

Issue 138

THE LADYGROVE CHURCH



MAGAZINE

September 2018

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

Blessed by God to Be a Blessing to Others

www.theladygrovechurch.org.uk

Minister: The Revd Hugh Boorman Tel: 819036

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Thank you to all our contributors this month:

Sally Allan, Hugh Boorman, Charlton Hoadley and Eddie Souza,
Sharon Jones, David and Dorothy McMillan

It would be great to see your name here next time!

The **October magazine** will be available on
Sunday 30th September and the deadline for articles to go in it is
Sunday 23rd September.

Please give your contributions to Hugh Boorman or Mary Parker.

Thought for the Month

Climate Change

Not surprisingly, since coming back from holiday I have been asked a number of times whether we had a good time. I have always answered with a resounding "Yes!"

We stayed at the same place as last year – a farm "cottage" in Alsop-en-le-Dale in the Derbyshire Peak District. We went roughly at the same time as last year – end of July/beginning of August. To a large extent we visited the same places as last year – Dovedale, the Tissington Trail and the local National Trust places. And we ate out at the same places. However, the holiday this year felt so much better than it did last year and I think that we have all come back more relaxed and refreshed even though we walked more.

Obviously the one difference was the weather. Last year – two weeks of thunderstorms; this year – almost two weeks of wall to wall blue sky and sunshine. There is no getting away from it: good weather makes life



much more enjoyable and endurable, even when you're walking along a seriously overgrown footpath and up to your chest in stinging nettles because someone has misunderstood the instructions given. Sunshine makes the scenery more vivid, enhances our photography and even makes that glass of rhubarb cider taste even more scrummy.

I guess that the same can be said about us too. Somehow life seems more bearable when we have what people call a sunny disposition. It's not that life is any easier. We still face the same challenges and frustrations that life throws at us but approaching them with good humour seems to help carry us through them. And just as the sun affects us all, so such a person can lift the spirits of those

around him or her. Obviously the opposite also applies.

No wonder Paul identifies joy as part of the fruit of the Holy Spirit (Galatians 5:22). Commenting on that particular quality, one writer has described it



as "a peculiarly Christian grace, which has a much deeper root than mere natural cheerfulness of temper, and is rather the unflinching brightness and equanimity which proceeds from calm and settled principles animated by the Divine Spirit itself" while another said "not a selfish emotion, but a sun whose rays warm and gladden all within the sphere of its influence".

Elsewhere the Epistles see the power of joy. "In all our troubles my joy knows no bounds" (2 Corinthians 7:14). "In the midst of a very severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity" (2 Corinthians 8:2). "You suffered along with those in prison and joyfully accepted the confiscation of your property" (Hebrews 10:34).

In times of great persecution, Paul and the new Christians could express happiness in the face of those who sought to bring them down. I bet that must have been a

real challenge to the Roman and Jewish authorities who were trying to silence this new movement. Isn't it interesting that when they were facing such hardships, Paul and the others didn't seem to pray that God might deliver them from their oppressors? Rather they seem to accept it with joy. In fact James advised, "Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds" (James 1:2). I wonder how that attitude compares to what we pray for when we or others are facing challenges.

Jesus invited us to daily pick up our cross (Luke 9:23). We have never been destined for an easy life. But Spirit-inspired joy can pull us through our difficult times as it did the early Church and, in so doing, bring joy to some and a challenge to others. "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him" (Romans 15:13).

Hugh Boorman
Minister of the Ladygrove Church

Sundays

As you'll be aware, for the last year or so, we have been holding two Worship All Together services each month, partly because we only have a few people who are willing to help with our children's groups and wanted to enable them and the children to engage with the whole church family.

Following discussions with the children's group leaders, it has been decided to return to holding them just once a month so we will revert to the following format:



- | | |
|--------|---|
| Week 1 | Morning Worship with Children's Groups |
| Week 2 | Communion with Children's Groups |
| Week 3 | Worship All Together followed by Shared Lunch |
| Week 4 | Morning Worship with Children's Groups |
| Week 5 | Communion with Children's Groups |

Of course, being the Ladygrove Church, there will be times when we amend the format just a little, such as this month (see below). Also during the main school holidays, we will worship all together.



