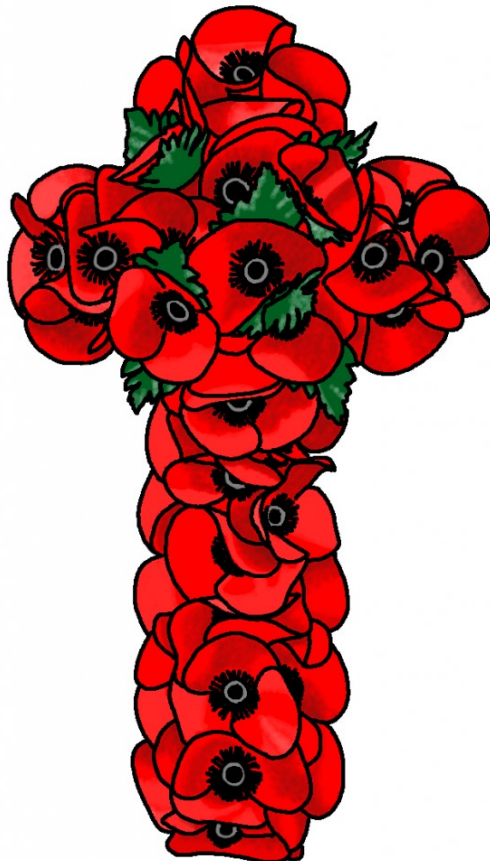

THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST

News from Whittle & Clayton Brook

PARISH GAZETTE

Speak out, Reach out, Gather in for Christ



Please take this
FREE copy
donations welcome

**NOVEMBER
2019**

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WHAT HAPPENS IN OUR CHURCH SERVICES ?

We have two churches in the parish: St John's in Whittle, and Clayton Brook Community Church. Our Vicar is Revd Philip Venables, our Curate is Revd Paul Davies and we have six licensed Readers, all of whom divide their time between both churches. This means that each church holds varied Communion services and morning worship services, descriptions of which are given below:

Services at St John's:

Every Sunday **8.45am** Holy Communion, lasting about an hour— This is a more formal Communion service, following a modern language format, and on the 5th Sunday from the Book of Common Prayer. Hymns from Mission Praise are sung to the accompaniment of the pipe organ. After the service, everyone is invited to stay for coffee/tea and to meet people who are arriving early for the 10.30am service. The **10.30am** service also lasts about an hour and follows a different format each week—

Family Worship, which is a modern morning worship service led by Clergy or Readers. During this service the children leave for their own teaching in Junior Church, returning near the end of the service. The 1st Sunday is an all age Family Service when the children stay in church with their parents. The whole service is designed to enable families to worship together. One Sunday is a Communion service. Again the children leave for Junior Church, returning in time to come to the Lord's table with their parents for Communion or a blessing. There is also an opportunity for personal prayer in the side chapel during Communion.

We have a small worship group who sing and play hymns and modern songs for all the 10.30 services. The words are projected onto a screen at the front of the church. Tea & coffee is then served at the end of the 10.30 service.

Services at Clayton Brook:

At Clayton Brook Community Church we worship together each Sunday at 10.30am, usually finishing around 12 noon. Each month there are services of Holy Communion, or Morning Worship. Our services are led by Clergy or Readers.

We cater for all ages with Junior Church providing groups for pre-schoolers, primary, and teenagers. From time to time we have All-Age services together. The services have a contemporary feel with songs and liturgy projected onto a screen.

Our worship is led by a band (vocalists, keyboard, guitars, drums) and generally we sing a blend of modern worship songs and traditional hymns. During Communion, confidential prayer ministry is available for any needs.

We have coffee/tea and biscuits at the end of each service, and encourage people to stay and chat. We are a friendly fellowship and any visitors will be sure of a warm welcome.

WHAT'S ON IN THE CHURCH & THE PARISH of ST JOHN'S at WHITTLE & CLAYTON BROOK

Sunday & midweek services are listed in the diary on the back page along with young people's ministry

See weekly news for up to date dates and times

BOOKSTALL • There is a bookstall at the back of St John's

GROWTH GROUPS in homes throughout the week, see Philip for your nearest one

PARISH PRAYER & PRAISE SERVICE

see term card available in each church

PRAYER MEETINGS

First Tuesday in the month 7.30pm St John's vicarage
☎ Cath

PRAYER TRIOS • Groups of 3 people praying together
Clayton Brook ☎ Julie
St John's ☎ Cath

PRAYER MINISTRY • We are a church that is committed to ministry through prayer, and have a prayer team who will pray with you after Communion has been received, or at the end of the morning service. We may not have all the answers, but we know someone who does!

PRAYER CHAIN • for emergency prayer, see list in gazette or
☎ Sandra

PASTORAL TEAM

.....visits, listens, prays, brings Holy Communion to you
☎ St John's Roland & Susan
☎ Clayton Brook Les
Gill, Brenda, Janette

MINISTRY CO-ORDINATORS

Whittle: Lyndon, Deborah, Caroline, David, Cath, Roland
Clayton Brook: Gill, Janette, Stuart, Les, Julie
Speak to them about any aspect in church

FRIDAY MORNINGS • Whittle church is cleaned & flowers arranged, please join in: ☎ Jean

BEEHIVE • Parent & Toddler Group meet on Monday mornings in Whittle Village Hall ☎ Christine

TOTS IN CHURCH • Toddler group at Clayton Brook
term time only, Tuesday 9.15am

LUNCHEON CLUB

3 course lunch at Clayton Brook, 3rd Thursday of the month
☎ Leigh

CAFE LIFE • Monday 9am-2pm at Clayton Brook for tasty breakfast & lunch snacks ☎ Julie

WELCOME TEAMS • in both churches someone will welcome you, answer your questions and serve you tea/coffee, if you'd like it. Please come and chat before and after the service.

