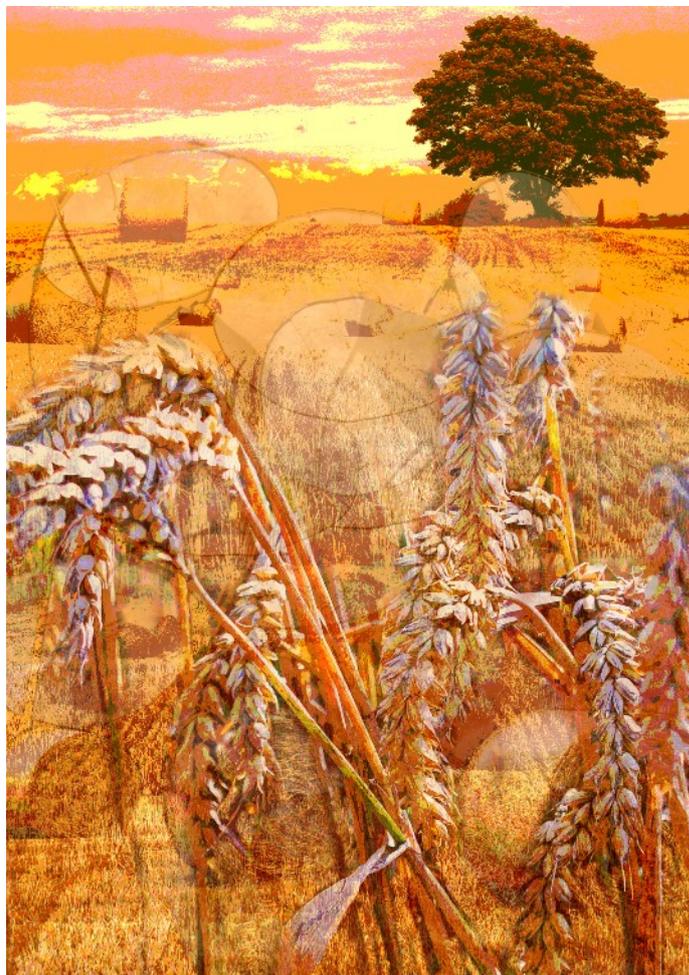


CONNECT

Southgate Church

Harvest 2015



**'You crown the year with your bounty and your
carts overflow with abundance'**

Psalms 65 verse 11

SOUTHGATE CHURCH

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REGULAR WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

Sunday	9.45am	Prayer Meeting
	10.30am	Family Worship (Creche available) Children's Sunday Club
	6.30pm	Evening service (1 st Sunday)
Monday	10.00am	CoffeeStop
	7.00pm	Liquid (13-16s)
Wednesday	9.00am	SPOTS (Parents & Toddlers)
	3.15pm	Wednesday Gang (Primary School children)
	7.30pm	Prayer House (alternating with House Groups)
Thursday	9.15am	Holy Communion Service
	2.30pm	Friendship Club (over 55's 1 st & 3 rd Thursdays)
	7.00pm	Youth Club (Middle School children)
	7.45pm	Thursday Club (Ladies Group 2 nd Thursday)

Children's mid-week groups run during term time only. See weekly notice sheet for details of all services and activities.

Registered Charity No: 115737

CONNECT The Magazine of Southgate Church



We once again prepare for a change of seasons. With this change comes the time to celebrate harvest, but which harvest do we celebrate?

We plough the fields talks of one harvest, but there's fruit, fish and many others as well. The Bible talks about 'a harvest of righteousness', meaning being right with God - not feeling guilty. Allow me to give you a few pointers to harvest;

H - Hope. I hope Ipswich wins their next match is a hope with no guarantees. I hope that Jesus keeps his promises and forgives me when I say sorry, brings a true and lasting harvest of hope that will never fail.

A - Action. The Kingdom of God is advancing and Jesus is looking for people of prayer and faith to be a part of this. The promised of a harvest of changed lives is too great for us to miss.

R - Restore. Joel 2: 25 brings the promise that God will "*restore the years the locusts have eaten*". This concerns any time you feel you have wasted in your service for Jesus. The times you felt the prompting of God and ignored it; those 'what if' times. Ask God for a harvest of restoration.

V -Victory. We may have occasional little victories, but the promise of Jesus is that through his death on the cross we who follow him, are victorious over the powers of sin and death. There is a harvest of victories for you to gather in.

E- Eternal. The bible promises three score and ten years. Many of us have lived longer than this already. Yet the harvest of faith in Jesus is a promise of an unbroken eternity which is perfect and truly wonderful.

