

Outlook

from Hope January 2005

The House That God Built

What an exciting year 2005 promises to be for us at Hope. Building work starting, a mission in May, the weekend away at Lee Abbey, 5 people coming into membership in January. And alongside these special events the church is growing numerically and spiritually.

Over the next months the particular book of the Bible we will be looking at on Sundays and in Fellowship Groups is Ephesians. It describes the church as a building. Jesus is the cornerstone, the teaching of the Bible is the foundation and every person who becomes a Christian is being built into the fantastic holy temple, which God is fashioning.

I hesitate to use the word temple because it sounds so old-fashioned and unchanging. The concept described here is anything but dated and dull. The temple was the place people went to meet God and so when it says we are being built into a temple it means we are being brought together so that God can live in the network of our relationships. This is as stunning as Jesus being born in a stable! God intends to make Himself known in and amongst the people who congregate at Hope week by week!

Over this coming year I hope there will be many people who came along to church. I hope they will discover that it is more than a religious building; it is a network of loving people. More than that, I hope they will discover God Himself is the source of that love and that they will find themselves unexpectedly encountering Him in the fellowship they experience.

Are you experiencing that? It is God's purpose for the church so don't settle for anything less. Amidst the sometimes- hectic activity and the excitement of buildings development this is what we long for:

Immanuel, God with us.

Happy New Year Andy Saunders

What is CHRISTmas?

On Friday 10th December, four of us folk from Hope joined with six others from St Pancras and Pennycross Methodist churches to sing carols at two social clubs in Pennycross.

At the first club were about twenty adults and ten to twelve children. Roger Horsley from St Pancras introduced the choir and asked for requests from the Carol Sheet. Some of the children shouted out their favourite carols and we began to sing. It was quite a challenge as we were accompanied by a little girl chanting, "BORING, BORING". Andy spoke for a few minutes on the meaning of Christmas and shared the story of one lady who had recently had her life transformed by Jesus. Some listened, others continued their conversations or nipped to the bar for a refill whilst he spoke.

We then moved on to the second social club. Here there were no children but about 30-40 adults were gathered for Bingo. Some were sitting in groups around tables and others were standing at the bar. After being introduced by the M.C. we proceeded as before by asking for requests for carols. There was a much better atmosphere here as most people joined in the singing and we were all given a glass of mulled wine. Probably the first time Andy's sermon has been interrupted by someone offering him a drink!

At both clubs Bob Fairbeard asked the people there to shout out one word, which meant 'Christmas' for them. 'DECORATIONS', 'TREE', 'SANTA', 'PRESENTS', 'DEBTS', 'BOOZE', 'HEADACHES', 'CAROLS', 'MISTLETOE', 'HOLLY', were some of the words expressed. It was striking that not once was there a mention of JESUS the Son of God, or the birth of the SAVIOUR of the world, or ANGELS bringing GOOD NEWS or anything that we as Christians associate with the meaning of Christmas. But that was why we went there; because lots of people don't come to church.

I just pray that the people that we encountered that Friday will remember something of the message given by Andy and the other people in our group. The good news of Jesus is so much more exciting than Bingo!

When the Lord Jesus comes again He will not be calling the Bingo numbers or asking "What do you want to drink?"

Jenny Weeks

Progress report: expedition one

Hey all!!! Here is my first newsletter following expedition one (the headline is a small giveaway!). As you may know for the last four weeks from 16th October to 14th November we have been on expedition. We travelled through Malawi and Mozambique visiting churches, taking services and encouraging them. It has been an amazing time sharing in fellowship and encouraging the communities.

Overview

We were joined by Pastor Rodgers and Pastor Isaac who translated for us, they also guided us through the bush. We visited just a small number of the churches most of which were in very poor and remote villages. Usually there would be one Bible between the whole church so the work we did was incredibly appreciated and we were always greeted with a warm welcome. While on expedition we were also involved other practical work. We helped at Malforga Farm, a Christian Mission Station in central Mozambique. There they have a school, technical college, orphanage and clinic we were able to help by painting the school, helping at the clinic and installing power for a new bore hole. The main purpose of our trip was to encourage the churches in Malawi and Mozambique. Africa is a place of such contrasts, vivid colours and sounds; I think we have seen so much of Africa that the casual tourist misses!

