

Issue 139

THE LADYGROVE CHURCH



MAGAZINE

October 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:

Hugh Boorman, Sharon Jones, David and Dorothy McMillan
It would be great to see your name here next time!

The **November magazine** will be available on
Sunday 4th November and the deadline for articles to go in it is
Sunday 27th October.

Please give your contributions to Hugh Boorman or Mary Parker.

Thought for the Month

Fight You For It!

"Blessed by God to be a blessing to others" – our motto or strap-line – seems so easy to add to our website or newsletter and it rolls just as easy off our tongues. But I was reminded the other day of how challenging blessing can be. In Genesis 32, Jacob is preparing to seek reconciliation with his brother, Esau, who has previously taken advantage of and cheated. He prays to God (vv.9-12). For good measure, he sends ahead of him a huge herd of goats, sheep, camels, cattle and donkeys as a pacifying gift for Esau (vv. 13-20). And then he settles down for a good night's sleep so that he can be as fresh as possible for the following day's trials (v 21).

But instead, he experiences an encounter with God like no other that I can think of in the Bible. He has a wrestling match with Him (v 24). I would have loved to be at the ringside to watch that!

Amazingly, they seem to be evenly matched so God initially wrenches his hip and then, when that doesn't work, He asks

to be released but Jacob responds, "I will not let you go unless you bless me" (v 26). Eventually God does bless him so He is released and departs, leaving Jacob wondering who He was, though he names the place of their fight Peniel (Hebrew for face of God) because "It is because I saw God face to face, and yet my life was spared" (v 30).

There's much we can learn about blessing from Jacob's experience but here's just one thought. You see, Jacob had prayed to Him that evening – a good start you'd think. – but there was something missing.

In his prayer, Jacob points out that he is doing what God told him to do – he is being obedient. He acknowledges that God has already blessed him with

so much and knows that he is not worthy of such treatment. He asks for protection and reminds God of His promise to Jacob of prosperity and success. And that's it. Amen! Job done!





But is Jacob still the same guy who stole his big brother's birthright and blessing by scamming their father (Genesis 27)? Or had he learnt his lesson?

The other day, I was shown a trailer for a new dating reality show. In the first episode a lady by the name of Hannah says that her last relationship ended very painfully for her. She tells the presenter that she had broken the trust in the relationship but then he (yes, he) was unable to rebuild it! I'm not sure that she had learnt the lesson but fortunately Jacob had.

Before God blesses him, He asks, "What is your name?" And Jacob answered, "Jacob" – a name that means he grasps the heel (he had arrived into this world holding onto his brother) but can also mean grabber or deceiver. Previously Jacob had pretended to be his brother and told his father that he was actually

Esau. Now as he hangs onto God and God hangs onto him, he admits that he is really Jacob and that he is a fraud.

He has learnt and so God blesses him and in doing so, God tells him that he is no longer to be regarded as a liar and cheat; instead he will be remembered for the struggle he has had: "Your name will no longer be Jacob, but Israel, because you have struggled with God and with humans and have overcome" (v 28).

Like Jacob, God has blessed us with much and, like Jacob, He still wants to bless us with more but perhaps we too need to be real and honest with Him, admit to those things in our past that have messed up our relationship with Him and our fellow human beings, and seek a fresh blessing. Perhaps He wants to change our name.

Hugh Boorman
Minister of the Ladygrove Church

ALL SAINTS DIDCOT

*A Service of Remembrance and Thanksgiving
for those who have died*

Sunday, October 28th

4 p.m.

Feel welcome to come along to remember those who have died and there will be an opportunity during the service to light a candle in memory of your loved one.



Coming Up

Harvest Thanksgiving

We're holding our Harvest Thanksgiving on **Sunday, 14th October**.
As usual all donations of food will go to the Didcot Foodbank.

Items needed by the Foodbank are:-

Tins or Packets of Soup
Bottled or Tinned Sauces
Tins of Meat
Tins of Vegetables
Tins of Fish
Pasta
Rice
Tins of Fruit
Tins of Puddings
Cereals
Tea, Coffee
Hot Beverages
Sugar
Long Life Juice
UHT/Powdered Milk
Biscuits
Jams, Etc
Treats

When donating, please ensure that the "Best Before Date" is at least six months ahead.





Our 25th Anniversary

As you hopefully know by now, the weekend of **20th/21st October** is the Church's Twenty-Fifth Anniversary so we thought that it would be a good idea to celebrate.

There is our usual Messy Church on the Saturday afternoon (3.00-5.00pm) and then at 7.30pm, Hugh and Lindsey will be hosting a social at 12 Trent Road with hot savoury and sweet dishes for all and drink. Feel free to contribute to the drinks if you would like. There is a sign-up sheet on the table to help them with the catering or feel free to drop them an email.