S- Safety. Such a simple yet deep need we all have. Some of us want to have total control over our lives; yet the day will come when we will meet Jesus face to face. Because of faith in him, there is the promise of a harvest of safety for all who follow him.

T- Trust. We can trust Jesus that all these various offers of harvests are ours through faith in. Can you claim them all? If not why not?

Your friend and pastor, Peter Gibson

HARVEST SERVICE

Everyone is warmly welcome to our Harvest Service, which takes place at 10.30am on Sunday 4th October.

This is our 'Together on Sunday' service,

and you are invited to bring along your donations of tinned & dried food on the day. Items will be shared between the Bury Food Bank & Cathedral View.



NEWS FROM OUR FAMILY AND COMMUNITY WORKER

A HUGE thank you to every one in our awesome

Let's Go Holiday Club Team!

We had an awesome week with lots of fun, laughter, bible teaching, jokes, crafts, games and...prizes! We couldn't have done it without you all...thank you for all for playing your part .



56 children attended over the week, an average of 42.75 a day.

More than half of the children who attended brought their family and friends along to the Friday evening event .

One little girl has started coming along to Sunday Club .

Please pray that more of the children who came to Holiday Club will want to be part of our regular youth and children's work so we can get to know them and their families better and share more of God's love with them.

Grand Opening of Nowton Pit Park.

It was a great privilege for Southgate Church to be part of the grand opening of Nowton Pit Park on Sunday 30th August. St Edmundsbury Mayor, Cllr Patrick Chung opened the park and a lovely crowd of local people gathered to enjoy a play on the new equipment and free ice cream, crafts and refreshments provided by the church. Thank you to everyone who came along to help us celebrate a great community moment.

Alison Burgess



The Holy Spirit, our Pilot Light!!

When we become Christians we are frequently told that the Holy Spirit comes to dwell in us.

Whilst attending our Alpha course I had a brilliant picture of the Holy Spirit. He is like a pilot light!

When we have a real pilot light, we expect to use it to ignite a fire, it is the same with the Holy Spirit pilot light, we should be using it to light a fire within us.

Perhaps, when we invite the Holy Spirit in to our lives each morning, expecting him to do a new work in our lives and giving him free rein, that is when we are giving the Holy Spirit pilot light the opportunity to burst into action and burn more brightly.

It certainly seems to make a difference..

This was written by Kate Milner

CHRISTIAN AID IN NORFOLK AND SUFFOLK - Precious gifts this Advent

Later this autumn Norfolk and Suffolk Christian Aid are to host Dasu Yakubu from Christian Aid Partner Centre for Gospel Health and Development in Nigeria. Dasu will be talking about his work on malaria prevention, particularly increasing the use of nets in vulnerable communities- which this year links to the Christmas appeal. He will be preaching here at Southgate on Sunday 22 November.

Dasu is married and has 2 children. He has over 4 years core competence in designing, planning and implementing malaria projects in Plateau state North Central Nigeria. He has worked as the Project Officer on the Nets for Life project funded by the Episcopal Relief and development (ERD) and managed by Christian Aid from 2007 - 2013. The project goal was to reduce the risk from malaria for vulnerable high risk groups. During these years about 500,000 long lasting insecticidal nets were distributed. He has contributed in carrying out home visits, community outreaches to educate and ensure that ownership of the nets translates to sustained use.

Christine Duttton



Update on Malawi

Some of you will have read Graham Piper's Visit report I handed out recently. (Graham is a Water Engineer).

It gives an excellent feel and overview of many situations since the severe and tragic flooding this year. I still have copies if you would like one, do just ask me.

At a meeting, 8 out of 12 Pastors told they had lost their homes and their bibles. One had only the clothes he was standing in. Some felt guilt because they were still alive. Crocodiles took some people. Army tents had been supplied but were being recalled. Food was no longer being supplied in some areas.

An alternative re-building method using strong plastic bags filled with earth and sand, layered in brick fashion is being considered. The cost would approx £900 compared to approx £45 for the traditional method. This would be unaffordable to most, and then we hear that normal mud-baked bricks would be as good. We are still looking for the best way forward, so help will be provided as soon as we are satisfied we can help. (see picture)



Better news is our introduction to the Prisons. (1.3million inmates) There is a real hunger for Bible and Studies. Since receiving the Studies, there is a general calm and less stress with in the Prisons. Prisoners have one meal a day and we hope to teach " Gods way of Farming" to provide crops and food in prison and on prisoners release.

Other facts:

Provision of new wells required in relocated villages.

Seed has already been supplied as there was time for a harvest.

Only 15% of children are the correct weight

AIDS is more likely to be 30% rather than 11% as quoted

Lamech is now in safer accommodation.