As well as increasing the number of children's group meetings, we are making a few other changes too. Firstly, when they go out all children will start together in what was the Children's Centre (turn left out of the school hall and first left) before they break up in age groups and go to various rooms. Secondly, we hope to introduce a bit more sung worship into our ministry with children and, thirdly, we'll be using some excellent material called Energize produced by an organisation called Urban Saints (formerly Crusaders, if you're old enough to remember them). The material is not syllabus-based like the Scripture Union material that we have used in the past but rather offers lots of resources for various topics and Bible readings. This will enable all the groups to look at the same Bible reading as those remaining in the school hall but in a more age-appropriate way; thus providing a greater opportunity to talk about what we've all been learning around the table at Sunday lunch.

This month we are starting a sermon series on the Book of Exodus, looking at the Israelites' journey from slavery in Egypt to the Promised Land.

Toast and Desert

On **23rd September** we are going to do something a little different.

During September, a local charity called Homeless Oxfordshire is inviting people to find out more about the challenges of homelessness in their local community. On that Sunday our reading is about the Israelites' journey in the desert so it seemed an appropriate day to accept the invitation. Our very own Erica Young, who works for South Oxfordshire and the Vale of the White Horse District Councils will be sharing her insights into the situation in Didcot and district. The children will also be able to learn a little more about homelessness in their groups.

And where does the toast fit in? Well, anyone who visits Homeless Oxfordshire is offered a breakfast of tea and buttered toast so we thought that we'd join them by starting the service in a similar fashion (including gluten- and dairy-free options!)

Of course, there will be an opportunity to make a donation towards the work of Homeless Oxfordshire.



Baptism

On **Sunday, 30th September**, rather than a second communion service, we will be joined by family and friends of Frankie and Anna Tipton to celebrate their son Frasier's baptism. After the service, Frankie and Anna have invited us all to join them for a shared lunch in the Community Hall.



The Ladygrove Church has been running Messy Church for six years but at a recent meeting where we reflected on what God has done in that time, we realised that we have never actually featured an article about it in our magazine, so here it is.

It all started at an Anglican church near Portsmouth in 2004. The church had good facilities and the area needed as much community-building as possible. There was a lot of sympathy towards church but it wasn't offering anything that really gripped the imagination of local families. A few people got together and decided to try to do something for all ages together, partly out of a belief that we grow best as a church when we walk the journey with as many different people as possible, and partly from a desire to help families to grow together in their walk of faith, and not see Christianity as something you grow out of when you're eleven. Messy Church was born and now they have sprouted all over the world and across the various denominations.

Messy Church is a way of creating church family and involving fun in our walk with God. It is not just for children. It is a church (not a craft club or a stepping stone to "proper church") which helps people encounter Jesus as Lord and Saviour. And its values are about being Christ-centred, for all ages, based on creativity, hospitality and celebration.



A small number of us meet once a month to plan the following Messy Church just as we do for our Worship All Together. Focusing on a particular Bible story or aspect of the Christian faith, we come up with 6-7 relevant craft activities suitable for all ages.

On the day, we set up beforehand just as we do for our Sunday morning worship but we set up 7 or 8 tables with chairs around them. The meeting starts with about 1¼ hours of craft activities.

There is a volunteer at each table to help everyone with the craft but also to talk with them, ask how they are, share with them and explain what the craft is about. There is also a puzzle or quiz or two for those who prefer to do something with their minds rather than their hands. And refreshments are available throughout the time. Ideally it would be good to have one or two people around just to chat while people are enjoying



a cuppa but we tend not to have enough volunteers for that at the moment.