On the Sunday, we will be having a particularly celebratory Worship All Together Service. We want this to be a service that everyone has the opportunity to contribute to. As already advertised, we would like you to choose the hymns we sing – preferably ones that we already know – so if you have a favourite, please let us know by:

- 1 Emailing info@theladygrovechurch.org.uk
- 2 Writing it on a piece of paper and placing it in the red postbox at church.
- 3 Completing the one-question survey at www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/DN8G7GH It should take less than a minute.

Also we want to invite as many people who have been involved with the church in the past so, if you still have a contact with someone from our past, do invite them along.

Being the third Sunday, we will have our usual shared lunch. It'd be great if you could make it to all or some of the celebrations.



Reach out to touch the World this Christmastime

No wrapping paper required, ribbon or tags, just knowing that by offering hospitality to a “Stranger Soon to Become Friend”, the experience will stay with you and your guest long after recycling the wrapping paper, storing decorations and finishing off the cold turkey!

Here at HOST UK we offer you the opportunity to engage in an extra special Christmas-time by opening your home to an international student for whom the alternative would be, not only being far from home and loved ones but, marking time in lonely halls of residence.





HOST UK arranges visits for International students all year round but as can well be imagined, festive season hospitality is greatly sought after and valued. Our “festive season” will include the period in the Christmas run up, as well as New Year. Your guest will be someone keen to experience British life with all its special traditions and culture...and keen to share those of their home country. Your hospitality will be a unique gift, invariably remembered and treasured. Your gift to each other and to the world will be that of growing friendship, peace and understanding.

Please consider this opportunity and remember that if the festive season is difficult for you, we do operate all year round and hosting can become one of your New Year Resolutions!

If you should like to know more, please go to our website

www.hostuk.org or leave us a message on <http://visits.hostuk.org/Public/ApplyToBecomeAHost>



SATURDAY 13TH OCTOBER 2018



LIVING WORD!

BRINGING THE SCRIPTURES ALIVE

REV. RUTH BOTTOMS, CHAPLAIN, WEST LONDON MISSION

Come and share in a creative day bringing scriptures alive

- exploring the challenges of understanding and making the Bible relevant
- seeking to integrate Biblical studies with personal discipleship
- sharing together to respond creatively to passages of Scripture



OPEN TO EVERYONE living out their faith in local churches and communities
£33 [see booking form for concessions] Bring your lunch, drinks provided

Thattham Baptist Church, Wheeler's Green Way, Thattham, RG19 4YF

9.30 am for 10.00 am till 4.15 pm

Further Details on SCBA WEBSITE (or from Anne Lane, Tutor-In-Community Learning, Regent's Park College,

anne.lane@regents.ox.ac.uk 01276 785068 or 07986 323909]

a FOOTSTEPS initiative

October 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 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.

Sunday, 7th October

- Let's give thanks for all those who enable us to join together for worship on a Sunday – those who set up chairs and equipment, who prepare the refreshments, who welcome us, who operate the mixing desk, who wash up and tidy away as well as those in more noticeable roles.
- People living in Tweed Drive.

Monday, 8th October

- Please pray for all those who are parenting and caring for children.
- People living in Cray Court.

Tuesday, 9th October

- Please pray for those engaged in the Emmaus Course launched earlier this month.
- People living in Brent Avenue.

Wednesday, 10th October

- Please pray for Sharon Jones, our mission partner in Lima, Peru. Please see elsewhere in this magazine for her latest news.
- People living in Cherwell Close.

Thursday, 11th October

- Please pray for our Parent/Carer and Toddler groups meeting every Wednesday and Thursday morning during term time.
- People living in Rugge Furlong.

Friday, 12th October

- Please pray for those working in the despatch and delivery industry.
- People living in North Bush Furlong.

Saturday, 13th October

- Please pray for David and Dorothy McMillan, our BMS Mission partners in Amsterdam. Please see their latest updates and prayer requests elsewhere in this magazine.
- People living in Bayswater Brook.

Sunday, 14th October

- Today is the start of Prisons Week; let's pray for all those involved in formulating, overseeing and challenging our penal system.
- People living in Shinmoor Close.

Monday, 15th October

- Please pray for prisoners – all made in the image of God.
- People living in The Frith.

Tuesday, 16th October

- Please pray for victims of crime.
- People living in Upperway Furlong.

Wednesday, 17th October

- Please pray for families of perpetrators or victims so often caught up in the consequences of crime.
- People living in Bush Furlong.