We intend to focus on windpump schemes, mosquito nets, wells and goats, and bicycle ambulances.

Our Newsheet is in preparation and I hope to distribute these soon. If you would like to receive one please let me know.

Frank Rumball

A message from Jonathan Edwards

A couple of months ago I said in a sermon at Caversham that it would be good if everyone were able to summarize what God meant to them in 3 minutes. The thought was that when speaking with non-Christians you need to be succinct. As an aside I added "that's about 300 words". The idea has really captured the imagination of the congregation and ever since people have been busily writing their own 300 words. Most Sundays we hear a different person share their story. The idea is so simple but it has encouraged people to share their testimony who have never done so before. I've mentioned this to other local clergy and the idea has already taken off in local Anglican and Methodist churches. Why not try it in your church?

Shalom, Jonathan

Record Reign

Born a Princess, thrust to the throne after the early death of her father, Queen Elizabeth II is arguably the greatest monarch of the modern era and this month became the longest serving British sovereign ever.



For most of the population she has always been there. During her reign she has seen twelve Prime Ministers including Churchill, and seven Popes! The Queen has been a constant in a world of change, a pillar of stability in a world of uncertainty. Happily, as the national anthem has it, 'our gracious Queen, our noble Queen', has reigned over us for a very long time indeed.

Last year, in a YouGov survey, the nation voted the Queen as the person who provided the most moral leadership – ahead of the Archbishop of Canterbury. Even the cynical and critical media, as well as those who oppose the monarchy, have a grudging respect for her character, faithfulness and endurance.

That moral lead is deeper than modelling a life of personal discipline and duty. It flows from the values and beliefs that she revealed in last year's Christmas broadcast to the nation. Then she said: 'For me, the life of Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace, whose birth we celebrate today, is an inspiration and an anchor in my life.' The Queen knows that the secret of successful monarchy is to follow the King of Kings.



When her record reign and life of service finally comes to an end, some may ask whether anything can ever really last. The answer is yes. The inspiration of her life, the supreme example of character, staying power and self-sacrifice – the Lord Jesus Christ – will never fail to endure. 'Of the greatness of his government and

peace there will be no end' (Isaiah 9:7). In the Queen's life and in ours, through thick and thin, 'Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever' (Hebrews 13:8). Adapted From article by

Paul Valler- LICC



Harvest Celebrations at Southgate Church

On **Saturday 3rd October at 7pm** we're having a Harvest Supper in the Church Centre for the parents and carers who come along to **Spots**. It's going to be an evening of delicious food, warm conversation with an encouraging Christian message. Please pray for our time together and do have a word with Alison if you'd like to be involved in helping or know someone who might like to come along.

Upcoming events for young families...

We're going to be having a 'Little Morning of Big Treats' for all children aged 5 and over on the morning of Saturday 31st October. It will be a fun filled morning packed with lots of opportunities to make some special treats to give away to friends and family. More details nearer the time but put the date in your diary if you'd like to come and join in the fun ☺

Alison Burgess

Jonathan Veira - larger than life:

THE TOUR at Southgate on Saturday 27 February 2016

Jonathan is an international singer who has performed all over the world, including Glyndebourne, La Scala Milan, as well as Spring Harvest, touring with Graham Kendrick and many appearances on *Songs of Praise*. In his one-man show, he uses his baritone voice and his skills as a musician on the piano and guitar, together with his talents as a comedian and most of all a communicator. The music goes from opera to pop and includes jazz, gospel, standards and even country and western along the way - everyone finds a song that they love in this show. Jonathan's anecdotes and comments on life resonate with his



guests which often result in great hilarity shared by all. Audiences of all ages across the whole of the UK and beyond have been given a night to remember, where the by word is 'laughter' and people leave feeling uplifted and often moved in a way there weren't expecting.

Jonathan's Christian faith has been an essential part of his life and work and he has recorded a number of albums that reflect this. These are varied in style and have something to suit all musical tastes from traditional hymns and carols to blues and gospel. They also include a number of well-known inspirational secular songs. His autobiography is in the Church library.

Southgate Church will be presenting Jonathan in the Community Centre Hall on **Saturday 27 February at 730 pm**. It is an ideal event to which to bring non-Christian friends and guaranteed to be 'cringe-free'!

Tickets will be on sale in October. Put the date in your diary now.

