

The Outlook

from Hope

November 2003 page1

Putting Joy Back Into Life

Mamoushka we called her. It was the way everyone else referred to her. Later we learned it was Polish for 'Dear Little Mother', we still don't know her proper name. It was before the Berlin wall came down and we had taken a group of young people to Poland as part of a student link. The brothers we were visiting were at the heart of the Christian student movement in the heady days of Solidarity. Their mother, Mamoushka, had multiple sclerosis. We were ushered into her small dark room for a reminder of one of life's fundamental lessons: joy is not dependent on personal circumstances.

M amoushka had not left her room to feel the sun's warmth for many months but she radiated a contentment and faith that enlivened all who visited. It amazes me how often those who travel to the developing world find that as well as encountering terribly sad circumstances they also meet a purer joy than we often find in our own country.

Joy is a quality of life not dependent on possessions, circumstances or security. This month we are focussing on the first two chapters of Philippians. Paul writes the letter from prison yet it exudes joy. He is not triumphalistic; he knows he may be sent to his death, he is conscious that he cannot continue the work he loves and he's aware that others will view his arrest as failure. However he remains positive, contented, faithful, hopeful and joyful.

Joy is a quality easily squeezed out of a materialistic lifestyle. Through studying Philippians during November we have the opportunity to learn how to put the joy back into life.

Andy

Greetings from South West France, September 2003

It's hard to believe that 18 months have passed since we left Plymouth to come and live in this quiet corner of France. I have been promising myself that I would put time aside to send you our news, but one day swiftly follows another and then a week has gone by and so it goes on.

We have had an exceptional summer, temperatures of 40 degrees. We swam almost every day from the end of May until the end of August. Now we are officially in autumn, but we have had very little rain yet. We were officially classed as a drought area for a while and no watering, car cleaning, etc was allowed. Gardens suffered a great deal, and even those lucky enough to have their own wells were unable to use them as levels dropped too low for the pumps to work. No doubt you have all seen the terrible ravages to the south of France caused by the fires. The sad thing is that they are mostly caused by pyromaniacs or carelessness.

We've had many visitors since we've been here, we saw Mike and Helen Gale on their way through to the Dordogne, Deanna and Owen who have bought a house about 2 hours away from us, then our own family, Judith and John and Kate and Steve Brown with their children. One day we were at 15 here, though 4 of those were day visitors only. We think the visitors are finished now...!

We've put in a bathroom since we've been here, what bliss to have a working shower! The kitchen at the moment is having a refit, though it's been done in fits and starts between visitors and the outside chores. When it's dry we tend to work outdoors, and as it's been mostly dry lately, we've been mostly outside. I've been cropping green beans from the garden and also tomatoes, leeks before that and now it's fruit time. The quince tree is laden, and the 2 fig trees and the apples too. I have made 48 pots of different jams and the freezer is full of stewed fruit. The fields are almost all harvested now, just the rest of the maize to finish. We could hear the combines working well into the night on the hot late summer evenings.

We seem to have acquired a small menagerie. Our dear old Ben died sadly when we were on holiday earlier in the year, but we now have a young pup called Jilly who was born in April. We have 3 house cats, plus 3 abandoned kittens that need homes and then there are the hens. I am not sure how many of those there are!

Life here is pleasant and relaxing and we love it very much. I think I shall always consider the UK as 'home' but Goosewell seems a bit fuzzy around the edges now. I think we have acclimatised. We have found a church where we enjoy the worship, although we still feel that Hope is our home church. We hear news of you all from different people and receive the Outlook every month. We will always be glad to see any of you that come this way.

God bless you all
Kim and Richard

Prayer Focus

People

It is impossible to list all those needing our prayers but here a few:

Pray for Louise - continuing health problem

Pray for Jock Stirling who is still unwell

Remember all our elderly people who are in Residential Care Homes or in their own homes.

Give thanks for those who attend to their needs.

Continue to pray for Jenny and Ron Weeks and daughter Nina and family.

Give thanks for the increase in the number of children attending our Church and pray for those who week by week endeavour to nurture their spiritual growth.

Give thanks that Leontine has been granted refugee status.

Pray for Marylyn Fray who has a hip problem and Graham Dodd with his shoulder problem.

Church

Give thanks that the Lord has led us to a decision concerning the premises. That we will now concentrate on enabling the space within the Sanctuary to be used more flexibly.

Outreach

Pray for Kathryn Rundle, (our latest new Church member), who is already doing so much to help other young people. Remember Tony Jopson and the Worship Group as the Christmas festivities approach.

Thanks

Can I please say my heartfelt thanks go out to our Minister Andy, who so kindly came to my aid when I lost my husband so suddenly, also to all my friends from Church, they gave me strength to carry on.

God Bless you all.

Claudia P Robertson.

Contents of the Bible

One day in the company of some of the Directors of the Limerick and Waterford Railway Company, Mr Joseph Robinson of Limerick and Moate had by arrangement seen Mr Gladstone, who was at the time Chancellor of the Exchequer of Great Britain and Ireland with a view to obtain a loan for the completion of the railway.