Thursday, 18th October

- Please pray for prison staff trying to respond to the needs of the vulnerable often in dangerous situations and with a shortage of resources.
- People living in Middle Furlong.

Friday, 19th October

- Please pray for those working in our criminal justice system, trying to balance justice and mercy.
- People living in Short Furlong.

Saturday, 20th October

- Let's give thanks to God for all those who have been a part of our church family over the years.
- People living in Abingdon Road.

Sunday, 21st October

- Let's give thanks to God for the vision he gave to All Saints' and Didcot Baptist Churches to plant a church here on the Estate more than 25 years ago.
- People living in Tamar Way.

Monday, 22nd October

- Please pray for those who are looking for gainful, fulfilling employment.
- People living in Lune Close.

Tuesday, 23rd October

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

Wednesday, 24th October

- Please pray for our community here in Didcot in all its rich and wonderful variety.
- People living in Medina Close.

Thursday, 25th October

- Please pray for all those who gather tonight for fellowship and prayer in homegroups in all their names and formats.
- People living in Arun Mews.

Friday, 26th October

- Please pray for those who feel lonely.
- People living in Hamble Road.

Saturday, 27th October

- Please pray for those seeking to move home.
- People living in Waveney Close.

Sunday, 28th October

- "For I know the plans I have for you,' declares the LORD, 'plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future" (Jeremiah 29:11). Let's give thanks for God's promises to us and pray for those who feel unsure of their future.
- People living in Eden Court.

Monday, 29th October

- Please pray for Pastor Gay Rasgo and the churches she supports in the Philippines.
- People living in Thurne View.

Tuesday, 30th October

- Please pray for the children attending the "What's in the Bible?" Club at All Saints' School every Tuesday lunchtime.
- People living in Derwent Avenue.

Wednesday, 31st October

- "Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have summoned you by name; you are mine" (Isaiah 43:1). Let's give thanks that God knows us so personally and still wants to call us his own. Let's pray for those who are haunted by fears.
- People living in Orwell Drive.

November

Thursday, 1st November

- Let's give thanks for the cloud of faithful witnesses who have gone before us and made a stand for the Christian faith.
- People living in Humber Close.

Friday, 2nd November

- Please pray for those working in the hospitality and entertainment industries.
- People living in Loddon Drive.

Saturday, 3rd November

- Please pray for the various social media platforms that they might be sources of affirmation and encouragement.
- People living in Yare Close.

Sunday, 4th November

- Let's give thanks for the gift of music and song.
- People living in Calder Way.

Update from our Mission Partner Sharon Jones in Peru

LIFE IN LIMA #41 AUGUST 2018



Hello There

How did I get here?!

If you'd have told me 5 years ago that I'd be managing a publishing ministry, selling books at an international trade event, working out pricing and negotiating with distributors, I would not have believed you! When I think about what I am doing, I feel utterly inadequate. But the good thing about this is, that when things go well, I know it is because of God and not me, and so he gets the glory!



Expolit Emotions



Excited: to set up and decorate the stand along with the Letra Viva team (and Aurora!).

Nervous: wondering if the preparation I'd done was enough to face potential clients.

Pleased: with the workshop I led; the group was really engaged, many bought the Aurora manual.

Terrified: about talking with distributors. (Would our pricing system work? Answer = no!)

Grateful: for the others on the team who taught me so much about the selling process (and helped me understand and develop a new pricing system on the 2nd day!).



Content: at being able to hear testimony of how God has used our Sunday school materials and how people have been waiting for the new books.

Hopeful: for the continued growth of Buena Tierra at an international level. We had significant interest from Honduras, Costa Rica, Argentina, Chile and Colombia, mainly for the preventing child sex abuse manual. Go Aurora!



Overwhelmed: by all the follow up work as I settle back into the office. It is a stressful time for us all in the El Inca at the moment, and we are in a cycle of constant sickness and exhaustion.

Prayer time

Thank you for all your prayers. God is truly at work, sustaining and encouraging me.

- » Praise God for the contacts made at Expolit.
- » Pray for orders to be placed soon.
- » Praise God for the success of Aurora International.
- » Pray for more children to be protected against abuse.
- » Praise God for a lovely holiday.
- » Pray for renewed focus at a critical time for Buena Tierra and the El Inca bookshops.
- » Pray especially for Moisés, whose mum sadly passed away on Monday 20th August.

