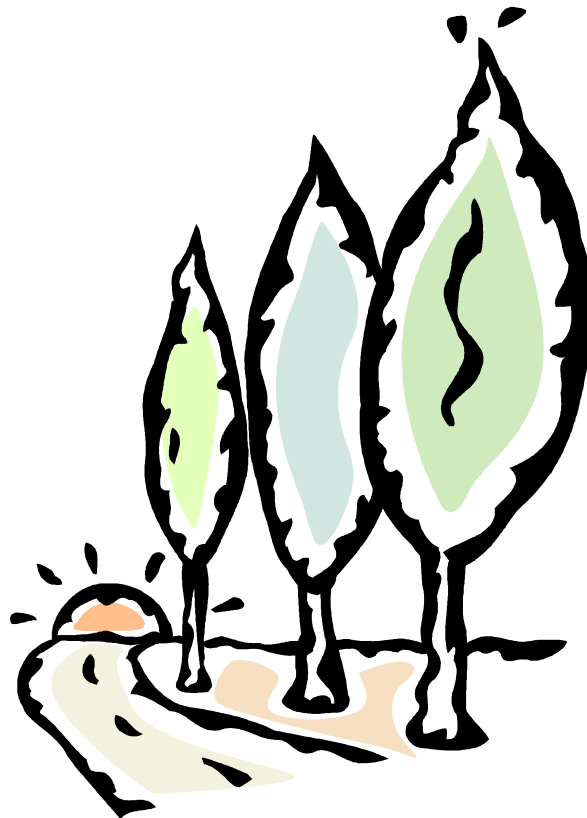


The Outlook

***Magazine of Hope Baptist Church
January/February 2009***

***Our mission is to be Christ's body in the community,
demonstrating the Kingdom of God and calling others to
become His disciples***



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Life at Hope

Sundays 10.30am Morning Worship

Visitors are always welcome

On the 3rd Sunday of the month we share bread and wine as Jesus called us to do in remembrance of Him. Family Services are normally on the last Sunday of each month – please check the diary in the centre pages of this magazine. Coffee and tea are served at the back of the church after the services. A **crèche** is provided for children under 3 (except in Family Services).

Realm is a vibrant and contemporary service held once a month. We meet for coffee/tea and cakes at 6.30pm and the service starts at 7.00pm. The next two services are on 25th January and 22nd February.

Community Café Thursdays 10.00 am – 12.00 pm in the Church. All welcome.

Fellowship Groups Small groups meet for bible study, prayer and friendship at various times & days throughout the week. Contact: Helen Pugh 767124

Men's Group Social events for all men in the fellowship and their friends. Contact: David Brown 707577

menZone Men meeting for bible study, prayer and breakfast. Meet monthly on Saturdays at 8am. Contact: Andrew Gardiner 791993

Mums & Babies (0-8 months) Tuesdays 10.00 – 11.30 am Contact: Kelly Hopwood 518254

Open House Meet in the Church Hall on the 3rd Monday of each month at 2.15 pm. £1.50, refreshments included. Contact: Pam Smith 219844

Parents & Toddlers Tuesday 12.45 – 2.45 pm and Wednesday 10.00 am – 12.00 pm and 12.45 – 2.45 pm term time only. Contact: Beryl Brown 778019

Prayer Meetings are held every Monday evening in the prayer room from 7.00 - 8.00pm. Everyone is welcome.

Prayer Chains are used to share requests for prayer with the fellowship. Contact: Debbie Houston 709909 or Margaret Pendock 768957.

Women's Rendezvous An informal gathering of ladies from the fellowship and their friends who meet monthly. Contact: Jenny Weeks 777416

Youth@Hope Activities for children and teenagers take place on Sunday mornings at 10.30am and weekday evenings. A full programme of activities is available. Contact: Andrew Gardiner 791993

18s-30s Programme of social activities and a fellowship group. Contact Kathryn Rundle 601013

The God Of New Starts

One of the things I love about God is the way he so readily hands out the precious gift of a new start. The whole Bible is in some ways the story of new starts:

Adam and Eve after their disobedience.

Noah after the flood.

Moses after committing murder.

David after his adulterous and murderous affair.

Israel after countless periods of drifting.

Jonah after running away from God.

Paul after persecuting Christians.

Peter after denying Jesus.