At about 4.15pm, we push the tables to the side and bring the chairs into the centre. We sing a hymn, we have notices and celebrate people's birthdays just like we do on a Sunday. We look at the things that people made, we have a Bible story and have a talk. We have a time of prayer, concluding with the Lord's Prayer and then finish possibly with another hymn before going into the Community Hall for a shared meal and more opportunity for fellowship together.



Meeting just once a month (and not in August) we don't have so much contact with people but some of the conversations that we have with people have been quite exciting and it is encouraging to see how people have grown in their faith.

If you would like to know more or would like to get involved, speak to one of the team – Ruth Blampied, Pat Clay, Mary and Martin Parker, Teresa Sargison, Rachel Tillyer or Clare-Louise Wiblin. Until now we have usually been hosting our monthly Messy Church on the second Saturday of the month, but **from October we will be meeting on the third Saturday each month.**

Emmaus Course

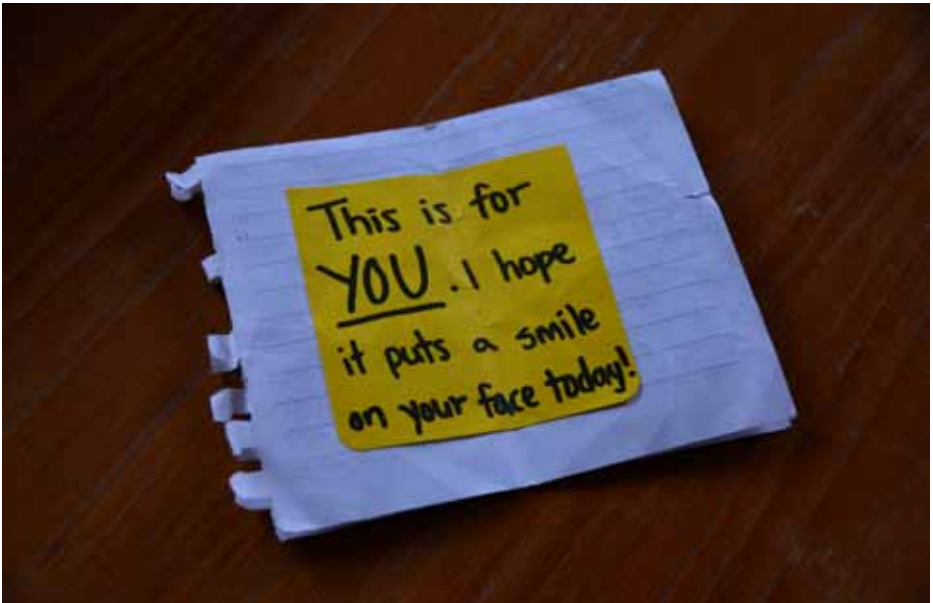
"It's been a bit like discovering a new friend who, actually, has always been there with me".

That's what one person said at the completion of an Emmaus Course at our church. For me, that is one of the greatest strengths of Emmaus compared to other similar courses – it engages with you where you are, rather than dictating where you need to start from, and does not expect you to have any particular level of knowledge. Over fifteen weeks it looks at the basics of Christian belief, how Christians grow and how Christians are called to live but always from a point of your experience of life and faith.

The course is designed for those who might be asking questions about faith and spirituality, those who are new to the Christian faith or those who are looking for a "refresher".

Each session includes a mixture of film clips, discussions, a look at the Bible, occasional activities and individual reflection. No question is too hard, too simple or out of bounds. No pressure is put on anyone to engage with the course any deeper than they wish to. And if you conclude that it is not for you, that's fine. You can drop out, no questions asked.

The next Emmaus Course will be kicking off on Tuesday evenings, starting on **25th September**. If you are interested in coming along, please let Hugh know. Or perhaps, you might know someone who would be interested - why not invite them and come along with them?



Unexpected Blessing

During our service on Sunday 5th August, we invited members of the congregation to share their testimonies of ways in which God had blessed them in unexpected ways.

Charlton Hoadley read out a powerful message which had been left for Eddie on one of his cafe tables at the end of July. The message blessed Eddie, Charlton and those present at the service, and so we share it here that it would be a blessing to you too.

