

Wildfire

Church in the Peak

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March | 2011

CHURCH NEWS: ENCOURAGING FAITH, FAMILY AND FRIENDS

GOD IS REALLY AMONG YOU

By Dave Harper

Imagine a visitor coming to have a look at our church and through the gift of prophesy the secrets of their heart are laid bare, they are convicted that God is real and so fall on their face to worship God declaring "God is really in this place". Far fetched? Not in the early Corinthian church where this outcome is anticipated by Paul as charismatic gifts operated in their meeting (1 Cor 14:24-25). Mission and charismatic worship are not in conflict with one another in this passage, rather they are seen as complimentary since the use of spiritual gifts brings a revelation of God, his immediacy and presence. So we seek to be 'seeker friendly' by being missional through charismatic worship! We live in an age of

many words, there is a need for an authentic experience of the immediacy of God where lives are touched through His presence. This may be healing, the warmth of His love or a spoken word that brings revelation, insight and understanding. When Jesus was on earth 'on mission' he taught a lot, sharing truth from God but he also showed love and concern for the individual. Sometimes it was to feed them, other times it was to heal them and then other times was to save them from storms or free them from demonic oppression. Jesus sends us on His mission to preach the gospel, heal the sick and set people free and what's more he has already given us the power and authority to do this in his name (Luke 9:1).

The wider purpose of the passage in 1 Corinthians 14 was to correct the misuse of spiritual gifts in their meetings and

Paul exhorts the Corinthians to a right use of these gifts not non-use! He urges them to eagerly desire spiritual gifts (14:1) especially the gift of prophecy. One theologian likens the manifestation of the Spirit of God (12:7) to the 'dancing hand of God' as the Spirit gives gifts to each one as He wills and orchestrates a meeting where God is revealed and magnified through the use of his gifts. We can expect healings and miracles, revelation and instruction, new songs, tongues with interpretation, insight into our lives and wisdom all through the same Spirit. So eagerly desire spiritual gifts and have courage to take risks in using them! It is always a great joy when someone who is risking it for the first time has the courage to bring their contribution. We are all encouraged and built up by their participation as well as their contribution so lets go for it.

YOUTH LEADERS CONFERENCE

By Nathan and Sarah Charker

Friday –The first evening we ate together before attending the main meeting. The meeting was superb a mix of amazing worship, great teaching and the presence of God. This set the precedent for the weekend.

Saturday– In the morning we had the 1st main meeting, Wayne Parsons spoke on ‘A Fatherless Generation’ a great talk with real insight in how to best work with young people who’s example of a father is less than ideal. This was followed by seminars; we attended 2 seminars on ‘starting from scratch’ and ‘preparing for massive growth in a youth group’. Both seminars were a mix of great ideas, practical advice and stories/examples from other churches. After a short break for lunch we went back to the conference centre for the

XPLOR

By Peter and Pamela Williams

We continue to take the young people out on a Sunday morning and then meet once a fortnight on a Sunday evening, alternating between our (the Williams’) front room and the Riverside.

These different venues mean that we can offer a variety of different topics, games and activities for the young people; the messy ones by the way are kept for the Riverside. (oops).

second main meeting, again great worship and a real feeling of God’s presence among us, with more excellent teaching. In the afternoon we had time out for R&R with most of us making a beeline for the pool. Followed by an evening spent together as a team playing several loud games, how Chloe and Mathew slept through the noise I don’t know.



Sunday - The final meeting had a feeling of sending us out, leaving us feeling uplifted, invigorated

We are really pleased that Sarah Berthelemy has extended her role within the youth team; she is now also involved in the evening Xplor meetings and has many valuable ideas in planning. We feel blessed to have her and Andy and Lorna with us in this area of ministry.

This term we have been looking at the topic of “The Church”, which has been very interesting and raised a lot of points for discussion.

Our young people are an important part of our church

and ready to go. It was a brilliant weekend, We went hoping to get two things from the weekend, to get new idea’s to improve our delivery of the youth work and to get to know the wider youth team better. Both of these were well and truly achieved.

family and we find it a privilege to work with them, but these are not easy times for them as they battle against what the world tells them against what the Bible teaches, so please pray for them to be strong.

This year our young people are excited about inviting their friends to Newday, again please pray for them for courage to be able to carry this through. Many thanks for your continued love and support, and to our young people, we think you are great.