Bush Villages

Most of our time in Mozambique was spent visiting bush villages. What would normally happen is we would arrive in the late evening, just in time to set up our tents, before taking an evening service. Then we would have a light meal, normally Nshima and chicken, (provided by the locals). Then retiring to our tents for the night. An early start follows to lead an early morning worship session, then a breakfast of (occasionally burnt) porridge. Then leading another service around 10, then lunch of various soups before moving on the next church and repeating the same thing all over again.

Most of the services were 2 hours long. Some over! The worship consisted of repeating the same phrase over and over, to the sound of a drum and shaken tins of stones. The phrase would be repeated for about 20 minutes before another song is chosen. In all we attended about 27 services over a period of about a week.

Nsanje

This is the home village of Pastor Rodgers, who oversees 450+ churches in Malawi and Mozambique. Pastor Rodgers and Pastor Isaac accompanied us into Mozambique to act as translators and join us in encouraging the churches we visited.

It was in Nsanje we had our first experience of African hospitality, as the whole family (Pastor Rodgers has 5 children and shares his home with 12 other people) vacated their house so our team could take over.

Maforga and Inhaminga

After seven days in bush villages we drove to Inhaminga and stayed at a Bible College for two nights and then on to Maforga Christian Mission which is on the Beira Corridor. Roy and Trish are Zimbabwean missionaries who bought the farm from a baroness during the Mozambique civil war. The mission provides care and education to tertiary level for orphaned children. It also has a health clinic and technical college.

During our stay at Maforga we got the chance to play against the local football team. We gained a victory 7 – 5.

The beach



Pumping water at a borehole

However it was not all blood, sweat and canvas, we did spend 2 days at the beach campsite 'El Savanne' for some well deserved rest and

relaxation. We spent one whole day and two nights here, just relaxing. We swam in the Indian Ocean, played Frisbee, walked along the beach or watched Sky News with a plate of chips in the restaurant. All in all an enjoyable experience.

We would like to thank everyone who contributes regularly on a Sunday morning, this month we would particularly like to thank the following people:

Coffee

2nd Claire Worrall and Nicky Hatherell
9th Nick Beard and Kate Hatherell
16th Judith and John Pinch
23rd Cyndy and Ray Hedges
30th John and Carole Eascott

Transport

Peter Brown
Mike Lummis
Bill Wonnacott
Mike Munson
David Brown

Crèche

2nd Family service

9th

16th To be arranged

23rd

30th Family service

After Church Care - Under 8' s only in Thee Bar

2nd Family service

9th Karine Yuen & Diane Catling

16th Gill Knight & Harry Yuen

23rd Lynda Henagulph & Nick Beard

30th

Flowers

2nd Mrs Viola Woodward. Birthday Remembrance of her husband, Ivor

9th -

16th -

23rd Mrs Estelle Robertson, in loving memory of her father, Mr Jack Veal.

30th -

Communion

Set-up

16th Ray & Cyndy Hedges

Wash-up

Trevor Fray & Sandy Lashbrook

Stewards

2nd Nick Beard, Estelle Robertson, Andrew Jones and Pat Taylor

9th Nicky Hatherell, Sheila Boddington, Trevor Fray and Sheena Kingdom

16th Wilf Smale, Mike and Salli Lummis and Tim Hart

23rd Ron Dalton, Marain Brown, Pam Smith and Beryl Chun

Family Prayer Time,

a chat with Christopher brown, age 9

When do we have family prayer time?

Before we all go to bed

Who takes part?

Usually Rebecca, Me, Jonathan, Andrew and Dad – sometimes Mum

Where?

We take it in turns in each other's rooms

How do we do it?

Dad asks Andrew who is going first, second, third, fourth and fifth!

How do you decide what you are going to pray about?

We think about what we are going to say beforehand then just put it into words

What sorts of things might you pray for?

Things you are thankful for, things you are sorry for, things you hope for - for anyone or anything

I think about TSP (Thank you, Sorry Please)

How do you feel doing prayer-time?

It's good to say what you feel and to tell God what has been happening

Why do you think God likes to hear those things?

He can help you with things, and stop bad things from happening to you

If Mum does prayer-time, sometimes she asks us to tell her about what has happened and then she joins it all up and does one prayer from all of us.