Zaccheus after a life of selfish materialism.

The thief on the cross gets a new start even at life's end.

So as we enter this New Year perhaps this is the time for you to embrace God's offer of a new start and make him the centre of your life. He is the specialist in new starts and sometimes he is more ready to offer us such an opportunity than we are to take it. What an offer! A clean slate and his readiness to believe in you and work in your life and relationships.

After any new start must come growth. God does not want us to go through a never ending cycle of new starts followed by failure and then back to a new start again. He wants us to grow, to mature, to embrace discipleship.

Over the next few months I encourage you to make the most of three opportunities for growth:

- 1) Andy and Andrew are both willing to coach people. To meet once a month for 6 months to identify with you an area in which you would like to grow and then to work with you on developing that aspect of discipleship. It could be prayer, sharing your faith, stewardship, discovering an area of service or whatever you feel is most important in your life at the moment. Please do talk to us if you would like to take part.

- 2) Over the first three Sunday evenings of March there will be a number of discipleship groups running. Each of them will give opportunity over 3 sessions to learn, deepen and grow in a particular area of Christian discipleship. Further details will be available soon.
- 3) If you are not yet in a fellowship group then the New Year is a great time to join a group. Helen Pugh would love to help you find the group that would best suit you.

May God bless you with a new starts and healthy growth in 2009.

Andy Saunders

Someone's watching you! The work of the Pastoral Committee

The church is pictured in the Bible as being like a family in which everyone watches over or looks out for each other. The best and most effective pastoral care happens naturally and informally in a church. As people get to know each other and become aware of needs so they automatically reach out and help each other. This spontaneous Christian love is fantastic and there is lots of it at Hope!

As Hope grows in numbers it becomes increasingly hard to rely on pastoral care just happening through our natural network of relationships. There is always the concern that someone may 'slip through the net'. For this reason we have a pastoral committee.

The pastoral committee meets once a month and does three things:

- 1) We maintain a list of all those who come to Hope and if anyone has not been at church for several weeks then someone will make contact to ask how the person is and if there's anything the fellowship can do for them.

- 2) We try to keep track of newcomers to the fellowship so that we can help them integrate and get involved in the life of the church as much as they want to.
- 3) We touch base on the health of those who are housebound or long term sick and check that they have been visited regularly by someone from Hope.

For 2009 the committee feels the need of some younger members (only Lynda is under 50!) and are looking at ways of enabling this. If you have a pastoral heart and would like to be involved please have a word with Andy Saunders, Andrew Gardiner or Lynda Henagulph.

Chinese Fellowship

“Lord hears our prayer” is the phrase I like to use to sum up the Chinese Fellowship in year 2008. I like to take this opportunity to say big THANK YOU to Judith Pinch, Beryl Brown, Jean Potter, Jenny Weeks, Margaret Pendock, Val Hart, Wilf and Thelma Smale, Richard Simpson, Mike Holland, and Shirley & Brian Cuff, who took turn to stay behind after the morning service and pray for the Chinese Fellowship. And of course for Judith, who organised the prayer group for the Chinese Fellowship every Sunday. I firmly believe the Lord responded to our prayers and as a result our Chinese Fellowship had more members were called by our Lord to serve.

Praise the Lord; we re-started our house group at beginning of 2008. It is held every Tuesday night in one of our member's house, there we have prayers, songs, bible study, sharing, testimony, hymn, and love feast. We regularly have 10 to 12 members attending every week.

Last summer, we organised a BBQ near the Yelverton Rocks. It was such a hot and beautiful sunny day that almost everyone got sunburned. We all enjoyed the weather and the nature which God created for us to share.

Praise our Lord, He is our shepherd, He Knows His sheep needs, He listens to them and He found the lost sheep. In early August, with the help from Rev. Andy Saunders, two brothers in the Chinese Fellowship were baptised.

In early October, with the help from David Evans, we managed to book a hall in Sherwell Church near the University for the Student Welcoming party. We spent time on giving out leaflets and party bags. On the day, the weather was so bad we thought nobody will turn up, but praise the Lord, we had 34 people joined our party and most of them never heard of Christianity before, so we leaped to the chance to introduce our Lord to them gently. Through this introduction, some new students started joining our Sunday afternoon meetings regularly. As a result we started a new Students' Fellowship group. Since the start of November, we hold the fellowship group in the University's Chaplaincy every Friday night. There are about 7 regular students in the group with new friends joining every Friday! At the moment we share testimony, video, songs and hymns.

