

CONNECT

HARVEST 2016



SOUTHGATE
church

The earth has yielded its produce;

Our God blesses us

Psalms 67 Verse 6



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) |
| | 6.30pm | 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
A Message from our Pastor.



Having been amazed by the achievements of team GB at the Rio Olympics, I am trying to catch some of the events at the paralympics. These athletes are truly amazing. Some are blind, others have cerebral palsy, some have lost limbs through being in the armed forces, some by other means, yet they all achieve to the highest level possible. How about the chap playing table tennis holding the bat in his mouth? Truly amazing.

Paul writes to the church in Corinth and describes the church as a body, in fact as the Body of Christ. The paralympians have learned to compensate for the lack of certain functions, limbs or senses and yet I guess every one of them would prefer to be taking part in the Olympics with a fully functioning body.

I was reading 1 Cor 12 before I watched some events on TV. Although disabled these athletes try to be the best they can. I then thought of the church in general and our church in particular. We may never compete in either form of the Olympics, but God has put us together as his body. We are meant to be a fully functioning body. Some time ago I was talking to someone who had their big toes amputated and they told me how they had to learn to walk again. In comparison to the whole body, two toes could seem to be quite insignificant, yet they were missed when they weren't there anymore.

I'm sure we would all agree that other people have important ministries. What they can offer to the life of the church is vital. Then, in the same thought convince ourselves that we have nothing to offer. This might be because of age or ability, perceived lack of gifts and abilities or even what we have had has now become unused and rusty.

Paul in separate letters writes "You were running a good race. Who cut in on you and kept you from obeying the truth"? Gal 5:7. And again; "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith". 2Tim 4:7

I never cease to be amazed at the team of people supporting one athlete, there's trainers, physio's, stamina coaches, dietitians, counsellors, achievement coaches, each one vital to the success of every athlete, so they can win the race or succeed in their event. So it is with the body of Christ, the church. By ourselves, we may feel we have little to offer, but when we pool our gifts and resources we can do more, succeed more, advance more, witness more, achieve more, encourage more, pray more, learn more. Maybe we can encourage others to fulfill their ministry or allow them to encourage us to do the same. We have some young Christians in the church family, maybe they need your input to inspire them.

Jesus didn't plan for his body to be broken and weak but whole, strong, fully functioning and amazing. Maybe you feel like a big toe, or even less, I can assure you, it doesn't matter how much the church can achieve under God without you, it can achieve so much more with you.

Why not look into the mirror at some point as say, "*You are so important to God's plan for your church!*"

Be willing to allow God to use you.

Your friend and Pastor

Peter



NEWS FROM OUR FAMILY & COMMUNITY WORKER

We're well in to the Autumn term now and have been delighted to welcome new children to all of our midweek groups. Everyone's settled in really well and we're looking forward to lots of fun in months ahead.

October is definitely the month for Harvest Festivals! We'll be celebrating Harvest at our Together on Sunday service on 2nd October. Donations of food can be brought in on the day and will be shared between Bury Drop In Centre and Vineyard Food Bank.

I'll be joining Hardwick Primary School to celebrate their Harvest Festival too on Thursday 6th October and am really looking forward to that. Please do pray for our time together.

We're delighted to be welcoming Bishop Mike to Southgate on Sunday 23rd October. He's going to be meeting all the children and young people and joining them in their groups for the morning. I'm sure he'll have a super time.

On Monday 31st October we're having a Little Afternoon of Big Treats in the Church Centre 😊 It's from 3.15-5.15pm and is for children aged 5 and over. It will be a fun packed afternoon where we'll be making some special treats to take home and share with our friends and family. We'll also be eating a delicious tea and playing some fun party games. Tickets are just £2 each and can be bought from the Church Office.

Believe it or not, we've already started to plan for Southgate's Got Christmas! This year it's taking place on Saturday 3rd December from 2-4pm. Please put it in your diaries and join us for this fun filled community event. We'd love people to help us prepare some of the crafts beforehand too. If this is something you'd like to help with, please let Alison know.