There is something powerful and sacred that takes place when we open our souls and claim our identity. Each day, we are invited to boldly live the story of broken, imperfect, inadequate people chasing after Jesus with everything they have. And we will experience His redemption as we embrace the freedom He offers through His grace. We may never be 'enough' in the eyes of the world. But that's OK. We don't have to be.

Our identity lies in the One who created us and wrote the narrative of our lives long before we took our first breath. We have a God who sees us as His beloved, redeemed, tenacious, perfect children He has called to do His work on this earth. In that calling, we can live boldly, love bravely, and serve courageously. Not because we are great, but because He is great.

7-24-18

Hi

The world we live in can be cruel and often times we are confronted by others who put us down for our flaws and mistakes. But we are human and live in a broken world, so we will fail. But the cool thing is that although we lose the battle with sin and temptation every day, Jesus has already won and died for our sins. He laid down His life for us. What an undeserving gift we have received. Today, know and believe that you and your story, no matter how messy it may be, are important. You are called honoured, chosen, seen, secure, forgiven and free by the King of kings Himself. So, who cares about the lies this world tries to tell you. You matter and you have a lot of life to experience. I had the privilege to pray for you this morning and I hope you can confidently walk through this day knowing your value. You are a child of God and are so loved. Smile. You have no idea how much that simple gesture can impact someone's life. Have a wonderful day ☺

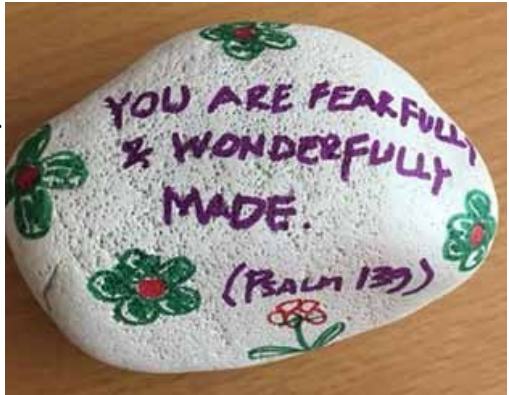
♥ Your Sister in Christ.



A Rock's Journey

You may remember that at our monthly prayer meeting on 2nd July we used rocks to offer prayers of blessing to and for our community to coincide with International Drop a Rock Day. Yes, I still can't get over the fact that there is one.

A number of rocks were decorated and placed in various parts of the Ladygrove Estate and further afield. Here is part of the story of just one of them as deduced from the "Didcot Rocks!" Facebook page. It was found on Drop a Rock Day (3rd July) by a little boy who planned to hide it again the following day.



All then went quiet until 12th August when this was posted: "Morning. Just to let you know I found this lovely thought-provoking rock at Chesil Vista Holiday Park in Weymouth this week. It's travelled back home with us to the Isle of Axholme, North Lincolnshire and will be hidden alongside our #IsleRocks".

I posted a comment saying that I was pleased the person had liked it and explained how it been created at our prayer meeting and got the following response: "A much appreciated find. Thank you x". Then another person joined the conversation: "My daughter left that at Chesil Vista this week whilst we on holiday. We found it in Didcot I thought it was beautiful. She will be so pleased it's been found. I can now tell her where it was made too!" So that is the journey of the rock so far. Who knows where it will turn up next? And, more importantly, who knows what effect that message from God's word has been having on at least five people?

"As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater, so is my word that goes out from my mouth: it will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it" (Isaiah 55:10-11).

Watch this space.

September 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.

Saturday, 1st September

- Please pray for the work of the Children's Society.
- People living in Venners Water.

Sunday, 2nd September

- Please pray for those who work for the development of the community.
- People living in Ancholme Close.

Monday, 3rd September

- Please pray for our schools – children and staff - as they prepare to start again this week, especially thinking of those who find themselves in a new setting.
- People living in Dulas Close.