While our spiritual life is growing, we also want to make sure our physical body is fit and healthy. So we decided to have a chain of sports activities for the people in the Fellowship. So far we held the table tennis competition successfully. The next sports activity will be badminton and it will start next January.

Thank you our heavenly Father, dry our tears, lead us and walk with us to get thru the dark tunnel and also give us strength to face the challenges. Some members in the Fellowship actually told me that they are looking forward every Tuesday and Sunday, because they can have the fellowship with the brothers and sisters in Christ. Every time they come to the Fellowship, they have the feeling of home, praise the Lord. So let us keep praying, I know He is listening and He love us with no condition, let us be humble before Him and let Him to lead the way and make this Home fill with joy, care and love. Amen

Karine Yuen

Tights Please

524,000 women die from complications of pregnancy and childbirth each year and of these deaths, 99% occur in impoverished, developing countries. For every woman who dies, another 40 or 50 more suffer severe injuries and complications.

“Tights Please” are collecting used and washed tights to send to the Addis Ababa Fistula Hospital in Ethiopia. The tights are used to hold dressings in place when women suffer from childbirth injuries in particular when they suffer from the fistula condition. It can be difficult to hold the dressings in place and tights just happen to be the perfect solution. The legs are removed from the tights and used to make rugs and other items that can be used or sold.

You can send any type of tights as long as they are washed and do not have ladders towards the top/waist of the leg.

Tights can be sent to Ethiopia Tights Appeal, Tights Please, 2nd Floor Albion Court, 18-20 Frederick Street, Hockley, Birmingham B1 3HE. I have picked up this information from www.tightsplease.com/charity and thought that I would share it with the ladies of the church. If anyone would like me to collect clean tights to be sent to Tights Please, please let me know and when I have a pile I will arrange to send them off to the charity.

Jenny Weeks

Church Fun Day on Saturday February 7th 2009

It doesn't seem possible that the Church Fun Day is almost here again. We are looking for lots of you to bake a cake, or individual buns again. They prove to be very popular with all our visitors to this event. Please let me know if you are able to provide cake, or alternatively, sign up on the list at the back of church. Thank you very much.

Pam Smith

Catering Convenor

January Diary

Thur 01		New Years Walk	
Sun 04	1030	New Year United Family Service	
Sun 11	1030	Morning Worship	
		I say " Why Lord"	Hab 1-2:3
Tue 13		Fellowship Groups	
Sun 18	1030	Morning Worship & Communion	
		I stand in awe	Hab 3
Tue 20	1930	Church Meeting	
Sun 25	1030	Family Service	
	1830	Realm	
Tue 27		Fellowship Groups	
Sat 31		Guest Evening	



February Diary

Sun 01	1030	Morning Worship	
		Food Ethics	Gen 2: 4-17
Tue 03		menZone	
Sat 07		Peeverell Community Fun Day	
Sun 08	1030	Morning Worship	
		Food to Share	Rom 12:13
	1800	Songs of Praise Evening	
Tue 10		Fellowship Groups	
Sun 15	1030	Food for the Soul	Mat 25:31-46
Tue 17	1930	Church Meeting	
Sun 22	1030	BMS Family Service	
	1830	Realm	
Tue 24		Fellowship Groups	

Realm

Vibrant and contemporary services starting at 1900, with coffee and cakes from 1830.

Bring and share lunch - On Sunday 15th February, we will be having a bring-and-share lunch after the morning service. To get an idea of numbers of those attending and a balance of sweet and savoury food, please put your name down on the list at the back of church and what you will be bringing.

Weekly events

Tuesday 10 – 11.30am Mums and Babies
Thursday 10 – 12 noon Peverell Community Café

Weekly events term time only

Parent and Toddlers

Tuesday 1245 – 1445
Wednesday 1000 – 1200
1245 - 1445

HY-Powered (school years 3-6)

Thursday 1830 – 2000

The Hype (school years 7 – 9)

Friday 1900 – 2130

RE-ACT (school years 10 – 13)

Friday 2015 – 2200

The Outlook

This edition of the Outlook had been edited by Claire Preston. The deadline for articles for consideration for the March/April 2009 Outlook is:

7.30pm Friday 13 February

Please send articles for consideration for the next issue to Helen Pugh

thepughfamily@btinternet.com

Please note, all articles forwarded by email will be acknowledged.