To book a place call the Church Office on 01284 703705

Alison Burgess

Elections to Church Council at the Church AGM

David Gray was re-elected for another term of office . Adrian Lingwood and Hilary Rooke were elected to Church council . Hilary has much past experience of serving on Church Council.

Peter Maddock was re- elected as Church treasurer.

Please pray for them as they begin or continue to serve the Church in this way.

Bury Town Pastors

Town Pastors are Christian volunteers from local churches who are out in the town centre of Bury St Edmunds most Friday and Saturday nights, being a positive influence on the streets and providing help and support to vulnerable people.

In addition, there is the Prayer Team: some people pray at the base in town and others pray at home. Bury Town Pastors is a registered charity: Registered Charity Number 1157108

The next Town Pastor training course in Bury St Edmunds will begin on Saturday 15th October 2016. To be considered for a place on the October Training Course, Town Pastor applications should arrive by Wednesday 28th September 2016.

Applications received after this date will be considered if places are still available on the Town Pastor training course. We welcome applications for the Prayer Team at any time. If you are interested in joining us, go to the [How To Apply page](#):



What do Town Pastors do on an evening out? Activities range from giving dehydrated people some water to drink, helping people to get a taxi or a lift, waiting with vulnerable people, calming and diffusing aggressive situations and various conversations with people.

Contact Tel: 07870 340344 or 07594 334215

For further information please contact:

Mrs Jo Copsey: info@burytownpastors.org.uk



Helpers Wanted.....

The Martins, Bury St Edmunds

Can you - or someone you know - make a difference to the lives of our wonderful elderly residents? It's rewarding, and greatly appreciated.

We need people to help in these areas:

Leading excercises, residents shop rota, hospital visiting, leading games sessions.

For more information please contact Helen Taylor on 01284 728657

Or email helenzb01@yahoo.co.uk

To Make you Smile

Cheap at the price

A little boy was pestering his parents for a baby brother or sister.

They kept telling him 'maybe one day, but we can't afford one yet.'

Then one Sunday the little boy dragged his parents over to the noticeboard at the back of church. It was advertising a sale at the church, and announced: 'Children: free'

Bible sense

Being married to a woman who reads her Bible can have its drawbacks.

When a man protested to his wife that wiping dishes was not a man's job, his wife replied simply: "2 Kings 21:13", and handed him a tea towel.

Later he looked it up: 'And I will wipe Jerusalem as a man wipeth a dish, wiping it and turning it upside down.'

Strange Weapons- An Evening with Garth Hewitt

Saturday November 19th - 7.30pm

Halstead Baptist Church Hedingham Rd, Halstead

Garth Hewitt has been touring for 40 years and has performed all over the world. He has visited many areas of poverty, conflict, deprivation, and disaster where he has prioritized friendships with local people, bringing them encouragement. He always returns to Europe and the US to share personal stories, bringing to life media headlines, challenging the privileged to share, and to join the protest against injustice. He has been joined on his records by a wide variety of artists including Cliff Richard, Martyn Joseph and Bryn Haworth

Founding the human rights charity Amos Trust in 1985, Garth worked for 26 years as its Director and is still a Founder member.

Garth passionately believes that it is always time for people of all faiths to speak up and call for justice, reaffirming the dignity, rights and value of each human being made 'in the image of God'. As part of this passion Garth has written nine books he believes in a revolution of love and justice that is relevant all around the world – a revolution of non-violence, of valuing all people as equal.

Garth is an honorary Canon of St George's Cathedral, Jerusalem. He is a Patron of the Palestine Solidarity Campaign and in 2007 Garth was given an award by the British relief and development agency Interpal for his 'longstanding commitment to the Palestinian people through both the relief and awareness work done by his charity, the Amos Trust. Garth has been a regular contributor to BBC Radio 2's Pause for Thought.

Tickets: £8 or £10 on the door, on sale now through Halstead Baptist Church. Phone 01787 477800 for your tickets or speak to

Mike or Maureen Jones Tel: 01284762014

Malawi - Faith in Action



I have story for you, which I treasure, about the time when Lamech Msamange started working for Open Doors in Malawi and Mozambique. This was before Faith in Action came into being.