Reflections of Harvest

Harvest Comes

The harvest comes
The fields turn gold
The grain is ripe.
And, as of old
The workers glean,
And thresh, and grind
They knead and bake
And bread we find

Fruit of the grain

A Holy token

Of Our Lamb of God

His body broken

The sun shines warm
The grapes are ripened
The fruit is picked
For Vintner's stipend.
The grapes are crushed
Their juices stored
And in due course,
The wine is poured

Fruit of the vine
A token, too
Of the blood of Christ
That was shed for you

By Nigel Beeton



In Memory of Kate Milner

It was with great sadness that we said our 'goodbyes' to Kate after losing her long battle with cancer. Her funeral and thanksgiving service for her life were led by Peter and were both filled with such hope, that we experienced the faith that she was now safely in the presence of our Lord.

Peter writes,

The weeks and months leading up to Kate dying were both difficult and revealing. As her hearing became worse until total deafness ensued, her faith remained strong. Although not always expressed with words, her actions and her desires showed her love for and faith in Jesus as her Lord and Saviour.

Although tinged with great sadness, it was a joy to commit her to Jesus in faith and to celebrate her 'home coming' as Jesus greeted her for eternity. It was uplifting to hear words of encouragement both formally and informally from many at her thanksgiving service.

Our prayer is that her faith will continue to inspire Barry on his onward walk with Jesus.

We all hold our own memories of Kate as we knew her as a faithful member of our fellowship since the beginning of Southgate Church. She taught in the Sunday school in the earliest days. She will always be remembered for her enthusiasm and excitement in spreading the Christian message through her writings. She had an amazing talent for expressing God's word through her pictures of everyday life and we are blessed to still have some of her books in our church library.

She will be greatly missed.



Barry writes,

*The "Goodbye" services were very special, God was present. Our cousin and friends were just so full of praise of your warm welcome into our family. A while afterwards a friend said to me, "I took the Order of Service home and gave it to my wife and said, "That is what I want when I go home (to God)." The services were special because not only God was there but **you** were there to place her into the loving hands of God, Kate's father, our father.*

If you need an example of what faithful, consistent putting yourself into the presence of God can do, look at Kate. For as long as I can remember Kate met, almost every single day, with God for at least an hour. I know that this is what gave her the faith, courage and even contentment, to accept the "2 years at most" prognosis in 2012. That faith and courage kept her, and me, together through some horrible, dark times. Kate did help me come to terms with the "shadow". It was only in February this year that the cancer stopped her Emailing and posting the things she had written. She loved to send on encouraging Emails that she had received. She said that one of her "Ministries" was to set a ball rolling or give one a helpful push! Kate did both with zest.

I know your prayers sustained Kate and me; they are sustaining me as I write this; they will sustain me as God nudges me to where He wants me to be. I feel a bit like Jonah, I want to run away to a place no one knows me and I can pretend none of "this" happened, thankfully I know what happened to Jonah and "this" did happen ,and I am thankful that God is in my life, no escaping HIM!

FAITH

*is not believing that God can
it is knowing that He will.*

Spiritual Amnesia

I wonder, if like me, as you get older you have lapses of memory - mislaying your glasses, wondering why you went upstairs and even forgetting the names of people you know really well. More importantly, like me, do you suffer from what I call spiritual amnesia?

I often forget all that I have experienced of a Faithful God who has always been there for me and helped me through so much. At the All Together service in September we were reminded how, after Joshua had led the Israelites across the Red Sea, they set up a memorial of stones. They were so prone to forget how God had led them out of Egypt into the Promised Land that they needed that permanent reminder. We then had the opportunity to write the verse from 1 Samuel 7 v12 on a stone "EBENEZER - Hitherto (or thus far) the Lord has helped us". That verse has always been one that I have clung on to through many difficult experiences and one that I needed on that day. It is so important to look back on promises and experiences that we have been through in our Christian life and find ways of recalling them for times when we need to be reminded of all that God has given us and His faithfulness to us. I have verses of Scripture, verses of hymns and pictures that when I come across them are vivid reminders of past experience of God intervening in my life. I always thank God that when growing up we were taught to learn verses by heart, many persecuted Christians in other countries have to rely on their memories as they are denied the scriptures or hymn books, I wonder how much I could bring to mind. How about you?

I have included a poem from a book I have found very helpful and challenging on this subject, by Lucy Mills, called "Forgetful Heart- Remembering God in a Distracted World "(published by D.T.L.)

Forgetful Heart- Remembering God in a Distracted World

Open my heart to you, O God:
transform my mind.

Give me the strength and grace I need
to remember you.

May I remember you
in thought and in action.

May I remember you

when I'm by myself
and when I'm with others.

May I remember you
in my attitudes and inclinations.
May I remember you
Always.

There will be a copy of the book in the library.

Hilary Harrington

To Make you Smile

A 6-year-old was overheard reciting the Lord's Prayer at a church service;

"And forgive us our trash passes, as we forgive those who passed trash against us."

A boy was watching his father, a pastor, write a sermon.