Sometimes we go to bed without a joint prayer-time and just say our own prayer in bed. That's better if you are tired because you can just say your prayer and then go to sleep. If you're not tired it's good to listen to everyone else as well.

The Roseman Family.

Two of our members, Torph and Gomer Roseman who have been working with Mercy Ships and have been on the M V Anastasis for the past 10 years, are now working with Samaritans Purse and are just settling into Lui a small town in Southern Sudan. All their possessions are in storage in Seattle. Their son Toby is now in the last year of his degree course at Washington State University, Seattle and their daughter KT has just returned to college in Chicago after a 6 month placement in Senegal.

Gomer first went to Sudan in October and Torph went with him when he returned after a Christmas break. He reports that Samaritans Purse looks after its personnel very well, flying them out to Kenya for 2 weeks R&R every 2 months. Although quite a comfortable climate at first, by now the temperature will have risen considerably and in Gomer's words will be "hotter than the hinges on them gates to Hell!".

In Lui they will be working in an old mission hospital which was re-opened about 7 years ago. It was badly bombed in 2000 and is now in a rebel-held area and used by them. It was last bombed about 3 months ago. Gomer is responsible for the administration of the hospital and the security, also for the construction of a new wing for the School of Nursing. Torph will be Head of Personnel. There are about 125 local workers and also a large group of European and American missionaries and hospital staff, most of whom are younger than Torph and Gomer, they will feel rather like "Mom and Pop".

Gomer has been able to begin to get to know the local chiefs and has had a helpful meeting with them, finding out what some of the local needs are, and considering how they can be met. The first seems to be assistance to help them to repair a dam.

They will be living in a "Toogal" (not sure of the spelling here!) but it's a mud hut; quite basic and regularly invaded by various insects, including scorpions. They are very isolated, confined to the hospital compound and the living compound. An aeroplane every 2 weeks brings in mail and there is some email contact possible but it is not private. There is solar power for essentials but this is clearly limited and there is little to do in their time off so it is easy for boredom to set in.

They would very much appreciate our prayers. First thanks because Torph's back is much better than it has been for years. Please also pray that Torph will be able to cope with the extreme heat, as she said,

"I'm not worried about the scorpions or the bombing but I don't know if I'll be able to cope with the heat and be able to sleep nights, that's where you can pray for me"; for Gomer as he works with the local leaders and for Torph as she gets to know the local workers and that they will form good relationships with their colleagues in the hospital.

As soon as we have any addresses for them we will pass them on so that you can write or email and keep them in touch.

Ann and Mike

Thanks

Thank you letters have been received from the following:

- ▶ SW Baptist Association for our giving to Home Mission during 2004 – a total of £3898 for the year
- ▶ Plymouth Mencap Society, for the donation of £100 raised at Thursday Coffee Morning and donations at after-church coffee on Sundays.
- ▶ BMS, for money sent to them throughout 2004, they highlight their efficient use of money – 93p in every £ goes directly to charitable expenditure, as they say ‘ that’ s how it should be’ !

January 2005 Diary

Sat	1	11.00	New Year’ s Day family walk
Sun	2	10.00	Prayer in the Lower Guildroom**
		10.30	Joint family service at Hope, with St Pancras and Pennycross Methodist
Tues	4	1.30	Prayer Group* venues vary, please ask
Thurs	6	10.00	Coffee Morning**
		6.30-8.00	H-Y-Powered, ‘ Welcome Back!’ years 36 *
Fri	7	7.00-8.30	The Hype, youth group, years 7 to 9*
		8.15-10.00	Re:Act, youth group, years 10 to 12*
Sun	9	10.00	Prayer in the Lower Guildroom**
		10.30	‘ People with a purpose’ – Eph 1:1-14
Tues	11	10.00	Mums and Baby Group**
		1.0	Parent and Toddler Group *
Wed	12	10am & 1pm	Parent and Toddler Groups *
Thurs	13	6.30-8.00	H-Y-Powered, ‘ Drama’ years 36 *
Fri	14	7.00-8.30	The Hype, years 7 to 9 - Winter Olympics
		8.15-10.00	Re:Act, youth group, years 10 to 12*
Sun	16	10.30	‘ People of power’ – Eph 1:15-23
Mon	17	2.15	Open House – P. Aldersley
		7.30-8.30	Prayer in the Guild Room
Tues	18	7.30	Church members meeting
Wed	19	6.00	Women’ s Rendezvous meal at Ship Inn, Elburton
Thurs	20	6.30-8.00	H-Y-Powered, ‘ Messy Games’ years 36 *
Sun	23	10.30	‘ People with a place’ – Eph 2:1-10
			Followed by a fellowship lunch
Wed	26	7.00	Women’ s Rendezvous – AGM
Thurs	27	6.30-8.00	H-Y-Powered, ‘ Trip- TBA’ years 36 *
Sun	30	10.30	Family service
Mon	31	7.30-8.30	Prayer in the Guild Room