Lord give to me a quiet heart
that does not ask to understand
but confident steps forward in
the darkness guided by thy hand

Poem by Elisabeth Elliot

Love, Sharon

Please keep in touch:

*www.lifeinlima.com
sharonj7777@gmail.com
skype: icklun77*



***LOOK!! Sharon has a new postal address!!
Apartado 18-0872, Miraflores, Lima***





Prayer letter, September 2018

Greetings from the Baptist House, Amsterdam, where the summer quietness is over, the Dutch Baptist Seminary students are back, our new IBTS Centre Director Mike Pears has settled in and the work is forging ahead. We have already had a really good team week of planning for the coming year and further ahead and, in the past two weeks, two of our students gained their PhDs at the VU (Free University of Amsterdam). One successful candidate – Alex To – comes from Vancouver, Canada and the other – Henrikas Zukauskas – from Vilnius, Lithuania. We were privileged to meet their families and share in their celebration, after several years of study alongside their work as a seminary teacher and a mission worker.

Our family are all well and we have two pieces of exciting news: after 19 years in England, our older daughter Sarah is coming home! She and Simon and their boys (Joel, 7 and Luke, 5) are coming (going?) to live in N. Ireland! They have bought a house outside Lisburn and hope to move during the half-term holiday. Cathy (our second daughter), Tom and Isla (2) are also well and expecting a new addition to their family in February. They are still living in Bicester, Oxfordshire.



We had some visitors in Nieuw Vennep during the summer, including some friends from our home church in Belfast, and we are also enjoying early Autumn after all the extreme weather of the past year – see our blog for both stories: <https://reclaimedground.wordpress.com>

Please pray with us:

- » Give thanks Mike and Helen have settled into Amsterdam and hope to move to an apartment in early October;
- » Pray for Sarah and Cathy and their families during the next few months of big changes for them all;
- » Pray that we will be rested and refreshed by our holiday during October.



David & Dorothy McMillan

17.09.2018

www.bmsworldmission.org/ddmcmillan



Part Time Office Administrator

15hrs per week
(preferred days Mon, Tue and Wed)

£16,640 per annum pro rata

Our small Christian charity requires an Administrator to provide support to all areas of Balsam Family Project (BFP). To ensure there is efficient and courteous running of the Balsam Family Project Office. To have the ability (if needed) to carry out accurate recording of daily finances. To be prepared to work flexibly and do occasional evenings, or weekend events. The post holder would have Christian values and is expected to take active part in Office Prayer Meetings and adhere to these values in the general life of Balsam.

Didcot (Oxon)

Further info Tel 07799894410

Or email info@balsamfamilyproject.co.uk

Expressions of interest and C.V. by Monday 8th Oct 18

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

Messy Church

Saturday 20th October - 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.

October Diary

Date	Time	Event
Monday, 1st	8.00pm	Prayer Hour at 12 Trent Road – All welcome
Tuesday, 2nd	7.30pm	Start of the Emmaus Course (see last month's magazine for details)
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
Monday, 8th	8.00pm	Worship All Together Planning Meeting at 12 Trent Road. All welcome
Tuesday, 9th	7.30pm	Emmaus Course
Wednesday, 10th	9.30am	Ladygrove Parents/Carers and Toddlers Group
Thursday, 11th	9.30am	Ladygrove Parents/Carers and Toddlers Group
Sunday, 14th	10.00am	Baptist Communion Service and Harvest Thanksgiving with Children's Groups Exodus 20:1-23:19 The Laws See elsewhere in this magazine
Tuesday, 16th	7.30pm	Emmaus Course
Wednesday, 17th	9.30am	Ladygrove Parents/Carers and Toddlers Group
Thursday, 18th	9.30am	Ladygrove Parents/Carers and Toddlers Group
Saturday, 20th	3.00pm	Messy Church
	7.30pm	Church Social – see elsewhere in this magazine
Sunday, 21st	10.00am	Worship All Together Psalm 100 Praise Party! See elsewhere in this magazine
	12:30pm	Shared Lunch

October Diary

Date	Time	Event
Monday, 22nd	8.00pm	Messy Church Planning Meeting at 12 Trent Road. All welcome
Tuesday, 23rd	7.30pm	Emmaus Course
Sunday, 28th		British Summer Time Ends – Don't forget to put your clocks back an hour!
	10.00am	Morning Service with Children's Groups Exodus 23:20-33 God's Plans
	4.00pm	Service of Remembrance and Thanksgiving at All Saints' Church. All welcome. See elsewhere in this magazine.
Monday, 29th	8.00pm	Worship All Together Planning Meeting at 12 Trent Road. All welcome.
Tuesday, 30th	7.30pm	Emmaus Course
Wednesday, 31st	9.30am	Ladygrove Parents/Carers and Toddlers Group

November Diary

Thursday, 1st	9.30am	Ladygrove Parents/Carers and Toddlers Group
Sunday, 4th	10.00am	Morning Service with Children's Groups Exodus 25-30 The God of Detail