"How do you know what to say?" he asked.

"Why, God tells me."

"Oh, then why do you keep crossing things out?"

A little girl was sitting on her grandfather's lap as he read her a bedtime story.

From time to time, she would take her eyes off the book and reach up to touch his wrinkled cheek.

She was alternately stroking her own cheek, then his again.

Finally she spoke up, "Grandpa, did God make you?"

"Yes, sweetheart," he answered, "God made me a long time ago."

"Oh," she paused, "Grandpa, did God make me too?"

"Yes, indeed, honey," he said, "God made you just a little while ago."

Feeling their respective faces again, she observed,

"God's getting better at it, isn't he?"

Let's Go Holiday Club And reflections of times past

Let's go, with a LEGO © theme was a great success. More than 40 children came each day and they were supported and encouraged by a multi-talented team of young people and adults from Southgate Church. We created a mini- cinema and used film clips from the Lego Movie aligned to Bible stories and themes, using materials previously used by Anya in another setting. We had the usual sense of fun, great songs craft, games cooking , jokes and superb teaching which enabled the children from different ethnic and racial backgrounds, most without any Church connection , to really enjoy themselves , feel secure and have an introduction to Jesus and the Bible.

For me, it was tinged with sadness as after 30 years, it was our last Holiday club before Beryl and I move to Felixstowe next year. The first Holiday club was a very low key event in the Church centre with the theme of 'Mr Men', which featured Doreen wearing a tabard with Mr Men characters emblazoned on it ! It was soon after Beryl and I came to Southgate, and Doreen had the vision to start Holiday clubs for both Sunday school children and children from Nowton estate. Despite some



repeats , we have offered a wide range of themes and highlights have included : Circus, featuring Rain and Bow , the Clowns ; Superheroes, featuring Superman and Supergirl and the Bee for Jesus (both dressed as Bees in stripey tops and tights. Doreen and I developed a complimentary rapport for working together, both with vision, a 'can do' attitude and sense of fun;

Doreen with her great musical talent for song writing , singing and organisational skills, I contributed silliness and some writing ability.

This combination of skills led to 'spin offs' of clowning at events and parties for TEARFUND , pantos, musicals, creating a children's choir, making a record with Bill Wyman and recording a 'Stranger Danger' campaign. There were also newspaper features, TV and Radio appearances and Drama group performances.

The Holiday club team, over the span of its existence, has included many wonderful friends, now with their Lord, but their contributions have been immense and I have learned from their commitment, love grace and talent, and the fact that age was 'just a number'.

The current team includes significant input from Doreen , Alison, Beryl, Roger, Jackie and David and a multi-talented team has enabled Southgate church to present a good image to the community and gives insight into the Bible , to Jesus, to the church at Southgate and those 'funny people' who call themselves Christians. The team is so strong that I am confident that the Holiday clubs will continue and develop further giving opportunities for people to work as a team, develop skills and serve the Lord.

It has been a great privilege to be part of the Holiday club team and it has enabled me to have a fantastic opportunities to write, perform, be silly and serve Jesus on this part of an exciting Christian journey.

Tim Sheppard

Recently, Simon Harris, a member at Southgate, appeared in the East Anglian Times in recognition of two events:

13 years of voluntary service with the community transport service;

His rescue of an elderly lady who had fallen at home - Simon discovered that she had fallen when they called to collect her. With the help of the mini bus driver, Simon managed to climb through a window and asked a neighbour to call an ambulance.

Congratulations to Simon and a sincere well done.

Introducing Stuart Lowe, our new Chairman of the trustees

Hello there,

As the recently elected Chairman of Southgate Church trustees, I am humbled to be asked to let you know a bit about myself.

My wife Heather and our 3 children, Emma, Matt and Simon move to Bury in 1982 to complete my post grad training at Cambridge and Papworth Hospitals.

Prior to that, having grown up in a loving Christian family in North West London, I qualified from St Mary's Medical School in 1977 before various training posts in London and the south east.

I am convinced that God's hand was on us as we moved 4 times in the first 5 years, finally arriving in Suffolk after I'd learnt to stop trying to seek promotion in my own strength. Within 24hrs of simply "handing HIM the problem", the post at Addenbrookes was advertised and the rest was, as they say, history.

We spent some weeks visiting several churches, before we finally felt at home in St Peter's - where we have worshiped ever since. Over the years our time has been spent with youth work, the music group and as Church warden for 7 years.

My career as a consultant in Anaesthesia and Critical Care Medicine at the West Suffolk Hospital has been enjoyable and varied both in Clinical and senior managerial duties. However since my retirement over a year ago, I have been seeking God's guidance in how I should give my time – so I am content to have been called as your Trustee and now as chairman as I seek to serve you in God's power.

