. We take on an extra customer even when our order books are full because we don't want to risk turning them away because demand may not always be that good.

From my experience, there is not a lot of difference within church and Christian organisations. There you have the added pressure of "you're not doing it for me; you're doing it for God" or "what sort of witness are you giving when you say 'no' to that person who needs to see you now?"

And so we find what leisure time we do manage to grab is spent catching up on sleep and our time with God is equally squeezed out or He gets a few desperate minutes here and there rather than quality time.

In our Prayer Hour meeting last month, several of us were struck by a verse from the Book of Isaiah:

"This is what the Sovereign LORD, the Holy One of Israel, says: 'In repentance and rest is your salvation, in quietness and trust is your strength,'" (Isaiah 30:15).

Repentance and rest seem strange bedfellows. Repentance clearly has a place in our salvation. We need to recognise that we are sinners if we are to understand

our need for Jesus' death on the cross. But where does rest fit in?

At the start of the chapter, God declares his woe on "the obstinate children" who "carry out plans that are not mine, forming an alliance, but not by my Spirit, heaping sin upon sin; who go down to Egypt without consulting me; who look for help to Pharaoh's protection, to Egypt's shade for refuge" (Isaiah 30:1-2).

Judah was not holding onto the promises of God that He would protect His people. Instead they looked to what seemed like a powerful potential ally for their salvation – Egypt. They put their trust in fallible human shows of strength rather than Almighty God and once more that was to be their downfall.

For the Jews their worries were about who was going to protect them. For us, the concerns are different but the lesson is the same. Are we going to listen to God's plan for our lives or are we going to kow-tow to where the world around us tells us we will find our security?

Jesus made it clear: "But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things [food and clothes] will be given to you as well" (Matthew 6:33).

Hugh Boorman

Minister of the Ladygrove Church

Souper Sunday

As you will see from the church calendar, Ian and Kathryn Sykes are kindly inviting us all to a Bring and Share Lunch on Sunday, 7th May to celebrate Benjamin's baptism. So rather than have another shared lunch on our usual third Sunday, the Church Committee thought we'd suggest something different based on a suggestion at our AGM – Souper Sunday!

For those of you who were not at the AGM, the original suggestion had been that, to encourage greater socialising amongst our church family, we could occasionally invite one another to our homes on a Sunday for a lunch of soup and a roll (and, of course, a chat). But we're not quite suggesting that for 21st May.

14–20th May is **Christian Aid Week** so we thought that we would hold a Souper Sunday at the Community Centre where various soups, bread and fresh fruit would be provided for free and we would invite everyone who comes to make a donation to the work of Christian Aid.

We hope that you can make it.



Pupil Voice

As many will know, Hugh and Amy Allen (the administrator at SCBA) go into All Saints' School on Tuesday lunchtimes to run a club, using the 'What's in the Bible?' DVDs. The club is open to all KS2 children, whatever their beliefs. In preparation for the school's forthcoming Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS), Mrs Delaney, the Deputy Head met with some of the children for feedback. Here's what she gleaned.

What do you enjoy?

- Watching DVD of a Bible story
- Eating your lunch at the same time as watching the DVD
- Activities relate to the DVD
- Every activity is different
- You learn about God and Jesus from the Bible stories
- I can explain what or who I think God is a bit better now, but everyone has their own opinion
- You can see how the Bible stories can teach us something about life today and how they fit into our Christian Values and SEALs
- The DVDs sometimes link to Captain Hugh's assemblies (worship)
- We like activities like playing Bingo with the King's names and building your own church out of cardboard
- When you do an activity it helps the Bible story to stick in your mind a bit more
- Activities are also fun
- It helps us with our sixth 'R' of Respect
- It can be a quiet time when we can think about God
- Although we have seen some of the DVDs before it doesn't matter because you also notice something else and something in a bit more detail or it helps you to think a bit more deeply about something

- It helps us to respect that everyone is entitled to their opinion because Captain Hugh and Amy will show us a DVD and talk about it and do an activity but we think about it for ourselves and we all think differently. They never tell us what we should think.
- I don't think everyone who goes (to Worship Club) believes in God but it doesn't matter because it helps you to think about how you can handle situations a bit like the Bible stories
- We like that it's a 'drop in' club because sometimes you just aren't 'feeling it'

What could be improved?

- I don't like that some children say they are going to Worship Club to jump the dinner queue, then they talk through the DVD and leave before the activity. This means that some children who love going to Worship Club are turned away because there are too many children

(Discussion followed about how this could be resolved and that it probably wouldn't matter in the summer because children will want to eat their packed lunch on the field with their friends so there will be more space in the room).