DONATIONS • Donations to the Church are acknowledged in the Parish Gazette when requested. Some people wish their donations to remain anonymous. If you would like yours acknowledged, please request this at the time of donation.



Dear Friends

I love the prophet Ezekiel, and there is a fascinating moment, early in his ministry, when he is given his commission by God. He is presented with a scroll, written on both sides with words of judgment and woe for Israel, and is commanded to eat it (in visionary form, we imagine). This is his response:

*The Lord said to me, "Son of man, eat this scroll I am giving you and fill your stomach with it." So I ate it, **and it tasted as sweet as honey** in my mouth. (Ezekiel 3:3)*

How extraordinary! 'Words of lament and mourning and woe' (chapter 2 verse 9) taste sweet. How can this be? Bitter, maybe, but sweet?

Surely the explanation is that they are God's words, and for God's prophet even hard words are sweet words because of the one from whom they come. God is a God of amazing grace, and therefore even difficult words are words of love for those who are his.

I have experienced something like this twice during the past week. On Tuesday in our growth group we were considering the fruit of the Spirit in Galatians chapter 5, and feeling very challenged and even rebuked. Especially when we touched on patience! It is a flavour of the fruit of the Spirit which some of us feel particularly lacking in our own hearts. At one point I almost apologised for the study, and the response was, "No, this is really helpful." Hard words were gracious words.

The second experience was today's service in church. Jesus' teaching about excuses for refusing his invitation to his kingdom was hard hitting. We were challenged that even loving our

children or parents more than Jesus was not acceptable. Wow! Yet I heard so many comments afterwards about how uplifting and joyful the service was. Even God's hard words are words of grace.

This is really helpful for us in two respects. First, it helps us to realise that sometimes we simply can't explain (explain away?!) the hard teachings of Scripture to those who don't yet know and love Jesus. Try explaining the wars of conquest in Joshua, for example. As the apostle Paul said of his message, while to us who are being saved it is the fragrance of life, to those who are perishing it is the stench of death. It is right to try to persuade and convince, but until the Spirit works in someone's heart, he or she just won't be convinced. Hard words are hard words.

It is also helpful for us who do believe, because it bears out what Paul (again!) says, namely that ALL Scripture is God-breathed and useful for encouraging and building us up. That's why it is so good to read through the whole Bible, the difficult bits and the lovely bits, because when we believe, and we know from whose lips these words come, they are all words of grace and we will discover, as Ezekiel did, that they are all words of grace.

Praise God for his wonderful and life-giving words.

Your brother in Christ

Philip

St Johns and Clayton Brook now have a Virgin Money Giving Account which allows donations to either church by going onto the Virgin Money Giving website. You then search for St John the Evangelist, Whittle le Woods and we come up in the charity section as "**The Parochial Church Council of St John the Evangelist, Whittle le Woods. Reg. Number 1134259**". Donations can be gift aided and specified to a particular project.

HOMELESS

I'm not sure where to start my experience about the above issue all around the country.

I first saw or read an article about homeless people in which it asked that you don't just throw some change into their cup, hat etc, but take time out to pass a few moments of conversation with them, as it may be the only time they get anyone to talk to.

Well, people, here's my story.....

I visit Preston around every six or seven weeks, and on passing Primark near Debenhams I saw 'Dave' just asking for spare change and looking really thin and undernourished. As I passed by to enter Debenhams to do some pre-Christmas shopping in early November 2018, my thoughts kept thinking of this early 30s man that I had just passed by. On my way out, he was still there. So I thought, 'here goes' and spent a couple of minutes just talking and I gave him £2, I think it was, and shook his hand. As I made my way home, the thought of my warm house and bed certainly looked more than 'Dave' had going for him.

Being near Christmas, I once again visited Preston, and yes, you're right. The same spot once again, on a cold day, and we shared conversation and I gave him £5, and, yes, I did feel good in myself also.

The days and countdown to December 25th saw me looking for a few more bits as I'm really organised when it comes to shopping. There was this really cold and shivering man trying to find enough money once more just to get by. This time when we talked he told me he was only £6 short of finding a bed for the night of

which he stressed that breakfast was included, and it's a good one, he remarked. I'd given him £5 plus he had £5, so only six short. As I left him, this prompted me to obtain the remainder for him from the cash machine. I walked back and felt really pleased knowing that he would at least be warm tonight, my early present for Christmas as he packed what belongings he had to secure a room.

I know people will say that a lot of beggars on the street are not genuine. But we can tell just looking but not judging in any way.

December passed, and being a keen bargain hunter, off to the sales I went. Same place for 'Dave' as we had our usual chat, he told me that after being on the streets for two years, he had finally been offered a flat of his very own. I thought, great news. But our system says he needed £100 deposit to keep the flat, of which he had receipts for £84 which he wanted to show me, but I said, "no", and was so pleased for his change in fortune that I made up his deposit, and his thanks just said it all for me. We talked, and I just said that there were organisations that would help him with furniture etc. He had his plans all sorted for his new start in life, and I left with our usual handshake, and to this day, I'm pleased to say, that I've never seen my friend 'Dave' again.