With every best wish

Stuart

Congratulations BCY!

On 11th October BCY (Bury Christian Youth) will be 25 years old, and they are celebrating at Christ Church Moreton Hall. Their AGM starts at 5pm and the celebration service starts at 6pm.

Gavin Calver (Director of Mission/England for the Evangelical Alliance) will be the speaker so do go along for a great evening of encouragement and celebration!



Financial News

June

Expenditure £8,680

Income £ 4,823

July

Expenditure £13,892

Income £ 11,846

August

Expenditure £7,253.72

Income £4,347.97

*Piano expenditure
included in June*



SOUTHGATE CHURCH TEXT FOR 2015

"You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit - fruit that will last.

John 15:16

Time to reflect, time to celebrate and the three W's!

Southgate Church has celebrated it's 41st birthday this year! This led me to reflect on the many years I have been involved in the life of Southgate Church.

I first started attending Southgate church at the age of 13. Previously I went Garland St Baptist Church which I really enjoyed, but decided to 'give Southgate a go', so to speak as my best friends Mel and Kate went there

I really loved attending Southgate and all the exciting things it had to offer. I enjoyed the services and groups held on a Sunday morning and loved attending the various bible study groups and social clubs held in the evenings.

During the years I have been at Southgate (and there are many as I am now as old as Southgate- I turned 41 this year!) I have been involved in various house groups. The house groups are an invaluable time of fellowship and enabled me to grow in my faith. For many years Southgate Church have held a 'holiday club' for children during the summer holidays. I thoroughly enjoyed helping at holiday club and now my children, Holly (age 10) and Thomas (age 8) enjoy the fun activities there too. They love Sunday Club too!

The title of this article refers to the three 'w's'. These stand for **warm, welcoming** and **worship** as these words help me to convey the church family at Southgate. I have found there is always a warm welcome at Southgate, and when we come together I feel a part of God's family.

There have been many exciting events too that I took part in over the years. These include performing in the 'Supafrutas' production (some of you will remember I was an orange!) The Supafrutas had the opportunity to record a single with Bill Wyman at his recording studio in Gedding. We sang two songs, 'We want to grow like Jesus', and 'It's Christmas all over the World'. We also appeared on 'Look East' singing our song, as the news covered the story of us being chosen to record our single with Bill Wyman. Exciting times!

Southgate church has really helped me grow in my faith. Thank you all for the fellowship and fun I have had and continue to experience attending Southgate church.

Rachel Midforth

An Evening with Graham Kendrick -Thursday 12 Nov 7.30 pm.

This concert is now sold out – the Lord be praised!
There is a waiting list at The Apex box office. If you do have tickets to spare, let Bob Jones know.

We are promoting this event as part of Southgate's ongoing commitment to raise funds for, and to support Joel Foyster's ministry within Chaplain in the Workplace.

Have a splendid evening!



Book Review:

Prayer, Experiencing Awe and Intimacy with God

by Timothy Keller Published by Hodder & Stoughton 2014

This is the best book on prayer I have read. It has an excellent theological study on prayer and also many practical ideas on how to develop and enhance our prayer lives. The book is challenging and incredibly encouraging. Tim Keller is very readable and engaging - his teaching is grounded in experience and his own desire to grow in prayer shines through the pages.

The book has five sections: Desiring Prayer, Understanding Prayer, Learning Prayer, Deepening Prayer, Doing Prayer. I have enthused about this book to my friends and family and I thoroughly recommend it to you. God has certainly used it to encourage me once more in my prayer life and I am starting to use some of the practical applications. Maybe we could use some of them together as a church.

Carol Richardson

Harvest - Simply say 'thank you'

October means Harvest, and that means thanksgiving time.

Here is a beautiful description of this rich time of the year:

"You crown the year with your bounty, and your carts overflow with abundance. The grasslands of the desert overflow; the hills are clothed with gladness. The meadows are filled with flocks and the valleys are mantled with corn; they shout for joy and sing." (Ps 65:11-13)



What a beautiful picture of harvest, of blessing as the year begins to draw to a close!

The Psalms have a lot to say about harvest and thanksgiving. "May the peoples praise you, O God; may all the peoples praise you. THEN the land will yield its harvest, and God, our God will bless us." (Ps 67:5,6)

You may not be in farming, but you will have 'sown' things this year: you may be growing certain relationships, or work projects. Now is the time to review them: if they are doing well, thank God for them. If they are doing badly, pray for them. The Bible tells us time and again that God longs to bless us, and will bless us – if we acknowledge Him, and thank Him.