- Some older children would like to be 'helpers' rather than do the activity because Captain Hugh and Amy sometimes have too many children to help
- Maybe have Worship Club more than once a week, because 'in the eyes of a child a week is a long time'

(Discussion followed about how this wouldn't be fair to Captain Hugh who is a very busy man and he already comes in on a Monday for worship and a Tuesday for Worship Club and visits the 'Little Ones' classrooms. There was also concern for Amy who they think drives over from Wallingford during her lunch break and she couldn't do that twice a week).

Pupil Voice by eight pupils, two from each of the year groups 3, 4, 5 and 6.



Conversation Welcome:

Exploring the future of the UK after the EU referendum

It's good to talk, but talking about things we disagree over can be difficult. Such conversations can be important at any time but the extraordinary political events of 2016 have made the need more pressing.

The EU Referendum campaign was, at times, bitter and divisive. People on both sides felt misrepresented and misunderstood. The result has left some mourning the loss of an important identity, while others are delighted by the opportunities that lie ahead. Many of us are uncertain about what the future holds.

The “Conversation Welcome” resource is designed to bring people, with their many different thoughts, hopes and concerns, together and help churches explore the important underlying questions about the sort of society we wish to live in and wish to leave to future generations. Over the last year we have seen an awful lot of debate, perhaps this time a bit of conversation would be welcome?

Download the resource free of charge from:
www.jointpublicissues.org.uk/conversationwelcome

May Prayer Diary

Feel free to make suggestions of topics that we can add and, in the future, if you would like prayer for something particular on a specific date, whatever it might be, please let one of the editors know and we can add it to this prayer diary.

Monday, 1st May

- Please pray for those whose lives are tainted by bitterness.
- People living in Nene Grove.

Tuesday, 2nd May

- Please pray for the Revd David Rice as he is licensed as our new Area Dean.
- People living in Welland Avenue.

Wednesday, 3rd May

- Please pray for the Bungokho Rural Development Centre, our mission partner, in Mbale, Uganda.
- People living in Bure Lane.

Thursday, 4th May

- Please pray for our Local Elections taking place today – that all might run smoothly.
- People living in Wensum Drive.

Friday, 5th May

- Please pray for those working in our emergency services.
- People living in Arndale Beck.

Saturday, 6th May

- Please pray for experiencing homelessness.
- People living in Trent Road.

Sunday, 7th May

- Please pray for Benjamin Sykes and all his family and friends, joining us for his baptism this morning.
- People living in Washford Glen.

Monday, 8th May

- Please pray for the Governing Body of All Saints' School as they meet this evening, particularly remembering the foundation governors - Carol Alvey, Fiona Brennan-Scott, Katie Christiansen, Jamie Goddard and Tony Sutton.
- People living in Verlam Grove.

Tuesday, 9th May

- Please pray for Pastor Gay Rasgo, our mission partner in the Philippines.
- People living in Darcey Lode.

Wednesday, 10th May

- Please pray for those who feel weighed down by life's challenges.
- People living in Gelt Burn.

Thursday, 11th May

- Please pray for the people attending our Emmaus Course – Adino, Gillian, Penny, Rachel and Tamzin.
- People living in Churnet Close.

Friday, 12th May

- Please pray for those working for local government.
- People living in Westwater Way.

Saturday, 13th May

- Please pray for God's blessing on the Baptist Assembly meeting today in Harrogate and on our Messy Church.
- People living in Torridge Drive.

Sunday, 14th May

- Please pray for those who have difficult choices to make.
- People living in Roding Way.

Monday, 15th May

- Please pray for our newly elected town, district and county councils – that there would be greater cooperation amongst councillors, whatever their party.
- People living in Dearne Place.

Tuesday, 16th May

- Please pray for the "What's in the Bible?" lunch club that meets at All Saints' School.
- People living in Synderford Close.

Wednesday, 17th May

- Please pray for God's blessing upon our Wednesday Toddler Group.
- People living in Halse Water.

Thursday, 18th May

- Today there is a CTDD ministers' prayer meeting for the ministers of CTDD. Please pray for vision and a revived enthusiasm.
- People living in Exe Close.

Friday, 19th May

- Please pray for Rebekah Moffett, our mission partner in Madrid.
- People living in Cam Close.

Saturday, 20th May

- Please pray for our children's groups and their leaders and helpers.
- People living in Evenlode Drive.

Sunday, 21st May

- Please pray for those who feel overlooked and ignored by God.
- People living in Tyburn Glen.

Monday, 22nd May

- Please pray for Didcot TRAIN Youth Project, our local mission partners. See www.didcottrain.org.uk for the latest updates.
- People living in Darent Place.