After the business was concluded Mr Robinson offered Mr Gladstone a tract entitled THE BOOKS OF THE BIBLE. He took it and hurriedly read it through. Taking Mr Robinson by the hand he said.

"Mr Robinson this is remarkable. When you came to the door, Mrs Gladstone and I were reading the Bible and she said to me. "It is strange that with all the tracts I have read not one has told me what the Bible is about." Today you come and put one on this very subject into my hand. I am most grateful to you and ask you for a copy for my wife.?"

Watch this space next month for the text of the tract....

Kathleen Pritchard

Open House

In November we are having a games afternoon on Monday 17th at 2.15 in the church hall. The last time

we held one, it was great fun and was enjoyed by all. We even had "prizes"! So if you are aged from 1 to 91 why not come along and join us.

As usual there will be a tea including an assortment of sandwiches and home made cakes with tea or coffee to drink. The suggested donation is £1.50.

If you would like a lift to or from church, please contact me on 219844 to arrange a pick up time.

Annual Christmas Lunch on Dartmoor. (All welcome)

This is on Monday 8th December, (12.45pm for 1 O'clock) and is again at the "Plume of Feathers" in Princetown. It will be a three-course meal plus coffee and Mince Pie. (Straight out of the oven last year - Delicious) There is a choice of menu but you do have to choose your menu when you book. The menu and booking forms are printed in this edition of the "Outlook", or alternatively there will be some loose ones at the back of church.

So if you would like to join us, fill in the form and return it to me as soon as you can. Please remember that bookings cannot be accepted after the Sunday 30th November, as we have to give the restaurant a weeks advance notice of numbers of each dish ordered. The cost is £12.50 each and please could everyone pay in cash, as it will make life much simpler on the day. Many thanks.

Pam Smith

Christmas Dinner Menu £12.50 pp

Fill in the form on the page below by selecting ONE ONLY from each heading and put an X in the box under the corresponding number.

STARTERS

- 1 Deep Fried Brie Wedge served with Cranberry Dip
- 2 Cream of Broccoli & Stilton Soup with Croutons
- 3 Prawn Cocktail on a Bed of Lettuce
- 4 Crispy Coated Mushrooms with Garlic Dip

MAIN COURSE

(All served with Roast Potatoes & Vegetables)

- 5 Roast Turkey with Traditional Trimmings
- 6 Roast with Yorkshire pudding
- 7 Salmon Fillet with a Hot Sea Food Sauce
- 8 Homemade Nut Roast

DESSERTS

- 9 Christmas Pudding & Brandy Sauce
- 10 Winter Wonderland (Ice Cream Plus on Sponge & Sauce Topping)
- 11 Lemon & Lime Crème
- 12 Selection of Cheeses & Biscuits

PRINT YOUR NAME BELOW

STARTER -----MAIN -----DESSERT
 1 2 3 4 -----5 6 7 8 -----9 10 11 12

TRANSPORT NEEDED FOR (.....People) OR SEATS OFFERED (.....)

Thanks

A letter of thanks has been received from BMS World Mission for the sum of £1239, which is to be used for their general work in mission.

Congratulations

Congratulations to Peter and Beryl Brown for winning the title of Grandparents of the Year South West. Well done to Claire for nominating them.
Good luck for the national finals in the middle of October!

Musical Playtime

Sessions on Saturday morning at Peverell.
Lasting 45 min each.

- Pre school music is important for babies and toddlers as it supports learning, co-ordination and communication skills.
- Lots of songs have movements and it is proven that moving to music helps with co-ordination in young children whilst being fun!
- Singing is perhaps the best way to learn music. It brings pleasure to the singer and often the listener!
- Having a parent or carer in the session helps the child, as songs and dances can be repeated (and are often demanded!) at home.
- Music is a language. As such learning the basics of this language at an early age makes it easier to progress onto other instruments as your children grow.

Musical Playtime is a national franchise which has been running for 13 years. Designed by a qualified music teacher, Cheryl Beasley, who has had a wide experience with both children and adults, Musical Playtime aims to introduce music to the Babies and toddlers in a relaxed and fun atmosphere. Age range tends to be between 6 months to 3+ years old.

Please ring Julia 01752 291997

November Rota

Communion

Set-up -----Wash-up

02 Michael Holland Margaret Tripp

Flowers

2 Wilf and Thelma Smale

9 Remembrance Sunday

16 Flower Fund

23 Flower Fund

30 Flower Fund

BMS Birthdays

16 David Brown

21 Sandra Brown

21 Mike Holland

24 C Crofts

Men's Group

Christmas Supper on 10 December at Drake Manor P.H. Buckland Monochorum, at £15.50 per head.

I am unlikely to be around much before 23 November.