- Bill Yates

If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person? ¹⁸ Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth. 1 John 3:17-18

Grandad was babysitting when he heard his little grand-daughter muttering the alphabet over in hushed tones. "What are you doing?" he asked her. "I'm praying," she replied. "I can't think of the right words so I just say all the letters. God will put them together for me 'cos He knows what I'm thinking."



© CHRISTIAN CRACKERS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR by Phil Mason, published by Monarch

You are loved by God

One of the most beautiful passages in Scripture is found in Isaiah 43: '...you are mine. When you pass through the waters I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned... For I am the Lord, your God, you are precious and honoured in my sight, and ... I love you...' (Isa 43: 1- 4)

Write down that last phrase on a card: 'You are precious and honoured in my sight... I love you.' It is tremendous – and astonishing. YOU are loved by GOD. Who else do you need to impress? What other ladder do you need to climb? What are you going to add to your CV to top that? When you are tempted to despair, when you are afraid, anxious, alone, remember: God loves you. He said so Himself.

The Two Minute Silence

Schoolgirls in 1918 were warned that they might never be married. So many prospective husbands had been killed in World War 1, that their chances could be slim. It's hard for us to imagine the slaughter. The total number of both civilian and military casualties is estimated at around 37 million people, ending only when the Armistice took effect on the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month in 1918.

The idea of a 'Two Minute Silence' originated in South Africa. The first minute was to be a time of thanksgiving for those who had returned alive, and the second minute was to remember the fallen. It was taken up by King George V, writing, "it is my desire and hope that at the hour when the Armistice came into force, there may be for the brief space of two minutes a complete suspension of all our normal activities."

It had an immediate impact. An observer wrote, "The whole World Stands to Attention. From the Indian jungles to Alaska, on the trains, on the ships at sea, in every part of the globe where a few British were gathered together, the Two-Minute pause was observed."



The Great War was said to be 'the war to end all wars'. But it wasn't. About three per cent of the world population were to die in World War II.

Today's 11th November commemoration, repeated on the nearest Sunday, now incorporates all wars.

The Royal British Legion describes the Act of Remembrance as a deeply personal act available to everyone, acknowledging the service and sacrifice of the Armed Forces and their families, across all conflicts.

In keeping the Two Minute Silence, many will long for the day when, in the words of the prophet Isaiah, "They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea."

"Mankind must put an end to war, or war will put an end to mankind" – John F Kennedy

Make up your mind. Choose today!

(by Ethel de A. Rowbotham, *Clayton Brook*)

'How long will you waver between two opinions? If the Lord is GOD, follow HIM. If Baal is God, follow him.' 1 Kings 18:21

Are you confused? I used to be. Maybe you can identify with some aspects of my story. I grew up in a home where there was a big illustrated Bible used as an ornament in the living room. I never saw anybody reading it. There was also a large rosary on the wall of my parents' bedroom. It occupied the same space as a large picture. In the dining room there was a shelf with four or five small statues where my mother would light candles and say prayers for deliverance or healing when there was a need. It was a kind of little shrine. If no answer came quickly, she would go in desperation to a medium who lived in the first floor of the building. She had to pay a fee, of course. And for extra protection, mother also put her faith in amulets and had all kinds of superstitions. I thank God and the Christian lady God used to bring us out of spiritual darkness!

I was 17 when I started reading the Bible for myself and started hearing sermons based on the Word of God. Only then things started making sense. My brother followed me to the light two years later. My mother was in her early 40s when she left all the superstitions and idolatry behind, and decided to follow Jesus alone. A big clean up was done in the apartment one day, when she got rid of all the useless artifacts. It was an unforgettable day! My father only made his decision later on, when he was retired. I am so glad they made their decision while there was still time! Both are in heaven now.

The God of the Bible, the creator of all things, is a rewarder of those who diligently seek HIM (*Hebrews 11:6*). He can also redeem time – all the time that we waste looking for answers in all the wrong places, putting our faith in gurus, New Age, mediums, crystal balls and statues, going from Psychic fair to Psychic fair, going deeper into the darkness.

If you find yourself in this situation, ask Jesus to reveal Himself to you, to bring you out of darkness to His marvelous light. HE will do it. He is THE TRUTH. HE has been revealing Himself to people in places where Bibles, Christian books and Christian TV are forbidden and pastors and missionaries can't go. The quicker we respond to His voice, less time we will spend in the valley of regret. Life with Jesus is much better than without Him!

Suggestions for reading: Joshua 24: 14-15;
Jeremiah 5: 20-25

Jesus said: 'I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me' *John 14:16*

A fund-raising event for SASCA

HETTI's Pre-loved Sale of Beautiful Clothing

Saturday 16 November
7pm

at Clayton Brook Church

Lovely things to buy
- ladies & men -
enhance your wardrobe!

£5 per ticket

or pay on the door

Includes refreshments

No charge for
accompanied
children

*Can anyone lend
me a couple of
portable hanging
rails to display
the clothing*

*Thank you,
- Hetti*



Ransomed Healed Restored Forgiven

Jesus paid the price
The ultimate sacrifice
The ransom has been paid
I, by Jesus, have been saved

Let the people know Christ has risen
Never mind sowing the seeds of satan's division
With the rapture we shall rise
To meet Jesus in the skies

Jesus will wipe our tears away
When we meet him on that glorious day
He shall come like a thief in the night
And then the blind shall receive their sight

- Marilyn Raeburn (Clayton Brook)



Another Christmas Choir

is being arranged for St John's. If you would like to sing with the choir at the Christmas Carol Service, rehearsals commence on Sunday 10 November after the service. Please let Christine know if you are interested.