Tuesday, 4th September

- Please pray for all Members of Parliament as they return today from their summer recess, particularly remembering our own MP, the Rt Hon Ed Vaizey.
- People living in Longford Way.

Wednesday, 5th September

- Please pray for Sharon Jones, our mission partner in Lima, Peru. See elsewhere in this magazine for her latest update.
- People living in Cow Lane.

Thursday, 6th September

- Please pray for those who work in the National Health Service.
- People living in Lea Grove.

Friday, 7th September

- Please pray for those who are struggling to discover their true identity in life.
- People living in Swarbourne Close.

Saturday, 8th September

- Please pray for Messy Church meeting today. See elsewhere in this magazine for details.
- People living in Tyne Avenue.

Sunday, 9th September

- This is Karen Beck's final Sunday at All Saints' Church before she retires. Please pray for God's blessing on her and her husband, David, as they say farewell and move to Liverpool. And please remember the members of All Saints' Church tasked with finding the next minister to lead them on.
- People working in Lostock Place.

Monday, 10th September

- Please pray for those with terminal illnesses, for their family and friends and for all those who support them.
- People living in Nunney Brook.

Tuesday, 11th September

- Please pray for the "What's in the Bible?" Club as it starts meeting again this lunchtime at All Saints' School.
- People living in Ashburn Place.

Wednesday, 12th September

- Please pray for those working in engineering.
- People living in Doe Lea.

Thursday, 13th September

- Please pray for David and Dorothy McMillan, our BMS World Mission partners in Amsterdam. See elsewhere in this magazine for their latest updates.
- People living in Brunstock Beck.

Friday, 14th September

- Please pray for all those who lead our sung worship.
- People living in Finham Brook.

Saturday, 15th September

- Please pray for those who feel lonely.
- People living in Ingrebourne Way.

Sunday, 16th September

- Please pray for all who find themselves trapped "between a rock and a hard place".
- People living in Stort Close.

Monday, 17th September

- Please pray for those working in I.T.
- People living in Monks Lode,

Tuesday, 18th September

- Please pray for the Governing Body of All Saints' School as they meet this evening.
- People living in Lambwath Stream.

Wednesday, 19th September

- Please pray for our Parent/ Carer and Toddler group restarting today after the summer break.
- People living in Prestwick Burn.

Thursday, 20th September

- Please pray for our mission partner in Mbale, Uganda – the Bungokho Rural Development Centre.
- People living in Bowmont Water.

Friday, 21st September

- Please pray for those with mental health challenges and for family, friends and professionals who support them.
- People living in Tarret Burn.

Saturday, 22nd September

- Please pray for our children's groups and those who faithfully give of their time and effort to lead them.
- People living in Blakehope Burn.

Sunday, 23rd September

- Please pray for all of those who do not have a place that they can call home and for the organisations that seek to meet their needs.
- People living in Medlock Grove.

Monday, 24th September

- Please pray for those who work in hospitality.
- People living in Chinnock Brook.

Tuesday, 25th September

- Please pray for the new Emmaus Course hopefully starting this evening.
- People living in Abbey Brook.

Wednesday, 26th September

- Please pray for Pastor Gay and the Villa Rosa and Southville churches in the Philippines which she is leading alongside her brother, Pastor Fel. See elsewhere in this magazine for an update.
- People living in Sutherland Beck.

Thursday, 27th September

- Please pray for our 20-30's who meet for fun, food and fellowship at Kitchen Table this evening.
- People living in Dudwell.

Friday, 28th September

- Please pray for those who wrestle with addiction and for those who support them.
- People living in Dart Drive.

Saturday, 29th September

- Let's give thanks for all those who have been part of our church family and have moved to pastures new whether near or far. Pray for God's blessing upon them.
- People living in Alphin Brook.

Sunday, 30th September

- Please pray for God's blessing on Frasier Tipton as he is baptised today and on all his family and friends joining us for the service.
- People living in Tavy Close.

October

Monday, 1st October

- Please pray for those who are seeking paid employment.
- People living in Dagdale Drive.