Many Thanks and best regards

Dave Brown

Tel 01752 707577

Mobile 07714 051979

November Diary

Sun 02 10.30 Morning Worship New Heart Phil 1 3-11

Tue 04 Fellowship Groups

Wed 05 Parent and Toddler*

Thu 06 10.15 Coffee Morning*

Sat 08 TVB afternoon workshops and evening concert

Sun 09 10.30 Morning Worship

New Purpose Phil 1 12-30
Tue 11 Church Meeting
Sun 16 10.30 Morning Worship and Communion New Attitude Phil 2 1-11
Tue 18 Fellowship Groups
Sun 23 10.30 Morning Worship New Responsibilities Phil 2 12-18
Tue 25 Prayer Night
Sun 30 10.30 Family Service The Advent Event Light of the World
Dec 02 Fellowship Groups

Ephesians 1 1-14

Have you ever had to suffer any form of modern training?
Have you ever had to try to be a team?
Have you ever wondered sadly what could you have in common
With a fatty and an egghead and that bossy, cheery beam?

You know it's funny really 'cos that scary modern system
Was pioneered by Jesus long ago. He chose a motley crew, each know to but a few,
And trained them on the job with Him you know.

There was Matthew, a pariah, on the side of the invader
And Thomas, who would ponder and ask the questions later
Then Peter who felt deeply; a leader from the start.
But sometimes seemed a mite too unequal to the task.

What madness drove our Lord to choose this crazy crew?
If it were now we'd say, "Look, He's had a few!"
But here's another shock to spoil your perfect view -
He's chosen me, and him and her and even chosen you.

How can we make a team of such a funny lot?
If we were made of wax we'd be in the melting pot.
First we must ignore things that matter not a jot
And concentrate on all the common things we've got.

Like Jesus being Lord, the Master of the game.
Messiah, Christ; the reason for the season, and our name.
Christians being Christ like will give Him all the fame
And swallow pride, or hurt, or any other blame.

Alone this is too difficult. The answer's very plain.
He knew we were too selfish, that's always been our bane.
So in His grace and mercy He's broken every chain
Allowing the Holy Spirit to live in us again.

Sheila Torpey 18.10.03

BMS World Mission

Steve and Kate Brown have been Hope's BMS World Mission reps for several years but are stepping down now in order to focus on other areas. When they first started to get involved with BMS it made a big impact on their own lives to learn more of the faith, growth and suffering that are all part of the experience of being a Christian in many parts of the world.

In essence the task of the BMS reps is to have your own eyes open to what God is doing around the world and then to inspire others with the same vision. To help you do that BMS have superb resources, there is a mission committee (they can be fun!), you get to know our link missionaries in Nepal, and have the joy of liaising with Andy and Andrew on input into the services. Excited?! Interested?! Talk to Andy to find out more.

Many thanks to Steve and Kate for all they've done

Thank you 60 times!

I would like to thank everyone who gave me cards, presents and flowers for my 60th Birthday. A big thank you for my surprise party, I really was speechless! I thank God for you all, and it is wonderful to be part of a Church family.

Judith

The Outlook

This months Outlook was put together by Claire Worrall, next months issue will be compiled by Nicky Hatherell who will be grateful for any articles before 16 November.

Global Warming: A Weapon of Mass Destruction?

by Philip Barron

One of Britain's foremost climate scientists, John Houghton, recently warned that human-induced climate change threatens our long-term security at least as much as the potential threats from chemical, biological or nuclear weapons. Recent record-breaking temperatures may be an indication that global warming is proceeding much faster than expected.

Now, Christian Ecology Link (CEL) has set up Operation Noah, a campaign that asks churches and community groups to help bring together all sectors of society for action against dangerous climate change. It is hoped that Operation Noah will have a similar impact to Jubilee 2000 and the campaign for Trade Justice; a major launch is planned to take place next year.

The issue is at root a spiritual one, so faith groups can play a key role in raising awareness and bringing about the necessary changes in lifestyle. Could it be that our scientists, like the prophets of old, are the voices God is using to call us to repentance and a change of direction?

Operation Noah calls for the creation of "a climate of justice for the poor and for future generations." The lifestyles of the rich nations are seen as the principal cause of climate change and it is the poor who are suffering most. CEL is urging the government to back proposals for a scheme that would allow every country equal rights to emit 'greenhouse gases' within an agreed limit that the planet can bear. Permits would be issued which could be traded, so that the rich nations end up indebted to the poor - thus alleviating both climate change and economic injustice.

Meanwhile, the campaign asks us to take action personally in our homes, at work and in our church. One can switch to a renewable energy supplier such as Unite) or Green Energy UK. Supporters are also sent other ideas for saving energy. In addition, it's important to talk to others, so as to change the culture of apathy and denial.

To obtain leaflets ring 01949 861516 or email Noah@christian-ecology.org.uk Postal address: Operation Noah, Corner Cottage, Main Street, Langar, Nottingham NG13 9HE.

A letter from Gomer and Torph mission partners supported by Hope can be accessed from the Mission Page