THE REAL ADVENT CALENDAR

The calendar comes with a 24 page Christmas story-activity book illustrated by Martina Peluso. There is a page for every day of Advent and some fun Advent challenges along the way. There is a line from the Christmas story behind each of the 25 windows. Foiled for freshness. Palm oil free. Recyclable box and tray. A great way for parents, grandparents and Godparents to share the Christmas story. RRP £3.99

The Suffering Church

Restoring Hope in Syria.

After years of conflict many people, including displaced Christians are returning to their homes and attempting to rebuild their communities.

When life was at its hardest in Syria, our giving helped Open Doors to provide essential support to more than 2,800 Syrian families. Pastor Abdalla stayed with them. Now that people are returning and rebuilding their lives, businesses and communities, Abdalla still helps. His church is a Centre of Hope, restoring independent futures for Syrians.

When war came to Aleppo, Pastor Abdalla felt God calling him to stay in Syria. It wasn't an easy decision. He risked persecution and violence, yet his courageous response to this calling helped keep hope alive in Syria. Initially, Pastor Abdalla helped many Syrians who had immediate need for aid. Many people were dependent on food aid when their source of income was cut off by the war. At this time, Open Doors launched the Hope for the Middle East campaign to draw international attention to the persecution of Christians in Iraq and Syria. Thanks to prayer, hope stayed alive in Syria – despite the destruction, chaos and persecution. Abdalla and his church were there throughout.

A BETTER FUTURE FOR SYRIA

Today, Syria is emerging from the crisis, and Syrians are starting their lives and communities afresh. While vulnerable families continue to receive vital food parcels, the Hope for the Middle East campaign is moving into a new phase in Syria. There's a need to rebuild lives and communities for the long term.

"We need to encourage the Christians to stay," says Pastor Abdalla. "We want to see a better future for Aleppo and Syria. As a church, we want to stand next to the people and help them." Pastor Abdalla's church is doing just that, supported by Open Doors. His church has become a **Centre of Hope**, one of 16 such centres already established across Syria. Centres of Hope are not big buildings, but simple places where everyone can meet to develop the church as a place for hope in Syria. It is a low-cost concept run by the local church and adapted to the local context.

CENTRES OF HOPE

Through Centres of Hope, Open Doors is providing relief aid, medical care, vocational training and loans, trauma care for those

impacted by persecution, children's activities such as English lessons as well as running marriage courses and Alpha courses. The idea is to help people move beyond dependence on relief aid and begin to become self-reliant again.

"We continue to see what help we can offer to the people," says Abdalla. "For example, we help them to start a project [business] or give them microloans to start a small business. Three times a week we offer activities for children – the generation that got hurt the most in this war. We also have all kinds of programmes for women, couples and men. Every day of the week the church is busy." Centres of Hope offer assistance to people like George (below), who opened an electrician's shop with a loan from Abdalla's church. They help people who can't afford the rising living costs of post-war Syria. They are lifelines to communities that lost everything and are starting again.

VISION FOR THE FUTURE

Open Door's vision is to open another 20 Centres of Hope across Syria, empowered by the prayers and resources of our global church family. They can establish resilient Christian communities that shine the light of Christ out into the region and the world. The vision is not only to see the church survive, but to see it thrive and share the power of the gospel - in Syria, Iraq and across the Middle East. We mustn't forget that, for many Christians, the threat of persecution remains. The so-called Islamic State may be largely defeated in Syria, but civil war continues. Their radical ideology is alive, and extremists still aim to wipe out the church from its birthplace in the Middle East. Church leaders like Pastor Abdalla remain at particular risk.

Pastor Abdalla says. "We still need your help, we need people to stand with us."

Please stand by him and other courageous leaders as they help restore hope in Syria.

PLEASE PRAY

- Thank God for Pastor Abdalla and the 16 Centres of Hope delivering help for vulnerable people in Syria through the local church.
- For Syrian believers starting new businesses, that they can be Christ's light in their communities
- For a future of peace, reconciliation and reconstruction in Syria.

More information can be found at www.opendoorsuk.org

- from David Barlow

"If you were arrested for being a Christian, would there be enough evidence to convict you?"



Very dear praying friends,

We are now deep into September and preparing to celebrate Chile's National Independence Day, an event that lasts a whole week. It's three months since we got back from the UK and we finally feel ourselves again and that we are properly back in our own environment – spiritually, in ministry and amongst the family, grandparenting once again!

Visiting our link churches in the UK

We greatly rejoiced as we visited most of you on the weekends, travelling from our base in Oxford. We were there for a term at the Oxford Centre for Mission Studies (OCMS) and during the week, Alf would visit libraries and work on his doctoral studies while we lived at the CMS Community House on Iffley Road. We have wonderful memories of our weekends including the HTB Leadership Conference in London where we met up with many Alpha Course workers as well as some from our nations in South America. We attended many beautiful church services, from St John's Whittle-le- Woods in Lancashire down to All Saints in Sidmouth, Devon. We also enjoyed special times of ministry in our longstanding home churches – St Giles, Northampton, St Andrew's, Chorleywood and All Saints, Woodford Wells.