Tuesday, 2nd October

- Please pray for Didcot TRAIN Youth Project, our local mission partner. See their website (www.didcottrain.org.uk) for the latest updates.
- People living in Cole Court.

Wednesday, 3rd October

- Please pray for those involved with building and establishing the North East Didcot Development and pray for the necessary resources for us to help the newcomers to our area to integrate into the community.
- People living in Wandle Beck.

Thursday, 4th October

- Please pray for our Refresh Ladies' group and the other homegroups and support groups meeting throughout the week.
- People living in Old Bourne.

Friday, 5th October

- Please pray for victims of crime.
- People living in Rawthey Avenue.

Saturday, 6th October

- Please pray for those who work in the caring professions.
- People living in Yealm Close.

Prayers

At one of the services in the summer, we invited the Holy Spirit to inspire our prayers as we looked at a number of images around the hall. Here are some of the results:-

- *Lord, please be with those who govern us. Help them to make wise decisions.*
- *For wisdom and humility for our leaders.*
- *Inspire those who lead.*
- *Let your will be done.*
- *Lord, I pray for wisdom for our leaders in every country to be fair and think of others.*
- *For the families*
- *Keep those who travel safe.*
- *Forgive me, Father. Let today pass well for me. I pray for my family and forgive me for my thoughts.*
- *Teach us to care for this world and appreciate that our actions have consequences for it.*
- *Lord, this land is dry; it is thirsty for you. I pray you would not let me dry up, let me keep my cup flowing. May your Spirit be like a river to my cracked soul that I may overflow and you would fill the empty hearts in this land. We need you, Lord. Help us to be vessels of life and living water.*
- *Please bring us out of the wilderness - please send your rain.*



- *For children who need someone to step up and protect them.*
- *Allow us all to feel responsible and protectors of children/young hearts and minds.*
- *Thank you for our children and grandchildren. Help them to grow up knowing you and your care and love and blessings.*
- *Dear Lord, may we bridge the gap between generations and restore respect for one another.*
- *Help us to help those younger than us to find you and know your love.*
- *Stop people from being alone and homeless. It's not their fault.*
- *Restore respect for the elderly.*
- *For peace and fulfilment.*
- *For new life in face of difficulty.*
- *Give us your eyes.*
- *Help us to be real with one another and help us to be accepting and supportive of others' realities.*
- *Pray for those persecuted by others.*
- *A smile may hide the feelings beneath.*
- *That those who are frail will be looked after, not abandoned.*



- *Help those who may be lonely to find comfort in you.*
- *Lord Jesus, Be with those in conflict; bring your peace.*
- *Dear Lord, thank you for plastic. Thank you that it is strong, durable and cheap. Please help us to use it wisely and to re-use it. Help us to dispose of it wisely too.*
- *Help us to become responsible guardians of your beautiful world.*
- *We pray that people will care more for the environment around them.*
- *That people actually have faith that it can be different to this.*
- *That we may know when to stand up.*
- *For those who are homeless to know peace.*
- *Pray for those who need a home – may they find love, peace and deep authentic hospitality.*
- *When we're ruled by fear and hate, Lord, heal our hearts.*



Images from unsplash.com



Prayer letter, July 2018

www.bmsworldmission.org/ddmcmillan

Here we are, already half way through our third year in the Netherlands and with lots of exciting things to report from IBTSC Amsterdam! The year began with our busiest Annual Colloquium ever, with forty to fifty students, supervisors, Board members, staff and guests present for ten days in January. This was the first Colloquium in the new Baptist House and the spacious meeting rooms, kitchen and dining area were ideal for lectures and seminars, shared meals, supervision meetings and relaxed coffee breaks. Our beautiful new library was also well used, and we are grateful to God for these wonderful facilities and for how well they lend themselves to conferences and special events, as well as making a very pleasant daily work environment.

When we asked our students recently what they liked most about studying at IBTSC, most of them talked about the Annual Colloquium. One student likened the sound of everyone saying the Lord's Prayer in their mother tongue at our daily prayers to 'a little taste of what heaven must be like!' Some of the other things they valued are shown in the following word cloud.