After Lamech became a believer, (another story) he saw the book by Brother Andrew called "God's Smuggler" Having been challenged, he wrote to Andrew who invited him to join Open Doors. Lamech's first assignment was to take Bibles into Mozambique. This was at a time when Mozambique was a closed country dominated by Communism. If you were found with a Christian Tract, this demanded 2 years in prison. Labour camps were set up for Pastors caught preaching. To have a Bible the punishment was 5 years. Lamech immersed himself in prayer but the answer from God was "Do it" With a friend David, he set off in a white car with 300 Bibles and travelled over 250 kilometres to the border. He says that as they were driving they were singing and praising God and having a wonderful time, but as they neared the border the singing stopped and they became very nervous.

He told David to stay in the car and pray whilst he went to the check point. Things went well but as he was beginning to leave someone said "Your not through yet -what have you got in that car?"

Lamech said he was always told by Open Doors to always tell the truth so he said "You see that car, I have 300 Bibles in that car" The guard looked at Lamech trembling with rage and said "Young man, Don't you fool about with me, open the gate and let him through!!" Lamech ran to the car, told David to drive as fast as he could and through the check point. They didn't speak to each other for some while but them stopped and let the tears flow.. Now they were through how were they to distribute the Bibles? They needed some petrol and as they approached the station they saw 6 men standing together.

One of them came over and whispered "You have some Bibles for us!" Lamech said "What is happening?" " Don't worry Brother, God told us last Sunday in a vision to be on the lookout for a white car" And they had travelled 300 kilometres to be there!

Truly wonderful! Isn't it also interesting that this and the Bible Studies for Malawi started with a vision. If the vision had not been accepted and they had not followed through with God's plan, would these wonderful things happened? Our Church has been given a vision recently so should we also take it seriously?

Frank Rumball

Ageing

I can no longer climb those mountains that youth bade me climb:

The energy's now long long gone, and it takes far too much time.

But I can walk the byways, and the valleys, and the shore, And not feel rushed by the sound of the phone or a knock on the door.

I can't multi-task in ways quick and busy: for slow is my thinking - and fast makes me dizzy.

But I can see the beauty, the grandeur, the small, And find time to ponder the wonder of it all.

Weary I might be - at times feel condemned By those for whom 'slow' is a bit round the bend'.

But the me that I was, I still am, deep and true.

For I live, laugh and love just as much as you do.

C Griffiths

Southgate Church Text for 2016

Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you/ As the Father has sent me, I am sending you". John 20:21



Reflections

'Go and preach the gospel in every possible way and if all else fails, use words '

St Francis to his brothers

Gathered in

All is safely gathered in
Frozen, cured or sealed in tin,
Then sent quickly off to store,
Tesco, Aldi, many more.

There the seasons are no more
As they were in days of yore,
Summer fruits in winter days,
Far away they're grown and raised.

Autumn treats in Spring to choose
And even more exotic foods,
Things we never knew when young
Brought to us from lands far flung.

All to satisfy our taste,
Tons of which will go to waist,
And supermarket shelves to fill,
Yet millions are starving still.

So just remember while you feast
On food from north, south, west and
east
And celebrating this harvest
To spare a thought for those with less.

By Allan Lewis

Have - Have Not

Lord, when I start complaining
About each household chore,
The telephone keeps ringing
And someone's at the door
Please keep me ever mindful

Of folk in many lands
Whose homes are cardboard boxes
Or tents on desert sands.

When searching through my freezer
For something fresh to eat
Or grumbling at the prices
Of bread and fruit and meat
Remind me of my sisters
In countries far away
Who have, if they are lucky –
One bowl of rice a day.

Dear Father, you have blessed me
With home and food and sight
So readily accepted
As though they were my right
Awaken now my conscience
That I may truly care
For your neglected children
By love, and gifts and prayer.