"Praise our God, O peoples," cries the Psalmist with joy. "He has preserved our lives and kept our feet from slipping....you brought us to a place of abundance." (Ps 66:8,12) If there is any 'abundance' in your life, have you thanked God for it?

Migrant Crisis

*Some wandered in desert wastes, finding no way to a city to dwell in;
hungry and thirsty, their soul fainted within them.*

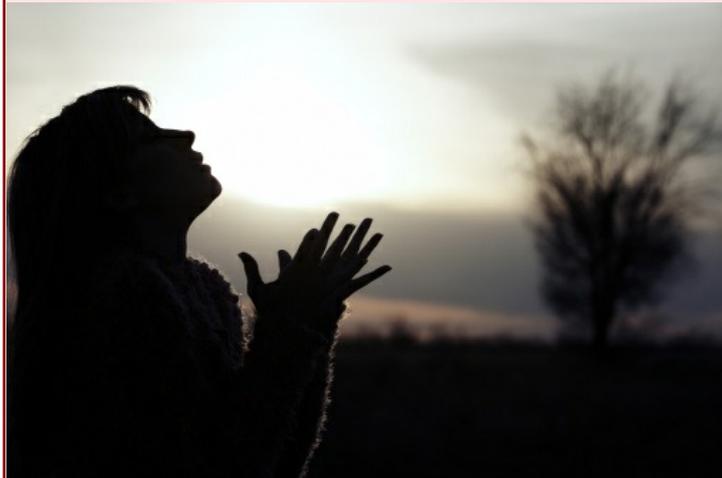
*Then they cried to the Lord in their trouble, and he delivered them from their
distress.*

He led them by a straight way till they reached a city to dwell in.

Let them thank the Lord for his steadfast love...

Psalm 107:4-8

The distressing news of the plight of the thousands of migrants fleeing war and violence throughout the world has no doubt affected all of us. In one paper this week, it described the situation as reaching 'Biblical proportions'. At times like this



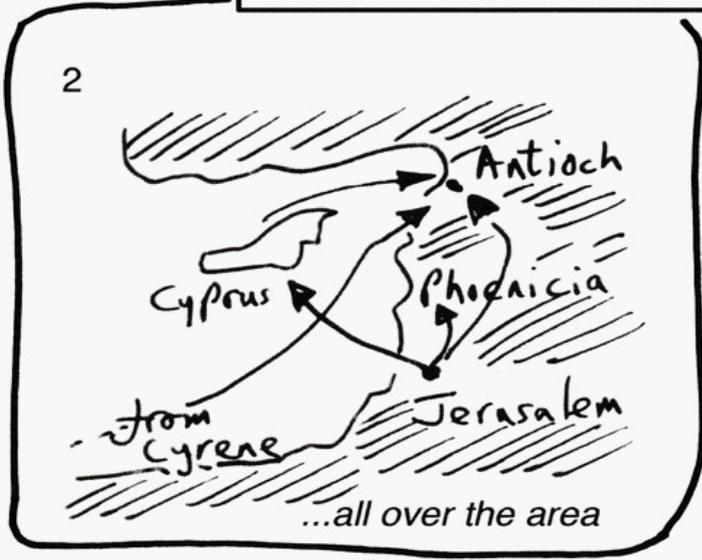
as Christians, we can only ask, 'What would Jesus do?' We know from his words in the Bible, how we should respond even if we don't have the answers to how to cope with the magnitude of this current situation.

Please pray for the refugees who are experiencing such suffering and for the world leaders and politicians to be given wisdom to enable relief and stability to be given to their lives. Finally pray for ourselves to respond individually in whatever way we are able to do.

Don't you have a saying,

***'It's still four months until harvest'? I tell you, open your eyes and look
at the fields! They are ripe for harvest.***