We are grateful to all of you in the churches we visited for your hospitality and for your prayerful and practical interest in the work of BMS World Mission and the IBTS Centre. When we visited BMS Headquarters in Didcot recently, we recorded some videos which you can view at www.bmsworldmission.org/ddmcmillan. We also spent a week in Northern Ireland, when we took part in a service at our home church, as well as visiting family and friends.

Our final few days were spent with our daughters, Sarah and Catherine, their husbands, Simon and Tom, and their children in Bicester, Oxfordshire. Our three grandchildren – Joel (7), Luke (5) and Isla (almost 2) are growing fast and are lots of fun to be with. David can still keep up with the boys as they run to school, but only just! Isla likes to sit on Dorothy's knee (a much less energetic pursuit) as they read stories together. We loved spending time with them and miss them as we adjust to life back in Nieuw Vennepe.



Please pray with us:

- » For the new IBTS Centre Director, Mike Pears, as he takes up this role
- » For Mike and Helen as they find suitable accommodation and settle into the Netherlands
- » For ourselves as we return to our support roles in the Centre



Once again, thank you for your interest, prayers and practical support. Our postal address (real letters are always welcome!) is:

David & Dorothy McMillan
Noorderdreef 152
2152AB Nieuw Vennepe
The Netherlands

With our warmest greetings to you all,
David & Dorothy McMillan

A Gift from our Mission Partner Pastor Gay and the Villa Rosa Church in the Philippines

On Sunday 22nd July, we received an unexpected gift from Pastor Gay which had been delivered by Sally and Derek Allan (former members of our church) following their visit to the Philippines to see her earlier in the year. The gift was well travelled, having subsequently accompanied Sally and Derek on their trip around New Zealand (including scrutiny by NZ immigration!), returning with them to their home in the Peak District before making its way to Didcot with our former minister Josie Midwinter! The gift - a framed selection of seven beautiful butterflies - was a generous gift from a church with so little.

Sally tells us:

'It was lovely to spend a couple of days with them all again and to meet some new members (especially young people) as well as ones we remembered. And Derek preached at Villa Rosa on the Sunday morning, of course! Pastor Fel and Melody are as cheerful and committed as ever over at Southville and showered me with several beautiful bracelets they make with tiny glass beads. However, they've had to say goodbye to their old jeepney bus, as its emissions failed the new stringent tests. Would love to buy them a brand new vehicle,



but they are not cheap and would have to be super good to survive their terrible roads! Mind you, we did observe that there are now a lot more 'surfaced' roads around the Laguna area.'

Update from our Mission Partner Sharon Jones in Peru

LIFE IN LIMA #40 JULY 2018



Dear Friends

Amazing Times

Since I last wrote Buena Tierra has had rather a lot going on! Our most exciting news is the long-awaited arrival of our freshly designed Sunday School books for 18 month–3 year olds and 7–9 year olds. And I just heard last week of an incredible donation that will allow us to fill the hole of the missing 4–6 year olds books! This is an answer to many years of praying, and we are so grateful to God. Lots of teachers have been commenting how great it is to have these age groups back in stock. It is our prayer that God will reach many kids with his Word!

BUENA TIERRA

*Cada manual con su CD - s/46.
Compra en línea: www.libreriaelinca.com.pe
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EL INCA

Intense Times



Expolit:

What is it?! It is the largest Spanish speaking event for Christian publishers, distributors & media, held in Miami (the 'capital' of Latin America!) every year.

When is it? 8–12th August (I'll work days before & after too)

What am I doing there? Selling! Promoting BT and all our books to Latin American distributors. Teaching!

I'm leading a workshop on preventing child sex abuse, using 'Aurora'. networking! getting to know others in the business. The preparation for Expolit has been a huge test of faith. From understanding the financial planning and getting to grips with the print-on-demand system, to discovering possible issues with our USA company and dealing with warehouses and libraries; it has stretched me in every kind of way. Along this journey I have been worried, joyful, distraught, excited, frustrated, impatient and amazed: basically I'm mentally and emotionally exhausted. But time and time again God has shown his unfailing love and immense faithfulness.