You will also be amazed at how your wonderful English hymn books and liturgy refreshed our thirsty souls and we would often find ourselves very moved as we shared in your worship and your loving and brave stand.

Since Jahnn and Ara have worked at (and remain connected to) St Augustine's, Broxbourne, we feel that it has also become another home in the UK for us! This is even more so since its vicar (and rural dean), Charles Hudson, came out to Chile to spend a glorious month with us

in July last year.

However, we were very aware that we could not get to some of our other link churches, nor visit our precious friends in Northern Ireland, so visiting these churches will be a priority when we are next in the UK. This will be from the end of May right through to the Lambeth 2020 Conference in July and August. We will again be based in Oxford for studies but travelling on weekends. Please write to us if you would like us to fit you in for a visit.

La Trinidad

As you will remember, we have returned to continue the role as rector. We are seeing a new emphasis on prayer so we have set aside a special prayer room with weekly Wednesday morning meetings at 6am and regular prayer chains with fasting. Ministry is constant with Marriage Encounters, Youth Encounters, Children's Encounters, Men's Encounters and many others. We are seeing much fruit from these and from the Alpha and Marriage Alpha Courses.

Confirmations

Some of the fruit we are seeing includes last month's confirmation service where nearly 30 new members were confirmed and taken into full membership and service. We are very happy to see these new people continue to bring other new people into church so that the circle of life in Jesus continues!

Elim

However, we have even more reason to be further encouraged! September saw the beginnings of a new and very exciting initiative, a dream come true! Elim stands for Escuela de Lideres y Ministros Laicos (School for Leaders and Lay Ministers) and is effectively a Bible school that operates in the evenings and invites lay leaders to train for further ministry. It will follow the path of some of the ministry training in the UK, particularly schemes like St Mellitus College in London. We were surprised that nearly 40 leaders enrolled and over 30 have stuck with it, pursuing a fairly sacrificial period of study with enormous enthusiasm! It certainly keeps us on our toes and I have had to kick off with the first classes on the Doctrine of the Bible, the Canon of Scripture, Total Inerrancy and other interesting subjects!"

continued on next page.....



The new ELIM Bible school

.....from previous page

Inside the Palacio

I am very happy to inform that my English version of "Desde el Palacio", called "Inside the Palacio", is on Amazon (<https://amzn.to/30XuO7S>) and it will arrive within a few days if you order it. I have now received copies in Chile and hope to take one to the president in the next few weeks as well as some of the dignitaries mentioned in the book. If you have read it, you will see how the amazing story of the 33 lost miners (chapters 3 and 4), the history of the evangelical church in Chile (chapters 5 and 6) and the story of how churches have sought to uphold biblical values within Chile (chapter 7) continually bring Christ to the fore on the national stage.

Alf's PhD Studies

We were so surprised and blessed last year by the generous response to our appeal for help in covering some of the costs of our PhD studies. CMS is kindly helping us with the funding for this but it has meant that we do need to raise the funds each year (the cost is around £6,000 per year). Last year we were fully covered thanks to your loving response. If you can help with funding this year, please give in the usual way, and if you have any questions please email Paul Read, people in mission funding manager, on paul.read@churchmissionsociety.org and 01865 787525. Finally...

We were overjoyed to hear that Mark and Dani are expecting their first baby girl! Please pray for them at this time.

We share with you our love in Christ,
Alf and Hilary

Operation Christmas Child 2019



SHOE BOX APPEAL

Since 1990, more than 124 million boys and girls in over 150 countries have experienced God's love through the power of simple shoebox gifts from Operation Christmas Child.

A small shoebox can have a big impact. What goes into the box is fun, but what comes out of it is eternal. Be a part of changing children's lives all over the world in Jesus' name through the power of a simple gift with Operation Christmas Child

Together with thousands of dedicated volunteers around the UK, we are able to share the love of Jesus Christ and the joy of Christmas with millions of boys and girls.

Last year, as a church, we supported this charity and donated 94 boxes to this worthy cause. With your help we are aiming to try and donate 100 boxes this year! Look out for information in church in October. For what to put in a shoebox visit the website:

<https://www.samaritans-purse.org.uk/what-we-do/operation-christmas-child/what-goes-in-my-shoebox/>

Contacts for further information:

Gill Lancaster or Susan Parkinson at St Johns
Gill Menhennet or Kathy Bigio at Clayton Brook

**DEADLINE FOR RETURN OF
SHOEBOXES TO CHURCH IS
SUNDAY 17th NOVEMBER**



A voice in the night

'The Sovereign Lord has given me a well-instructed tongue, to know the word that sustains the weary. He wakens me morning by morning, wakens my ear to listen like one being instructed.' Isaiah 50:4

Awake in the early hours, and my thoughts fluttering here and there, the name of a friend dropped into my mind as if from nowhere together with the words: "Tell her, 'God is aware of you.'"

Eventually I fell asleep again but when I woke in the morning the words were still there. I had a busy day ahead but as I ate my breakfast, I felt I should text her straight away with what I had been given and trust it would make sense to her.

Midmorning I received a message back. I knew nothing of her circumstances, but both she and her husband were facing major difficulties in their work situations. As they prayed together the night before she asked the Lord to send her a word of encouragement. As she started her day my text arrived. She was so encouraged, and so was I.

As I ponder this event two things stand out to me. (1) God is intimately aware of each one of us, and knows our circumstances. He sees us, He knows what we are going through. He will help us find a way through. And give us the strength and guidance we need. As you read this, He says to you: 'I am aware of you.'