Tuesday, 23rd May

- Please pray for Year 3 of All Saints' School as they go away on their residential to Hill End.
- People living in Ottery Way.

Wednesday, 24th May

- Please pray for those working in the NHS.
- People living in Ockley Brook.

Thursday, 25th May

- 'And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light' (Genesis 1:3). Take a moment to think of what this world would be like if it were in permanent darkness and give thanks to God for light.
- People living in Kew Win.

Friday, 26th May

- Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life" (John 8:12). Take a moment to reflect on Jesus' sacrifice on the cross, by which he offers us eternal life. Think of the different aspects of your life and how Jesus wants to shine his light into them. Invite him in.
- People living in Penpont Water.

Saturday, 27th May

- "God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us" (Romans 5:5). Let's pray that as we go through all the different encounters and situations of today, God's love would overflow from us through our attitudes, our words and our actions.
- People living in Ray Court.

Sunday, 28th May

- Think of people in your family who need the light of God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit to shine on them. Lift them up to God.
- People living in Jordan Close.

Monday, 29th May

- Think about your friends and pray for each of them to know Jesus as their Lord and Saviour.
- People living in Plym Drive.

Tuesday, 30th May

- Think about the people who live next door to you or above you or below you. Pray that your neighbours might discover the warmth of God's love for them.
- People living in Foudry Close.

Wednesday, 31st May

- Think about your neighbourhood. If you have time, dig out a map of the area, cast your eyes over it, and, inviting the Spirit to guide your thoughts, pray for the area.
- People living in Swale Drive.

June

Thursday, 1st June

- Please pray for God's Spirit to move across this nation.
- People living in Usk Way.

Friday, 2nd June

- "Let the light of your face shine on us" Psalm 4:6. Let's pray for the nations of the world. If you have time, find an atlas and perhaps concentrate on the countries of a particular continent.
- People living in Windrush Mews.

Saturday, 3rd June

- As we approach the General Elections, let's pray for our politicians and for all those who have the opportunity to vote.
- People living in Itchen Court.

Sunday, 4th June

- On Pentecost Sunday, let's pray for our Christian brothers and sisters across our town.
- People living in Colne Drive.

Yellow Braces 2017



Diocesan Youth Residential



**July 7th–9th for school years 7-11
Hill End Centre: Oxfordshire**

**For more details contact your youth leader or the
Diocesan Youth Adviser on 01865 208 253**

Deadline for bookings – 12th June



#PLEDGE2PRAY

Thy Kingdom Come

Last year the Archbishops of Canterbury and York had an idea to invite Christians from across the Church of England to join a wave of prayer during the days between Ascension and Pentecost – apparently a time when the Church traditionally focuses on prayer. They encouraged everyone to ask for the Holy Spirit to help them be witnesses to Jesus Christ and to pray for others to discover that living faith.

What started as an idea gained momentum and in May 2016 more than 100,000 Christians from different denominations and traditions took part from the UK and across the world. They joined in more than 3,000 events and services to pray for others to come to know Jesus Christ and for God’s kingdom to come.

The time of prayer culminated in six national Beacon Events over Pentecost weekend at cathedrals in different parts of the country. At Winchester demand was so great overflow areas with big screens had to be organized and at Canterbury a live stream was set up for people to join in on the internet. By July it had received 300,000 views.

The response to what was really a simple invitation was astonishing with hundreds of thousands joining in from churches of many denominations and different traditions around the UK and across the world.

Thy Kingdom Come, as it has been called, has now become a global prayer movement – an international and ecumenical call to prayer, embraced by the Roman Catholics, Baptists, Methodists, Pentecostal and Black Majority churches, as well as the Anglican Church.

The hope is that:

- people will commit to pray with God's world-wide family – as a church, individually or as a family;
- churches will hold prayer events, such as 24-7 prayer, prayer stations and prayer walks, across the UK and in other parts of the world;
- people will be empowered through prayer by the Holy Spirit, finding new confidence to be witnesses for Jesus Christ.

As before, the Archbishops have provided a whole stack of resources on their website (www.thykingdomcome.global) for individuals, families, homegroups and churches, plus loads of inspiring stories and other information.

Ascension Day this year is Thursday, 25th May and Pentecost is Sunday, 4th June.

So how about it?

An update from Pastor Gay

– our mission partner in the Philippines

Pastor Gay sent this letter to us in March, following the gall bladder operation she had in February, funded by donations from our Ladygrove Church family.

Dear Ladygrove family and Pastor Hugh

To God be the glory!