Prayer time

- » For all the administrative tasks to sort out before leaving, for finances and for the preparation of my workshop.
- » For fruitful meetings with distributors and for new contacts to be made.
- » For safe travel and a good time of rest after these crazy couple of months.

*God is our refuge and strength,
an ever-present help in trouble. Psalm 46:1*

Thanks for all your support. Love Sharon

Please keep in touch: www.lifeinlima.com
sharonj7777@gmail.com – skype: icklun77

Prayer Spaces in Schools – Dates for Your Diary

The following schools will be holding Prayer Spaces on the following weeks:-

All Saints' School

– week commencing Monday, 26th November

Northbourne School

– week commencing Monday, 4th March 2019

Ladygrove Park Primary School

– week commencing Monday, 17th June 2019

It is hoped that during this academic year the churches in Didcot will also offer Prayer Spaces to Stephen Freeman School, Willowcroft School, Aureus Secondary School and possibly the University Technical College. More information will follow in due course.

If you are interested in getting involved in any of the weeks, please let Hugh know.



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	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
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 - check with Lindsey for venue Contact Lindsey 819036
	8:00pm	Re-hydrate Men's Group on the third Thursday of the month for a social gathering Contact Jamie 07881 710171
	8:00pm	Home Group at Ian and Kathryn Sykes' home Contact Ian and Kathryn 850085

September Diary

Date	Time	Event
Sunday, 2nd	10.00am	Worship All Together Exodus 3 The Calling of Moses
Monday, 3rd	8.00pm	Prayer Hour at 12 Trent Road – All welcome
Saturday, 8th	3.00pm	Messy Church
Sunday, 9th	10.00am	Baptist Communion with Children's Groups Exodus 5 Hardship
Monday, 10th	8.00pm	Messy Church Planning Meeting at 12 Trent Road – All welcome
Sunday, 16th	10.00am	Worship All Together Exodus 13:17-14:3 Crossing the Red Sea
	12.30pm	Shared Lunch
Monday, 17th	8.00pm	Worship All Together Planning Meeting at 12 Trent Road – All welcome.
Wednesday, 19th	9.30am	Ladygrove Parents/Carers and Toddlers Group
	7.45pm	LCC Meeting at 12 Trent Road
Thursday, 20th	9.30am	Ladygrove Parents/Carers and Toddlers Group
Sunday, 23rd	10.00am	Morning Service with Children's Groups Exodus 16:1-17:7 Toast & Desert with Guest Speaker, Erica Young See the article in this magazine
Tuesday, 25th	7.30pm	Emmaus Course starts – see elsewhere in this magazine for details
Wednesday, 26th	9.30am	Ladygrove Parents/Carers and Toddlers Group
Thursday, 27th	9.30am	Ladygrove Parents/Carers and Toddlers Group

September Diary

Date	Time	Event
Sunday, 30th	10.00am	Baptism Service with Children's Groups Exodus 18:1-26 Near the Mountain of God
	12.30pm	Shared Lunch

October Diary

Monday, 1st	8.00pm	Prayer Hour at 12 Trent Road – All welcome
Tuesday, 2nd	7.30pm	Emmaus Course
Wednesday, 3rd	9.30am	Ladygrove Parents/Carers and Toddlers Group
Thursday, 4th	9.30am	Ladygrove Parents/Carers and Toddlers Group
Sunday, 7th	10.00am	Morning Service with Children's Groups Exodus 19 Preparations

Messy Church

Saturday 8th September - 3-5pm

Ladygrove Community Centre



Crafts, games, activities and worship for families, followed by picnic tea. Offers of help and donations of finger food will be welcome! Please speak to Hugh for more information.

Please note that from October we will be moving Messy Church to the **THIRD SATURDAY** in the month