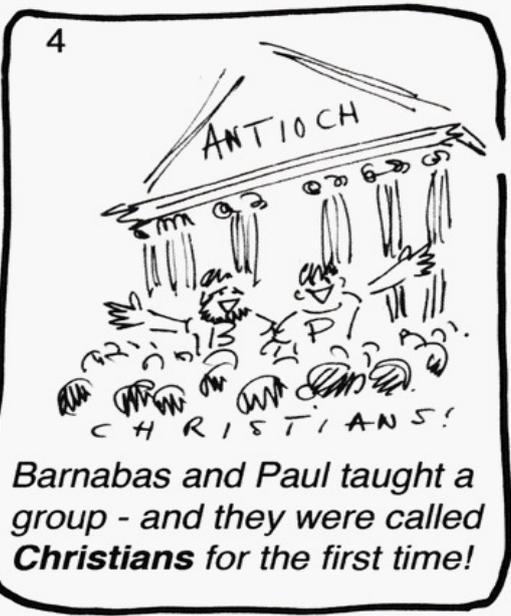
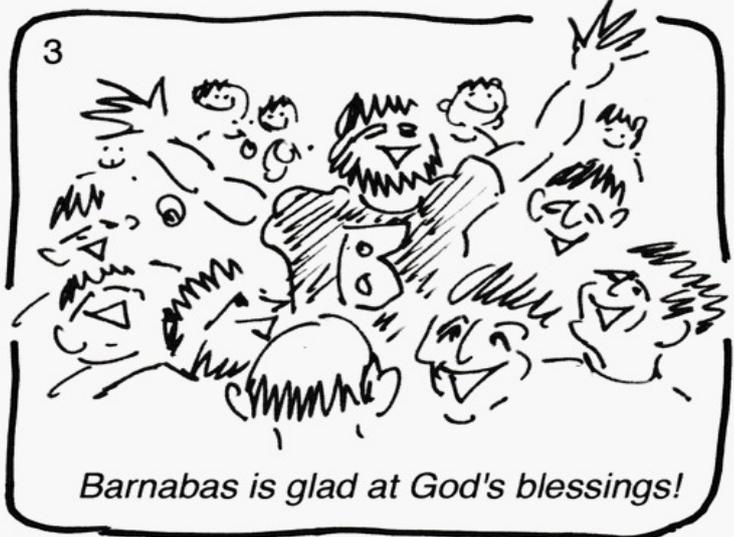
John 4.35



Persecuted...but kept on talking about Jesus!

There was terrible persecution of Christians after Stephen was stoned to death. Christians fled from Jerusalem but wherever they went they told people about

Jesus! They ended up in Cyprus, Phoenicia and Antioch. Some even came from Cyrene to help. Barnabas was sent to the new Christians in Antioch and was delighted at their faith. Paul joined him and they were amazed when the new believers made a huge gift to help starving Christians back in the Jerusalem area.



What a great response by the believers with both faith and giving. How would you respond in such a situation today?

Read more in Acts 11: 19-30



Bury Town Pastors

Town Pastors have been on the streets of Bury St Edmunds since May 2008. Two pairs of Town Pastors patrol in the club/bar areas of the town centre most Friday and Saturday nights between 10.00pm and 4.00am.

Town Pastors seek to be a positive presence on the streets, available to offer support to vulnerable people and de-escalate potential trouble.

We need more Town Pastors!

Training: Autumn 2015

Apply by Thursday 22nd October. Training takes place on Saturday 7th November, 9.00am - 3.30pm and four evening sessions: Tuesday 10th, Wednesday 18th, Thursday 26th and Monday 30th November.

And we need more people to pray!

Prayer Team applications welcome anytime!

Download application forms from the website

www.burytownpastors.org.uk. Contact Jo Copsey:

07594 334215 or jocopsey@burytownpastors.org.uk



How to transform your daily work

Are you one of the 2 million Christians who go to work every day and engage with tens of millions of people in thousands of workplaces?

As Christians in the workplace we have some amazing opportunities to be agents of transformation – but do we feel confident about what to do with those opportunities?

'Transforming Work' is a brand new discipleship journey that combines teaching, skills development, prayer, Bible study and group conversation to equip Christians to grow as confident, fruitful disciples in their daily work. It looks at topics like workplace culture, how to build good working relationships, how to bring biblical values into work and how to talk to colleagues about faith.



Find out more at: www.licc.org.uk/TW

Communications - Guidance for articles For Connect



If possible please include items by email between 250 - 400 words **or less**. We are trying to reduce text and add more illustrations to make the magazine more accessible for people in the community who may not come to church. We would particularly welcome short, personal

'Good News' stories which may help others in their faith journey.

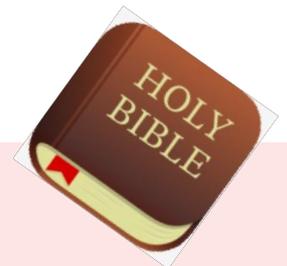
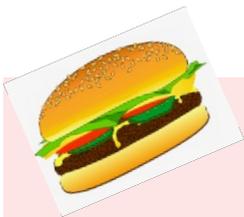
What's On...

dates for your diary

- Harvest Service - Sunday 4th October
- An Evening with Graham Kendrick at the Apex on Thursday 12th November
In aid of 'Chaplain in the Workplace'



Burgers & Bibles!



This a great time for under 18's to talk about all sorts of issues, and ask questions about the Christian faith.

Speak to Alison Burgess for more information.

(3rd Sunday of the month from 5.15pm - 6.45pm)

Copy deadline for next CONNECT articles- Monday 16th November