Alice Odell

SOUTHGATE CHURCH PRESENTS LOU FELLINGHAM

For our third concert at The Apex for *Chaplain in the Workplace*, we are presenting Lou Fellingham and her six-piece band on **Wednesday 9th November at 7.30 pm.** Tickets, at £15, are on sale from the box office, telephone (01284 758000) and online – www.theapex.co.uk .

Lou's distinctive voice and heart for people have made her a greatly loved worship leader, singer and recording artist. Her four solo albums have brought her industry awards and repeat invites to appear on BBC's Songs of Praise. More than that, they have demonstrated Lou's desire to communicate the love of God, feed the church and bring revelation of God through her singing and songwriting. She has delighted everyone who has attended Spring Harvest over the past two years.

Another memorable evening of Christian music is guaranteed. Be sure to get your tickets early!



CAP Debt Centre

You are invited to join us at our 5th anniversary celebration on **Saturday 29th October 2016 - 3pm to 5pm at Freedom Church, Mill Road, Great Barton, IP31 2RU**

Please come along and hear the exciting and amazing things God has been doing locally over the past five years in and through the work of Christians Against Poverty. Come and hear the update about the CAP Debt Centre, hear testimonies and see how your prayers and support are helping to change people's lives here in Bury St Edmunds through this practical outworking of the kingdom of God.

Many thanks,

Darren Bullen - **BSECC Manager**

KIDS OF THE CASTLE HOLIDAY CLUB 2016

What a great four days of giving 30-35 children a time of fun, games, worship, and Bible teaching.

We were able to tell the children that they are all chosen, invited and welcomed by God and that they are all loved, special and important to him.

We want to thank Anya Dean (nee Tooley) for offering to join us and for giving us so many great ideas as well as props and her fantastic enthusiasm.

A big thank you also to the many friends from Southgate who came to teach, play games, do crafts, make refreshments, lead teams and a special thank you to Kelvin who built us a castle where we could go for our Bible teaching and response time. Well done everyone for adapting to the changes in the way we did holiday club this year.

Alison, Anya and myself enjoyed being princesses for the week up front and Alison certainly deserves the "best dressed" princess award! BUT we remember that we are all prince and princesses in God's kingdom everyday and we don't need to dress up!

Friday evening's "new look" was a great success serving afternoon tea to the children and families. The waiters and waitresses certainly looked the part!

I hope you will always be able to remember our memory verse for the week:

'We are God's chosen and special people, Gods royal messengers.

So go and tell everyone the amazing things that God has done.'

Doreen Whomes





Kids of the Castle - Holiday Club

Keep running for victory

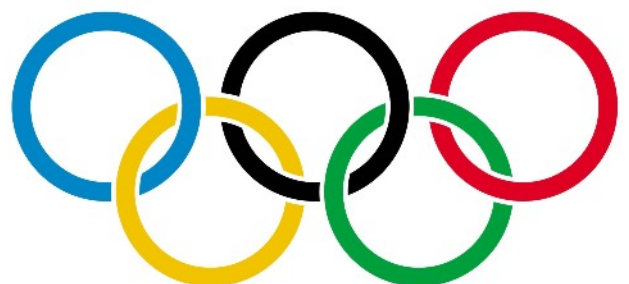
The 2016 Rio Olympics saw our best national performance since the games began, instilling a great sense of national pride. Our athletes came home with 67 medals – 27 of which were gold. It's a huge achievement for all those involved.

One of the greatest victories of these games has to be Mo Farah's triumphant performance in the 10,000m. We all know he is a running force to be reckoned with, but what made this win even more incredible was that he fell mid race. Not a little stumble or a misstep, but face down on the track as the other runners carried on around him. It made for nerve-wracking viewing as his hopes of a medal seemed to drift away on the tropical breeze. And yet, he got up and kept running, going on to win the gold!

No one likes trials or challenges: those things in life that sneak up from behind and trip us up or, sometimes, come right up and hit us in the face. We don't enjoy falling or failing. We fear others looking on, whispering to one another, 'another one bites the dust'. But, just as training developed Mo's perseverance, so that when it really needed to count he was hardwired to get up and keep running, and even win, so the Bible encourages us as Christians to do the same.