‘IT WAS FOR FREEDOM THAT CHRIST HAS SET US FREE’

The Freedom in Christ course will be running again on Wednesday evening at the Riverside from May 4th and continuing throughout the summer term. Many have found this material to be life changing, bringing real freedom .

Each evening is relaxed and informal and the teaching element is via a DVD which we watch together. The teaching is great, very simple and easy to follow and many people have said they’d had at least one ‘light bulb moment’ every week - where they’d seen and understood something for the first time. After the teaching slot we get together for a group discussion with most people saying that this was the part they enjoyed most.

One of the key ingredients of the course is the Steps to Freedom day. Last year the group had this at Paul and Angela’s house in Ashbourne and there was excellent feedback. Paul and Angela will again be leading each evening as the course runs through the summer term

We have seen a wide mix of ages and backgrounds enjoy this course, including a mix of Christian experience with some who have been Christians decades through to those who have been Christians just a few months.

In the autumn we are planning to run the Freedom in Christ Marriage course over a weekend at a hotel, and completing the Freedom in Christ course is a pre requisite to attending the Marriage Weekend

If you would like more information please speak to Paul and Angela

WORSHIP

By Phil Hardy

John 4:23-24 (English Standard Version)
23 But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him.
24 God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.

Worship is our highest calling, in John 4 Jesus tells us true worshippers will worship God in Spirit and Truth. We have this privilege to be among those who now worship by the Holy Spirit. When we come together we give time to worship, it is central in all we do that all Praise, Honour and Glory is given to Him. On Sundays we have teams of musicians and singers who serve us and help us to enter into worship and to draw near to God. They have a role

in leading us into the manifest presence of God where we find him revealing his love for us, speaking words of encouragement, bringing healing, and freedom.

We are developing more worship leaders musicians and singers, there are regular practices where they learn the songs, pray and worship together. Maybe you play an instrument or have a good singing voice and would like to explore being involved please speak to one of the worship leaders or Phil Hardy.



MARK HAWORTH MEMORIAL FUND

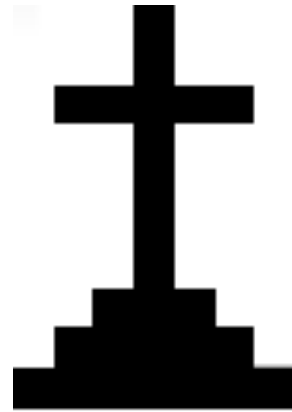
By Debroah Haworth

Fund raising continues! The Family Curry and Quiz Night in December was well attended, we couldn't squeeze anymore people into the Black Cat Café; we had a good mix of people and were able to introduce members of the community to Church in the Peak. The Next fund raiser will be the Charity Auction, just before Father's Day and we will build on the fun we had last year. Again, this is an opportunity to invite people to a church event as well as raising money. The purpose of the fund raising is to

continue Mark's conviction that showing Jesus to the needy in a practical way means providing a standard we would be happy with ourselves. This is becoming increasingly focused on providing household necessities for those who are struggling to provide a home for themselves and their families. In order to progress this we are currently looking for some storage space to rent in Matlock; it needs to be dry and secure.

The Christmas Hamper collection for those in supported housing provided 18 hampers this year. The Fund was also able to provide Christmas goody

bags for those who attended the Jigsaw Christmas meal.



Isaiah 61: 1

everybody a hot meal as well as befriending them and providing a sign posting and advice service. Please continue to pray for this aspect of the ministry as it is increasing its profile amongst other social action agencies. Practically, we are always happy to receive contributions to the meals – puddings would be particularly welcome!

An extension of the drop-in is the Christmas Meal. This year was very difficult as there was no running water at Riverside and alternative venues were also struggling with the severe weather conditions. We went ahead and provided hot turkey rolls, various cakes and puddings and hot drinks all round. It was great to see three families from Hurst Farm turn up for this and we hope they will come back for our Easter meal.

The Jigsaw Food Bank is now well established and since Christmas we have provided around 20 crisis parcels to those temporarily unable to provide for themselves or settling into a new home. We are always amazed by the generous provision in this area so please continue to support us by putting donations in the "Tin Bin."

In the last newsletter we told you how we were hoping to launch a new Jigsaw Clothes Bank. This was very well received and we have held two open days, in October and January. This service has helped to build bridges with Hurst Farm and we plan to hold clothes bank open days at least every quarter – the next is planned for April. Again, your practical help is much appreciated and we are currently in need of clean clothing for children, especially boys.