(2) **If God drops the name of someone into your mind take it as an indication to pray for them. If words are given to you for them, then share them – either personally, or via a written note or a text message. It may be just what they need to hear.**

PRAYER BREAKFAST

SATURDAY
9 NOVEMBER 8.30am
at CLAYTON BROOK
CHURCH

AFTER A
SUMPTUOUS
BUFFET STYLE
BREAKFAST,
FRESHLY COOKED,
HETTI WILL BE
SHARING ABOUT
HER TRIPS
TO ROMANIA

PLEASE SIGN UP AT
THE BACK OF BOTH
CHURCHES SO THAT
ENOUGH FOOD CAN
BE PREPARED



Please continue to keep the food boxes in our churches full. The food is taken to Living Waters Church in Chorley who operate a food bank for the needy people of Chorley and surrounding districts.

Suggestions:

*Cereal *Milk UHT *Jam *Juice *Teabags *Coffee *sugar *Toilet rolls

*Toothpaste *Soap *Toiletries *Nappies *Washing powder *Pasta sauce

*Noodles *Small pkt rice *Sandwich paste *cuppa soup

Tins of..... *Spam *Corned beef *Meat *Fray Bentos pies *Carrots *Peas *Sweetcorn *Mushrooms

*Tomatos *Potatos *Beans *Spaghetti *Sausage&beans *Hotdogs *Tuna *Fruit. **Thank you**

Check out the food bank facebook page, it's good reading! And they tell you what they are particularly short of. www.facebook.com/LWStorehouse



Meadow Bank



Nestled in a quiet residential community in Preston, Meadow Bank is a friendly care home offering residential, nursing and nursing memory care for older ladies and gentleman.

At HC-One kindness is at the heart of everything we do and our care and services are tailored to individual preferences.

To find more information on the care we can offer you or your loved one, please visit our website, or contact our Home Manager, Helen Holden.

Offering:

- Residential, nursing and memory care
- Little break – Short term care
- Home from home – Long term care
- Nutritious meals
- Hobbies and interest clubs
- Comfortable day rooms

W hc-one.co.uk

T 0333 321 4703

E careline@hc-one.co.uk

A Meadow Lane, Bamber Bridge,
Preston, Lancashire, PR5 8LN



**DOES YOUR
SHOPPING
TROLLEY
CONTAIN
FAIR
TRADE
GOODS?**



Please save your
postage stamps
leaving ¼ inch
around them, &
leave them in the
boxes in both
churches. Susan
will send them to
the Leprosy
Mission

WALLS and BARRIERS

It was 30 years ago this month, on 9th November 1989, that the fall of the Berlin Wall began. Over two million people from East Berlin visited the West in a celebration described as *'the greatest street party in the history of the world.'* However, we are still living with walls, thinking of those dividing Gaza and Palestine from Israel. It's a strong human instinct to build walls to separate us from those we view as different and threatening.

Paul writes of how the death of Jesus has broken down the barrier between Jew and

Gentile: 'His purpose was to create in Himself one new humanity out of the two, thus making peace, and in one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which He put to death their hostility.' (Ephesians 2:15-16).

Jesus is still in the business in breaking down the barriers between people of different gender, age, race and language, to bring them together in His church: *'There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.'* (Galatians 3:28).

We can easily put up barriers with others, when we make assumptions about them, forgetting that they may be thinking the same things about us. We may want to avoid making ourselves vulnerable or appear needy. Yet Jesus can break down our defences and enable us to live openly and honestly with others. As His church, He invites us to be a community of risk-takers, i.e. those who trust each other, handle our weaknesses and fears, and who encourage one another's strengths and gifts.



"It's a devil to start on these damp November Sunday mornings – luckily we have a sidesman who works for the AA"

Christmas starts with Christ

Started your Christmas shopping yet? Christmas starts with Christ, and here is one shop helping us do that.

Free gifts for festive shoppers

Families shopping this festive season will receive two great giveaways telling the Christmas story. HOPE

Together, Bible Society and Speak Life are working with The Entertainer toy stores to help customers appreciate the reason for the season.

The Entertainer chain is the UK's largest independent toy retailer and each store has a nativity scene in its shop window at Christmas. This year, The Entertainer nativity scenes will feature the popular Happyland characters as Mary, Joseph, baby Jesus, the Wise Men and the Shepherds.

To tie in with these nativity scenes, Bible Society is producing a special Entertainer edition of its Christmas booklet. Each family shopping for Christmas in The Entertainer stores will receive a copy.

Shoppers will also be given a copy of the *Christmas HOPE* magazine, also featuring a centre-spread with the Happyland characters telling the Christmas story. This 32-page magazine is packed with topical features to inform, challenge and entertain readers. This year's *Christmas HOPE* cover features Tom Hanks, 'the man behind the honours'; the new *Cats* movie; Allison Becker: the world's best goalkeeper and Street Pastors 'keeping party-goers safe this Christmas'.

As well as featuring the nativity scene in shop windows and giving away *The Christmas Story* booklets and *Christmas HOPE* magazines, The Entertainer stores will screen a specially-made Happyland nativity animation which is being made by the Speak Life team. The animation will be available on social media and to download for use in schools and churches.

All the Christmas resources are also available for churches to order and will be available from the end of October on the HOPE Together website hopetogether.org.uk/Christmas.

The *Christmas HOPE* magazine is an ideal giveaway for churches visiting homes carol singing or to invite local residents to Christmas events.