James 1:2 tells us to consider it 'pure joy' when we face trials, because this develops a perseverance in our faith like nothing else can. Such a determined faith helps us to be 'mature and complete, not lacking anything'. What James encourages is not easy, especially in our culture of 'quick fixes'. But I do believe it's worth it. In my own life, I can see that the very trials that made me fall and feel like I was biting the dust were the ones which (after struggling to get back up and keep running) have shaped me and brought me personal victories and breakthroughs I would not otherwise have seen.

Whether it's a challenging job, troublesome children or difficult people, whatever trial you are in right now and however many times you fall, I'd encourage you, with God's help, to get up and keep running towards the one who will take you on to victory even greater than a gold medal.



Rachel Dean - LICC

God's power in our lives

Recently , Alison showed us a film from YouTube, just as athletes were preparing to take part in the Paralympics. This showed people with severe disabilities, achieving amazing skills in many different sports and as I write we still are witnessing team GB Paralympians winning many gold medals. The film was titled 'Yes I can'. This is yet another example that despite some of the hardest challenges which those athletes are facing, they keep on going, giving of their very best, with the attitude of 'Yes I can' and they achieve great things.

We can all learn so much from them and maybe apply it to our own lives, especially in our service to God. With His help, who knows what the wonderful results will be!

The following was written by 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?



If you would like to do this, please let us know so that it could be included in our magazine. How about it?

OUR FINANCIAL PAGE

The following statement was made to Members at the meeting on 14 September on the Church's financial position. It is reproduced here so that it is read by everyone who is part of our worshipping community.

After adjusting for depreciation the church currently spends around £114,000 per annum which is £312 per day. It receives around £89,000 per annum which is £244 per day. So spending is around £25,000 per annum or £68 per day more than it receives. Our cash reserves are expected to be around £53,000 at the end of this month but those are being eaten into each month so are decreasing.

A more detailed cash flow has been carried out and this confirms that by October 2018 the money will all be spent. It also indicates that by September 2017 when balances will still be around £27,000 we will need to be able to carry out the activities of the church without further overspending.

Trustees have previously indicated that they require the Church's income and expenditure to balance in 2017/18

Regular giving is currently around £51,000 per annum this needs to increase by around half again if we are to plug this gap. We currently have around 50 regular givers to the work of the Church, which includes some couples. To eliminate the deficit we would need them all – on average – to increase their giving by £40 per month. This is the scale of the challenge to us all. I urge you to consider and pray about whether you can increase your giving or if you do not currently regularly give to the work of the church consider whether you can. If your giving could be increased by 1st November or a pledge of a future increase notified to myself in writing before the members meeting later that month, that would be very helpful.

Work on the next year's budget will need to commence towards the end of November, so by the time of the next members meeting we need to know how much additional income we can add into the budget. In two months time when we know the outcome of this appeal we will then if necessary have to review our ongoing expenditure levels.

We will be organising a dedicated time when we can come together in prayer, hopefully in October when we will seek a significant attendance from you all. We will also be holding a briefing session after a Sunday morning service for those people who were unable to attend the members' meeting.

Peter Maddock - Treasurer

Dates for your diary

Christian Aid Prayer Breakfast at Southgate Church
Saturday 1st October at 8.30am

Harvest Festival service Oct 2nd
Donations of food will be shared between
Bury Drop In &
the Vineyard Food Bank
(Food preferably non-perishable)

CAP Debt Centre 5th Anniversary Celebrations
October 29th 3-5pm at Freedom Church, Mill Lane
Great Barton

Lou Fellingham in Concert at the Apex
November 9th @ 7 30 pm
In aid of Chaplains in the Workplace

Garth Hewitt in Concert at Halstead Baptist Church
Hedingham Road, Halstead
Saturday November 19th



Communications - Guidance for articles For Connect

If possible please include items by email between 250 - 400 words **or less.** We would particularly welcome short, personal 'Good News' stories which may help others in their faith journey.

Copy deadline for next CONNECT articles- Monday 21st November.



Celebrate
Harvest