BELPER

By Mark Berthelemy

A group of us have started to meet on Thursday nights to pray for Belper and the Amber Valley district (which comprises Alfreton, Belper, Heanor and Ripley - with a total population of about 120,000). God has encouraged us with a number of specific prophecies, and with answers to prayer.

We are aiming for the prayer group to become a fully-fledged community group by May. Please pray for us as we begin to invite people, and for God to prepare ground for us.

Key facts:

- Belper's population was 20,500 in 2001 – with many houses built since then
- Belper originally started life as Beaufort, which means "Beautiful resting place"
- St. John's church 13th

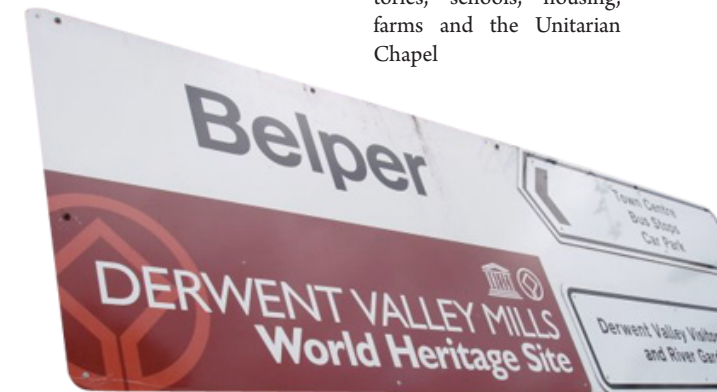
FINANCES IN CHURCH IN THE PEAK

By Dave Harper

Thank you all again for an amazing year of giving in 2010 when we received almost £200,000. This is truly staggering and a credit to everyone, a demonstration of the grace of God upon us to be generous and to excel in the gift of giving (2 Corinthians 8). Our budget for running the church during 2010 was almost £124,000 (we were within bud-

get for the year) and regular giving to cover this was £138,000

- Belper's North Mill, built in 1784, is the world's first fireproof industrial building and now sits in the middle of the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site - on a par with the Taj Mahal and Sydney Opera House
- Belper has four supermarkets, a host of small, specialist food shops and an annual food festival



get for the year) and regular giving to cover this was £138,000 with £34,000 of this being gift aid claimed back from the Chancellor thus producing a healthy surplus for the year which goes into our church planting fund. Amazingly, we gave away almost £60,000 during the year which is the highest amount to date in terms of the proportion of our income (almost 30%). Our budget for 2011 is increased to £136,000. Money follows vision so as we pursue our goals for the year, we would ask you to carefully review your giv-

ing to the work. We are particularly aware that gift aid reclaims decrease from 28% of gift aided giving to 25% in April, which will affect us significantly. The particular areas of increase are salaries (includes Abby for the full year in 2011), overseas support, social action and developing our youth work. Finally we cannot appreciate enough the amazing amount Karen and Tony Errett do in managing our finances and producing our accounts on a monthly and annual basis. May your reward be great!

- The weir at Belper still provides all the electricity for the North and East Mill buildings
- Belper School has about 1500 students, and proudly defends its long-standing traditions of having no school uniform and teachers called by their first-names
- Belper was dominated by the Strutt family for over 200 years. They built factories, schools, housing, farms and the Unitarian Chapel

SUPPORTED SHARED HOUSING FOR THE HOMELESS IN MATLOCK BATH

By Jackie Hughes

Isaiah 58:10 and if you spend yourselves in behalf of the hungry and satisfy the needs of the oppressed, then your light will rise in the darkness, and your night will become like the noonday.

Praise the Lord, I have at long last completed the purchase of 218, Dale Road, Matlock Bath.

Did you know that if you are single, under 35 years old and not working, you would be awarded a maximum of £70 per week in housing benefit to provide for your accommodation, there are very few homes in the

Derbyshire Dales where you can rent for £70 per week, the local social housing stock for this



group of people is virtually nil. The majority of private landlords will not rent to people on benefits, when they do they re-

quire a deposit, rent in advance, estate agents fee, plus a guarantor! i.e. on a one bedroom flat costing £400 per month, £1050 would be required to move in, leaving many people unable to access housing.

If you would like to help, please contact me Jackie Hughes on 07886 030864 or email jay@jackiehughes.co.uk

Most important of all, please keep this ministry supported by prayer. 2 Chronicles 7:14 If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.