A countless to you all for all your prayer and financial help to me. I already crossed the great trials, with your helping hearts to me. Without your help I didn't know but truly God is faithful, I owe to you my life, how God used you to meet my needs in that terrible situation I had. My heart overflows the joy that your news leaved me, in times like this, also thank you for praying for my full recovery.

As of now, I have a weekly follow-up check-up in the hospital where I am operated and continue medications as I needed, hoping that the following weeks, it will end and looking forward for my full recovery. I know I cannot repay you back for all the goodness and help you extended to me, and for your love in the ministry and even to me, thank you for all your understanding, that you really understand my situations. I was sorry for all my disturbances I gave to you, I knew you did very best to me and to the ministry. God knew my heart how I value and appreciate every help come from you all, I know. I think what I can be doing, I cannot repay you back for all the things you did for me and for the church, but my heart and my mind will not forget you all. Thank you so much for having you all in my life and embracing us. Thank you Mother Church. My words are not enough to express the joy of my heart how to thank you. One thing I am sure to do is my prayers to you all. We never see

each other face to face, we are away a thousand and million miles, but you are all in my heart, My heart knew you all. Thank you so much and sorry for being I am poor, that I always knocking for help in your heart. I love you all.



Your gift to me is so much helpful especially this month that Joel my husband is so much busy attending me and doing things like we need everyday, bringing my son Aijalon in school. I cannot do things as of now, a big adjustment for me,

but your help is so much help to meet our needs everyday, I am thankful to God because I regularly attend our church prayer meeting and I am able to lead it sometimes. Without your financial assistance, surely even our foods everyday, we will be shorter. Thank you so much, especially for my continuous medication now.

May the Lord continually pour out his blessings to you all. I owe many things to you all. You extend my life, thank you so much and I and my family loves you.

Keep on praying
Pastor Gay, Joel and Aijalon

May Diary

Date	Time	Event
Tuesday 2nd	7:45pm	Deanery Synod Meeting at St Peter's, Didcot with the licensing of David Rice as Area Dean
Thursday 4th		Local Elections - don't forget to vote!
Sunday 7th	10am	Worship All Together with the Baptism of Benjamin Sykes Genesis 12:1-9 God's Call and Promise: Abram's Call
	12:30pm	Bring and Share Lunch with Benjamin Sykes' friends and family
Monday 8th	8pm	Prayer Hour at 12 Trent Road – all welcome.
Thursday 11th	7:30pm	Emmaus Course
Saturday 13th	3pm	Messy Church
Sunday 14th	10am	Anglican Communion with Children's Groups Genesis 13 God's Call and Promise: Lot's Choice
Monday 15th	8pm	Messy Church Debrief and Planning Meeting at 12 Trent Road
Sunday 21st	10am	Worship All Together Genesis 16 God's Call and Promise: Hagar's Promise
	12:30pm	Souper Sunday in Aid of Christian Aid – see elsewhere in this magazine
Monday 22nd	1:45pm	All Saints' School Year 5's Pentecost Service at All Saints' Church – all welcome
	8pm	Worship All Together Planning Meeting
Sunday 28th	10am	Morning Service with Children's Groups Genesis 17 God's Call and Promise: Abram's Name Change

June Diary

Date	Time	Event
Sunday 4th	10am	Worship All Together Luke 2:41-52 Jesus and John: Jesus in the Temple
	TBC	CTDD Pentecost Celebrations – Details to Follow

Homegroups

There are a number of homegroups meeting throughout the week at various times and venues - some with a specific focus; others more generic. For more details, speak to Hugh.

Tuesdays	10:00am	Daytime group Contact Jo 799322
	7-8:30pm	RGB youth group for secondary school and sixth formers at Sarah and Vaughn Lawfull's home Contact Sarah and Vaughn 211868
	8:00pm	Re-hydrate Men's Group on the first Tuesday of the month for Bible study Contact Jamie 07881 710171
Wednesdays	8:00pm	Home Group at Ian and Kathryn Sykes' home (fortnightly) Contact Ian and Kathryn 850085
Thursdays	7:30pm	Kitchen Table for 20's and 30's at Sarah and Vaughn Lawfull's home Contact Sarah and Vaughn 211868
	8:00pm	Refresh Ladies' Group at Ruth and Liam Busby's home Contact Ruth 511622
	8:00pm	Re-hydrate Men's Group on the third Thursday of the month for a social gathering Contact Jamie 07881 710171



Messy Church

Saturday 13th May - 3-5pm

Ladygrove Community Centre

Come and find out more about the life of Hannah through crafts, games, activities and worship for families - followed by tea. Offers of help and donations of finger food and cake will be welcome! Please speak to Hugh for more information.