Our nearest Entertainer Shop: St George's Shopping Centre, Preston and The Mall 36-38 King William Street, Blackburn



All pictures are in colour in the web version of the gazette. www.stjohnsandclaytonbrook.uk

Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in
Matthew 7:7-11, Luke 11:5-13

To teach about praying, and God's good gifts, Jesus told this story - 'If you have a visitor arrive in the middle of the night..'

Oh no! I have no bread to feed him! I am so ashamed! What can I do?.. I know!



'You would go round to a friend's house.'



I really, really need some bread for a visitor.



I need that bread!



Jesus concluded...

So keep on asking and it will be given, seeking and you will find, knocking and it will be opened... And parents, if your hungry child asks for bread,

'..would you give them a stone?



'And if they asked for a fish...'



'..would you give them a snake?



'Or if they asked for an egg...'



'you'd give a scorpion?'



If you, who aren't perfect parents, give good gifts to your children, then don't you think that gifts from your perfect Father, God, will be even better?



‘This is the day the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it! (Psalm 118)

The above verse is found in the Psalms, its themes are thanksgiving to God and reliance on God rather than on human

strength. The psalm was part of the song of celebration that King David penned to celebrate that the foundations of the House of the Lord had been laid, which would lead to the blessing of the whole of the nation of Israel, a prophetic pointer towards the One Who would be The Foundation Stone referred to in I Peter 2:6

"See, I lay in Zion a stone, a chosen and precious cornerstone; and the one who believes in Him will never be put to shame."

We are living in a time and culture when many of the foundations on which our society has been built are being eroded. The Bible is no longer considered to be the essential book that was once found in every school in the land and used to teach us the truth about God. Our spoken language is now contaminated by the regular and ‘normal’ use of words of an obscene and sexual nature even in many of our school playgrounds. The images that are beamed into our living rooms can now inflict scenes of unwholesomeness and violence on us even before the 9 o’clock ‘threshold,’ and the universal ability to download degrading material via our mobile phones, all points to a society that is in danger of losing its moral foundations of decency and respect for life.

As I write this, our government seems lacking in political stability, with cries from many that the economic and democratic foundations of our society are crumbling, using the currently measurable national increases in homelessness, knife crime, drug addiction, street violence and alcoholism as evidence to add weight to their accusations.

However, there is hope and it is found in Jesus Who came so that all who believed in Him might have life in all its’ fullness (John 10:10). He is referred to as the Stone the builders rejected and stumbled over. The foundation stone upon Whom the Kingdom of Heaven would be built. He is the real antidote to all the above troubles of our time and culture for the only peace that makes a difference is personal peace that comes from forgiveness being offered and received. Jesus once said, ‘My peace I give to you, not the ‘peace’ the world gives, for I am able to give you peace that lasts forever and overcomes the worlds cynicism and doubt’, (John 14)so do not let your hearts be troubled, trust in Me.

This is the message that as street pastors we pray we can bring to the sometimes lost and broken people we meet who struggle to make sense of the confusion, immorality and violence that so often intrudes upon their lives. Please pray for us that we may know the power of the Holy Spirit as we seek to be ‘salt and light’ to those who need help to believe that this world and culture can be a better place with Jesus as their solid Foundation.

Your prayers are vital and help to guide and encourage us.

God bless,

Brian, Chorley Street Pastors Co-ordinator.

Street Pastors from our two churches are: Roland, Hetti, Lorraine, Irene, William

PEACE

On the eleventh day of the eleventh month
The guns had ceased and peace had come,
Another war with so much loss
As brave men fought and victories won.

We honour those who gave their lives
And took up arms against the foe,
Not knowing if they would return
But faithful to the call to go.

Battles rage throughout the earth,
It seems that wars will never cease
Until the day that Christ returns –
And only then will there be peace

The Prince of Peace, Emmanuel
Will come to end this world of strife
And as He brings His kingdom in
He’ll usher in eternal life.

- by Megan Carter



Would you like to advertise your business
in the Parish Gazette?

12 x 12cms

12 x 6cms

6 x 6cms

Contact editor for prices, details on back page

This size?
or larger?

BIBLE JOURNEYS
Where did Noah's ark come to rest after it's journey?
Genesis 8:4

Where did God tell Samuel to travel to find a new king?
1 Samuel 16:1-4

To which city did God send Jonah?
Jonah 1:1-2

Which town did Joseph take Mary to before Jesus was born?
Luke 2:4

Where did Mary and Joseph flee to to get away from Herod?
Matthew 2:13

Where was Saul (Paul) going to when Jesus spoke to him?
Acts 9:1-18

Mouse Makes
What kind of transport goes with each bible character?
NOAH — DONKEY
BAALAM — CHARIOT
MOSES — SHIP
JONAH — ARK
ELIJAH — BIG FISH
PHILIP — BASKET
PAUL — WHIRLWIND

Find the travel words in the word search
JOURNEY
FLEE • LEAVE • TRAVEL
• GOD WITH US •
DONKEY • CAMEL
HORSE • CHARIOT
BOAT • RIDE • WALK
PATH • ROAD
• DIRECTION •
GUIDE • MAP • SIGN
VILLAGE • TOWN • CITY

GOD'S WAY
"Lord,
If I go east where the sun rises or go to live west beyond the sea, even there you will take my hand and **lead me**.
Your strong right hand will **protect me**."
Psalm 139:9:10