*These meetings are held weekly **during term time only**

These meetings meet weekly **all through the year

Fellowship groups now meet on various nights and in different weeks so check with group leaders when yours is meeting.

February

Tues	1	7.30	Celebration
Sat	5		Community Quiz Night

BMS Birthdays for January

7th Mrs Claudia Robertson

9th Mrs Kathleen Pritchard

11th Cyndy Hedges

13th Luke Hedges

Prayer

Monday nights 7.30 - 8.30, meeting in the Guild Room on the weeks that fellowship groups do not meet – see specific dates for this month on opposite page.

Women' s Rendezvous

On Friday 3rd December, ten ladies from the Women' s Rendezvous went to the Devonport Playhouse to see the City of Plymouth Theatre Company' s production of ' Simply Christmas' .

Coffee and mince pies were served to the audience during the intermission. This certainly added to the Christmas atmosphere of the show.

The performance was enjoyed by all, especially the carol singing and the acting and singing of the younger members of the cast.

It is intended to book seats for CPTC' s next production ' Half a Sixpence' which will be performed in the Theatre Royal in January. Any ladies who would like to join us for this evening out, please contact me. Transport can be arranged to and from the Theatre Royal.

Jenny Weeks

News of the Pipers

Many folk at Hope will remember Stuart and Lynda piper and their children, Graeme and Lizzie. Stuart did a 6-week placement here at Hope about 12 years ago when he was a student at Bible College. The family have spent several holidays here in Plymouth and worshipped with us during their stays. When Stuart was appointed as minister to a Baptist church in Dartford several of the congregation of Hope travelled to Dartford for Stuart' s induction service.

Lynda has written to say that Stuart has been in poor health having high blood pressure and diabetes. Just recently he has suffered a mild heart attack and is now confined to working only 5 mornings a week in his present job as a chaplain to a hospice in Ramsgate.

Please remember Stuart and the family in your prayers.

Prayer Focus

- ▶ Give thanks for the safe arrival of Charis Evans and continue to pray for the family.
- ▶ A number of people have ongoing health needs. Remember Anne Adeney, Marilyn Fray, Doreen Stirling, Doris Dunstan, Ken Gardiner, Glendora Phillips and Viola Woodward.
- ▶ Give thanks that Adrian Smith recovered quickly from his operation.
- ▶ The election for the post of Treasurer and 3 Deacons takes place at the Church Meeting on Jan 18th.
- ▶ It' s been great to welcome a number of new people to Church in recent months. Pray that they will know God ministering to them, fit into fellowship groups and find avenues for service.
- ▶ Give thanks for the difference that Jan Doyle is making as an administrator and that her husband Steve has found a Plymouth based job.
- ▶ Pray for all those who visited Hope over Christmas that they might be drawn back to find out more about Jesus.
- ▶ The Buildings Development Committee will be facing significant challenges this next 6 months. Pray for each of the members: Andrew Gardiner, Marian Brown, Lynda Henagulph , Mike Munson, Ron Dalton, Paul Aldersley, Mike Lummis.
- ▶ Give thanks that the teams running Mums and Babies and Parents and Toddlers have coped so well with the departure of the Families and Children' s Workæ. Pray for a good response as we advertise the post.

Open House

Unfortunately, we start the New Year on a sad note. Just before Christmas, a lovely lady who has joined us at Open House regularly for quite a few years, passed away suddenly. Despite her infirmity she was always cheerful and a delight to be with. We will all miss Joan and her smiling face. We send our sincere condolences to her daughter, Marilyn Duook, and the other members of her family at this difficult time.