Dear Friends

We are grateful as a family for the huge outpouring of love and support we have received following our tragic loss. The visits, the phone calls, the letters, the messages etc have been overwhelming. Among the letters and the cards, several have spoken of the many things Phil was to so many people, of the time and care he took over many things. It has been good to reflect on happier times. As we said before Phil would be bewildered by the amount of esteem and affection in which he was so obviously held by so many.

A big thank you to all those who made the Thanksgiving Service possible, and for all those that came to support us. A very different type of service for many but one in which we could celebrate the unique, fun filled person Phil was when he was well. Over £1000 has been collected in donations for the Plymouth Street Pastors and the Samaritans. It was a tremendous opportunity for outreach and many went away feeling uplifted having had positive experience of 'church' even through tragic circumstances. For this we must Praise the Lord!

Over the past few months we have been very aware that people, not only across the city but across the country and, indeed the world have been praying for us as a family in our situation. Truly humbling. This has often led to a calm acceptance and the deep inner peace that can only come from our Lord above.

Sadly, this is not a short term situation for us, not the path we would have chosen. However, we know that we have both your prayers and practical support for the long road ahead and for this we are truly grateful.

Our thanks again,
Yours in Christ

Bronia, Martha and Matt

Peeverell Community Fun Day Saturday 7th February

By now, most of you reading this will know the purpose of the Fun Day and how it works, but for those who maybe haven' t quite got there yet here we go.....

We have thousands of people living around the church building who never cross over the doorstep and are unlikely to make their first visit to us on a Sunday for a service. People are hesitant about coming into a “religious” building and worry about what Christians are like.

SO....For the past 2 years we have organised a Fun Day for the local community and each time have seen more than 600 people come through the doors for a great day of craft, games, competitions, challenges, castle bouncing and of course excellent refreshments.

We also have a Christian magician and children' s entertainer and take the opportunity to tell people about what goes on at church, and advertise the Alpha course.

This is a major success story in terms of building reputation, breaking down barriers and making contacts with people from the local area.

The good news is that this is something we can ***all*** share in. It needs a team of about 60-70 people to make the whole day happen, and this is where YOU come in.....

From 11th January you will see a board up at the back of church showing all the areas where we need volunteers. If you need to have a chat about what any of the responsibilities involves please have a chat with the person named for that area/activity, or speak to Lynda Henagulph or Andrew Gardiner.

All of us will have the opportunity to take out invitations early in February.

BUT PLEASE - this year – let' s all support this great venture and get involved. In advance...THANK YOU !!!!

Mums and Babies 12.2008

An integral part of Church life, Mums and Babies continues to be a success with numbers fluctuating continually. We now meet in the main Church Sanctuary, and the mums enjoy cups of tea, coffee, biscuits, cakes and treats. It gives them the opportunity to meet each other and many great friendships are formed. We recently had a mum come with her third baby and she set the record for having the youngest entrant, 4 days old!

Trish, our Health Visitor, provides baby massage sessions, which are of great benefit to the babies and their mums. She is also on hand to give any practical advice on childcare issues.

It is amazing to see how these babies transform from being tiny and fully dependant into little smiling characters when they reach eight months. At this time many move on to toddler groups within Hope. Below is a picture of some who are due to leave us this term with their mums:



We are an established team, and it is nice to see how well the mums gel together and the friendships that are formed during and after their time with us.

Kelly Hopwood

For the Persecuted Church

"Sunday 16th November was the International day of prayer for the persecuted church and whilst I was praying and meditating I was inspired to write this poem."

Jenny

Children playing in the snow,
During the day they have nowhere to go.
Their father gone, they know not where,
And mother bereft and too sick to care.

The soldiers came and took Daddy away.
Whenever they ask, no-one will say
Where he' s been taken or if he' s alive.
So they play on in the snow and hope they' ll survive
' til Daddy returns to protect them again,
from the soldiers, the cold, the wind and the rain.

They were praying together to the God that they love
When bombs fell and shooting came from above.
Soldiers appeared with guns in their hands.
They took daddy and beat him, threw him in a van.
They drove off with him to God knows where.
Does anybody out there care?