"God is our God for ever and ever, He will be our guide even to the end."
from Psalm 48:14

"People can plan what they want to do, but it is the Lord who guides their steps."
Proverbs 16:9

WORD SEARCH
G O D W I T H U S C S F C T
D I R E C T I O N H I L I R
O W O R A V I L L A G E T A
N A A I M M J O U R N E Y V
K L D D E A O G U I D E A E
E K J E L P A T H O R S E L
Y L E A V E B O A T O W N T

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"The real art of conversation is not only to say the right thing at the right time, but also to leave unsaid the wrong thing at the tempting moment"

"A good exercise for the heart is to bend down and help someone up"

2019 Year planner for St John's & Clayton Brook Community Church

JANUARY

20th 'Be my guest' Sunday
26 & 27 Mark Drama

FEBRUARY

9th Salvation Army Breakfast

MARCH

9th Work Day at St J and CB
12 & 19 Lent Course @ CBrook
16-24 Parish Mission with Oakhill
18th Taste & See Meal
22nd Youth Event @ St James
25th Family Quiz & Annual Church Meeting

APRIL

2 & 9 Lent Course @ CBrook
18 Maundy Thurs meal at CBrook

MAY

6th Yorkshire Camp open day
14th Essentials Course begins
18th Northern Men's Convention
30th-9th June Thy Kingdom Come

JUNE

8th Festival Ceilidh
12th Women's garden party
30th Paul Davies Ordination

JULY

20th & 21st Clayton Brook Festival

AUGUST

28th Church Family Day Out

OCTOBER

19th PCC awayday

NOVEMBER

9th Prayer Breakfast

DECEMBER

14th Christmas Adventure

Please put these dates on your calendar/diary. Further details for each date will be available nearer the time. If there are any more events, please send dates to the Editor.

NOVEMBER DIARY

- 3 SUN** 8.45 Holy Communion at Whittle
 10.30 All-age Family Service at Whittle
 10.30 Service of the Word at Clayton Brook
 6pm Parish Prayer & Praise at Clayton Brook
- 4 Mon** 9-2 Café Life at Clayton Brook
 10.30 Beehive Parent/Toddlers Whittle Village Hall
- 5 Tue** 9.15 Tots at Church, Clayton Brook
 7.30 Parish Prayer meeting at the Vicarage
- 6 Wed** 10.30 Holy Communion at Whittle
- 9 Sat** 8.30am Prayer Breakfast at Clayton Brook
- 10 SUN REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY**
 8.45 Holy Communion at Whittle
 10.30 Service of the Word at Whittle
 10.30 Holy Communion at Clayton Brook
 6pm Parish Prayer & Praise at Clayton Brook
- 11 Mon** 9-2 Café Life at Clayton Brook
 10.30 Beehive Parent/Toddlers Whittle Village Hall
 7.30 PCC at Clayton Brook
- 12 Tue** 9.15 Tots at Church, Clayton Brook
- 13 Wed** 10.30 Holy Communion at Whittle
- 16 Sat** 7pm **Hetti's Sale of Fashion Fund Raiser** (page 6)
- 17 SUN** 8.45 Holy Communion at Whittle
 10.30 Holy Communion at Whittle
 10.30 Service of the Word at Clayton Brook
 6pm Parish Prayer & Praise at Clayton Brook
- 18 Mon** 9-2 Café Life at Clayton Brook
 10.30 Beehive Parent/Toddlers Whittle Village Hall
- 19 Tue** 9.15 Tots at Church, Clayton Brook
- 20 Wed** 10.30 Holy Communion at Whittle
- 24 SUN** 8.45 Holy Communion at Whittle
 10.30 Service of the Word at Whittle
 10.30 Holy Communion at Clayton Brook
 6pm Parish Prayer & Praise at Clayton Brook
- 25 Mon** 9-2 Café Life at Clayton Brook
 10.30 Beehive Parent/Toddlers Whittle Village Hall
- 26 Tues** 9.15 Tots at Church, Clayton Brook
- 27 Wed** 10.30 Holy Communion at Whittle

► *Services and meetings are subject to change, please check before attending. Please look on the weekly news sheet as to when services and activities have resumed at Clayton Brook.*



St John's at Whittle

Crèche (from 0-3)

A supervised crèche run by mums and helpers is available in the basement of the church. Please take your babies downstairs at the same time as the other children leave for junior church. See Rebecca, Mel, Jen, Carla. Or there is a carpeted area at the back of church where parents can sit with their children.

Junior Church Children aged from 3 years to 10 years leave for Junior Church during the service
Pathfinders for year 6 and above, leave to meet in their own group during the service.

Clayton Brook Community Church

Sunbeams There is a well-equipped crèche facility for pre-schoolers, situated in the coffee lounge area.

King's Kids Primary school age children (4-11) meet upstairs for fun, fellowship and faith building.

Young & Free Year 6 & above. Our teenage group enjoy learning and discussion together.

Friday Club is our fun and games night. It's membership only, from 6.30 to 7.30pm on Fridays.

To enrol your children in our young people's activities, please see Caroline Venables at St John's, or Stuart Cross at Clayton Brook

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to this edition.

Articles for the combined December/January edition by: **FRIDAY 15 NOVEMBER to:**

Cath Orr

The Editor would welcome comments on any article in the Gazette

If you would like to advertise your business in the Parish Gazette, please contact the Editor
 If you wish to contact anyone in the magazine, please use the contact form on the website.