We wish everyone a happy, healthy and peaceful New Year, and invite you to join us at our first meeting of 2005. It is on Monday 17th January, at 2.15 pm in the church hall, when Paul Aldersley will be joining us to show pictures and talk about his experiences Scuba Diving. There will be time to talk to Paul and

ask him questions about his hobby, followed by afternoon tea with a variety of sandwiches and cakes washed down with a cup or two of tea or coffee.

The suggested donation is £1.50, all of which will be given to Paul's chosen charity, the Y.M.C.A. where he works.

As usual, should you require a lift, please do not hesitate to telephone me, Pam Smith on Plymouth 219844, to arrange a pick up time.

Everyone is welcome to come along and join us, from 9 days old to 99 years of age, and yes, we do welcome gentlemen too! So why not make the effort to try us out.

Grateful Thanks.

I would like to thank all those that sent me cards, asked after me and had me in your thoughts during and after my recent operation. I am pleased to be recovering well but still taking things very easy. Doctor's orders!

Adrian Smith

Barn Dance The scene was set, punch was made, pasties were ordered and the folk were arriving ready to 'doh-si-doh' and 'strip the willow'. It was however unnaturally quiet for a barn dance, and for Hope! Where was the caller? Debbie and I were not panicking at all!! Andrew came to the rescue with a CD player and some appropriate music.

The caller arrived, quickly set up and the hall whirled to life. People curtsied and bowed, women became men, men became women, boys danced with girls (unheard of before) and don't tell the rest of the youth. Another shock and the church is still standing.. Luisa was seen dancing and smiling, while protesting strongly! We did square sets, round dances, one-big-circle dances but the highlight of the evening was the massive 'stripping the willow' up through the hall; it was poetry in motion. A fantastic time was had by all, and as if this wasn't enough, we made £201.66 for the building fund. Thank you to all who helped especially the Houston's and thank you to those who attended in high spirits and danced so well

Bargain Book Day

Saturday 29th January at Methodist Central Hall Books, videos, CD's, Cassettes, (new, second hand, damaged) All at bargain prices

Committees Feature Presentation

This year the Outlook is running a new initiative, where each month a committee will have a feature presentation! This month is the turn of: -

'THE FABRIC COMMITTEE'

Fabric committee, I hear you shout, they must be the team of people who ensure our ministers are always so well dressed! Fabric, do you get it? Anyway, on a more serious note the committee comprises of:

- Peter Brown
- John Pinch
- Lyn Pringle
- Pat Taylor
- And me, the Chair!

The committee ensures the building is maintained, oversees any work that needs to be carried out, arranges working parties (so all you lovely people can help!), make sure the church complies with health and safety regulations, maintenance of the church manse and much, much more. We do all this and still only meet 4 times a year!

I have recently taken over the role of Chair to this committee from Andrew Gardener, (have you heard of him?) so I am looking forward to the challenge of what next year has to bring. Some of the key tasks for the committee next year will be:

- Producing and maintaining a definitive list of known tasks, and using that to plan our workload over the next few years.
- Liaison with the Building Development Committee through next year, as our building work begins and ensuring nothing gets missed between the two committees.
- Keeping to our budget!
- A long list of jobs that need to be carried out such as dealing with damp, leaks, redecoration, and resolving the issue of storage of toys in the hall!

I hope this gives you a taste of what the fabric committee is aiming to achieve, if anybody has any bright ideas or a real urge to use your DIY skills in church I would love to speak to you. Please do pray for us as

a committee, it may be a practical job, but God is part of it and it is important that we pray through all these issues.

I hope you all had a good Christmas and new year.

God bless

Mark Henagulph

Chair to the Fabric Committee

Peverell Community Quiz Night

Saturday 5th February

This event is still in the planning stages, but as we speak letters are going out to all the businesses and community groups in and around Hope. The idea is to have an evening of getting to know local people through this community event.

We are hoping that each group will enter a team of up to 6 people at a cost of £10 per team, which will include refreshments.

If you are part of a community or business in the vicinity, or even if you would like to co-ordinate and enter a team on behalf of your street, then please speak to either Debbie Houston or Nicky Hatherell.

This edition of The Outlook was compiled by Nicky Hatherell. February's edition will be compiled by Claire Worrall who will be happy to receive your articles / information, no later than 18th January, in person or by email: claire@worrall228.fsworld.co.uk

Remember she will always acknowledge your article should you choose to send it by email – no acknowledgement would mean that the article has not been received – email is not as reliable as we would like it to be!