The family struggle from day to day
With father taken, who will pay
For food and essentials needed to survive?
The God of love watches over them, they' re glad they' re alive.
Knowing other Christians praying, and sharing their sorrow
They know by His grace they can have hope for tomorrow.

These Christians are victims of oppression and hate.
They love the Lord Jesus and so they must wait
And pray for the time when the hatred will cease,
When the love of the Saviour of mankind will bring peace
To the troubled lands, gripped in darkness and fear,
Ignorant of the love of the One we hold dear.

So we pray, Almighty Father, that your kingdom will come.
When all people on earth will soon live as one.
Hindu and Muslim, Christian and Sikh
Will unite in Lord Jesus, the one who was meek.
He gave up his life so that sinners might live.
So our hearts and our trust we all must give
To meet Him in heaven and sit at His feet
And bask in His love so our joy is complete.

Open House

We wish you all a Very Happy New Year and pray that you will have good health and happiness in 2009.

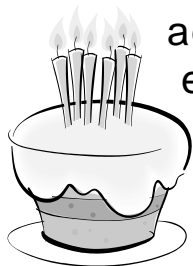
Andy Saunders is our first guest speaker of the year and he will be joining us on Monday 19th January. His talk is entitled, "Finding Sabbath on the West Highlands Way" and "In Silent Retreat". It relates to the time he spent in Scotland during the spring of 2008. Andy's chosen charity is The Short Term Mission Fund. Then on February 16th, Mrs Jean Potter will be joining us with maybe a "Thought for the Day"! Which I think would be a lovely change from the usual subjects we have. Jean's chosen charity is the Shelter Box Appeal.

We are an all age group of friendly folk at "Open House" and our meetings are very informal, You are very welcome to come along and join us. After the talks, we enjoy a light tea with various sandwiches and cakes. The suggested donation for the tea is £1.50, and all proceeds go to the charity of the day.

We meet at 2.15 pm in the church hall and usually finish at about 4.30.

What is BMS Birthdays?

The birthday scheme means that you get a card on your special day. Enclosed with this is a gift envelope in which you agree to make a donation to BMS (Medical). I would encourage you to seriously consider joining this scheme – especially seeing how many countries need medical help these days. Please contact me if you would like more information.



Marian Brown

BMS Birthdays

January

- 09 Mrs Kathleen Pritchard
- 11 Mrs Cindy Hedges
- 13 Mr Luke Hedges

February

- 09 Mrs Margaret Underdown
- 13 Mrs Nicky Hatherell
- 24 Miss Dorothy Camfield

Flower Rota

January

- 04 Flower Fund
- 11 Flower Fund
- 18 Flower Fund
- 25 Mrs Estelle Robertson. In loving memory of her father, Mr Jack Veal.

February

- 01 Ron and Jenny Weeks. Celebrating their Wedding Anniversary
- 08 Flower Fund
- 15 Pam and Adrian Smith. To celebrate their Wedding Anniversary
- 22 Mrs Kathleen Pritchard. In loving memory of her husband, Mr Stanley Pritchard.

Who's Who at Hope

Minister	Andy Saunders	772809
Minister	Andrew Gardiner	791993
Secretary	Beryl Brown	778019
Treasurer	Tony Jopson	781792
ALPHA	Andy Saunders	772809
Administrator	Justine Spence	708090
Caretaker	Honore Iyakaremye	
Children's Advocates	Chris Houston	709909
	Sue Syers	703077
Fellowship Groups	Helen Pugh	767124
Flower Co-ordinator	Pam Smith	219844
Men's Group	David Brown	707577
menZone	Andrew Gardiner	791993
Minibus Bookings	Paul & Nicky Hatherell	770186
Mums and Babies	Kelly Hopwood	518254
Music Team	Kev Ponsford	785181
Open House	Pam Smith	219844
Parents and Toddlers	Beryl Brown	778090
Prayer Chain	Margaret Pendock	768957
Safe to Grow Co- ordinator	Margaret Underdown	01822 - 854093
The Outlook	Claire Preston	700739
	Helen Pugh	767124
Women's Rendezvous	Jenny Weeks	777416
Youth@Hope	Andrew Gardiner	791993

Church Office

Monday-Friday	10am - 2pm	708090
Email	hope-baptist-church@tiscali.co.uk	
Website	www.hopebaptist.net	