ALPHA

By Jon Batsford

Alpha has been held at Thorn-ton's Cafe on the main road through Bakewell for the last 7 weeks. We wanted to be clearly led by God in how we prayed and who we invited (rather than just treat it as an administrative exercise) and sure enough God encouraged us through a couple of prophetic words that if we did our little bit He would

do his. There has been a great atmosphere from the launch night with comedian Andy Kind and through the less raucous teaching and discussion nights. Thornton's Cafe has presented some logistical challenges for serving but been a really popular venue with people attending the course. There has been a mix of young people and adults which seems to have worked well. Delicious food, relaxed atmosphere and support from a small army

of hard working volunteers has made this event a little gem.

THE MEANING OF LIFE IS _____.

CITP GOALS FOR 2011

Goals are helpful because they bring a focus for prayer and energy and define our direction. These goals are intended to be realistic steps on the road to a longer term visionary destination. Steve Nicholson (Vineyard) puts it like this "Goals are concrete and measurable steps that if we accomplished them would **bring vision into reality**". So we hope you can enter with faith towards seeking these goals this year:

- A 10% numerical growth to take us to 140 committed adults in the church
- A new group in each of the following loca-

tions: Bakewell, Matlock, Belper

- Have regular outreach events including socials and 2 Alpha courses
- To regularly pray for the sick
- A team to travel to India to minister among the churches there
- 12 un-churched young people to go to New-Day in August
- 20 in their 20's! (may take more than a year!)

We hope we can all press in to 'score' these ambitious but we believe achievable goals

CHURCH IN THE PEAK OVERSEAS

INDIA

Dave and Phil left cold England for hot India on January 11th to visit churches in Goa and the city of Belgaum in Karnatika with whom Dave has relationship. Rather than going as part of a wider team they went on behalf of Church in the Peak to renew friendship with the leaders and their churches and bring support and encouragement. Though it had been three years since Dave had last been to Goa it was like meeting up with old friends, picking up just where we left off. Phil took to it like a duck to water and apart from the inevitable tummy upset quickly connected with the leaders there. He also found that any ministry call at the end of a meeting means you will end up praying for everybody! They were also taking the Christmas gift of over two and half thousand pounds towards Disha, the day centre being started for disabled children in the village of Honga. Dave and Phil visited the building where this is to be based and met the leaders there. Four children with varying degrees of disability will be collected at 8.30am each morning and taken to the Centre and cared for through the day returning home at 4.30pm.

We were also able to provide financial help for other needs there and we will be having a **Gift Day collection on March 20th and 27th** to raise funds towards supporting these Indian churches



TIM AND RACHEL IN ST PETERSBURG

By Dave Harper

Tim and Rachel Heath went to St Petersburg to be part of a small church planting team. They were based at Stockport Family Church (Newfrontiers) and known to us through Dave's regional work. We decided to support them financially for two years and have extended that a

further year (currently) because of the strategic significance of this church and the excellent progress they are making. Tim and Rachel have two children (Mia and Anya) and are working hard at learning Russian as well as doing loads in the church. They will be with us for the weekend of July 2nd and 3rd and sharing during our Sunday meeting. If you have had a heart to support them or would like to get to know them better we are looking for someone to

host a Saturday evening meal for those who would like to have an evening with Tim and Rachel. Please let Pamela Williams know if you would like to help in this way.

Two prayer requests are:
That there bulging ceiling will not collapse again as the snow melts and the roof leaks!
That God will make a way for visa registration as Russia tightens the rules on staying.



SARAH IN GHANA

By Paul & Angela Hay

At the end of January we flew to Accra in Ghana to spend 2 weeks with Sarah Smith. The temperature was 35 degrees day and night all the time we were there, and Ghana was very different to our experience in South Africa it was "much more African" as Sarah would say. Sarah lives with an English couple in a concrete house surrounded by local people who live mainly in wooden shacks, they are the only white people in the locality.

The local people were all very friendly and the children greeted Sarah as "Aunty Sarah" wherever we went. The locals were all very open to the gospel. We

joined Sarah in everything she did whilst we were there. We arrived late on the Thursday night and on Friday night we went to a half night of prayer.

On the Saturday morning we helped Sarah run the club for the local children that she runs every week, playing games, doing craftwork and finishing with a bible story. 35 Children from 1 to 16 years old attend and they are all very enthusiastic.

The visit was a great experience to see God working in people's lives and to see first hand the great work Sarah is doing.

Please remember Sarah in your prayers, pray she will know God leading and helping her and she will see much fruit from her labours and please remember to write to her and e-mail her (address in Church directory).

