

FROM THE EDITOR



Welcome to the July & August Church Magazine.

I cannot believe how fast this year is flying by! We have now passed the longest day of the year. As I write this page, weather forecasters are forecasting a heatwave with temperatures in the 30s and the grass on our front lawn is dying and brown... brings back memories of the long hot summer of 1976! Let's hope the good weather continues.

Many people in our fellowship will be going away on holiday over the next few weeks and we wish everyone a very special, relaxing break with time to recharge ready for the autumn. We pray for all the summer holiday activities that will be taking place across the country. We think especially of all the summer holiday clubs, Christian youth camps, beach missions and holiday services taking place round the country and ask that these events may reach out to non-Christians and be a great blessing to all.

Our front cover has the caption: 'Oh hear us when we cry to thee for those in peril on the sea..' This is a line from the old hymn 'Eternal Father, Strong to Save' - I remember hearing this sung as a child by the Salvation Army band down by the lifeboat station on Scarborough seafront on Sunday evenings. It's a traditional seafarer's hymn and is often used to remember the maritime armed services. Wikipedia says that the original hymn was written in 1860 by William Whiting, an Anglican from Winchester. At the age of 35, Whiting had felt his life spared by God when a violent storm nearly claimed the ship he was travelling on. Apparently as Headmaster of the Winchester College Choristers' School some years later, he was approached by a student about to travel to the United States, who confided in Whiting an overwhelming fear of the ocean voyage. Whiting shared his experiences of the ocean and wrote the hymn to 'anchor his faith'. He is generally thought to have been inspired by Psalm 107, which describes the power and fury of the seas:

'Some went out on the sea in ships;
they were merchants on the mighty waters.
They saw the works of the LORD,
his wonderful deeds in the deep.
For he spoke and stirred up a tempest
that lifted high the waves.
They mounted up to the heavens and went down to the depths;

in their peril their courage melted away....
Then they cried out to the LORD in their trouble,
and he brought them out of their distress.
He stilled the storm to a whisper;
the waves of the sea were hushed.
They were glad when it grew calm,
and he guided them to their desired haven.
Let them give thanks to the LORD for his unfailing love
and his wonderful deeds for mankind.'
Psalm 107: 23-31

This summer let us remember all those who work on the sea, some in the fishing trade, others as coastguards, lifeguards and in the Services. May they feel God's protection. In a wider sense too, let us, as a fellowship, 'give thanks to the Lord for his unfailing love' and thank him for all the wonderful deeds he has done in our lives and the lives of those in our fellowship.

Have a lovely summer!
God bless
Steve

GOD OF THE HOLIDAY

Lord, as we approach summer breaks of various kinds, we pray for ourselves and for our world. We thank you for the luxury of holiday, for refreshment and rest from work.

We pray for those whose lives are made harder and busier by long summer breaks, and we pray for those without the luxury of a holiday. May your peace be made known in their daily life. We think of the damage our travel creates in our world, and we pray for motivation and help in tackling the climate chaos now beginning to engulf the planet. We pray for those whose holiday will be blighted by the anxiety of what awaits their return. We pray for health, for all whose holiday is an escape from over-busy or unfulfilled lives. We pray justice and fairness for those in our world who scratch a living from the tourist industry.

Lord God of Sabbath rest, make yourself known to us afresh, that all our days may become holy days, to the glory of your name.

Amen

Source: Baptists Together 'Prayers and Worship resources'



Happy
Holidays!



HOLIDAYS converted to HOLY DAYS

Have you been working hard? Day in and day out the pressure never seems to end. Well the good news is that it is time for a holiday which is an opportunity to cease from day to day struggles of office life. This may mean that you may have some spare time on hand just to chill out, relax and recharge your batteries.

Being a lover of nature it is good to get outdoors and marvel at the wonders of creation: a scenic seaside resort, resting under the branches of a tree admiring the sunlight through the leaves whilst listening to and identifying the birdsongs. No doubt you may have your own preferred option, as we are all differently and uniquely made.

Ponder this: how did this all come about? As a Christian I believe in a Creator God who creates and holds all things together even down to the very miniscule detail. For those of an Evolutionist tendency there has to be a starting point somewhere, and surely there is no better scientific explanation than a Creator God.

Not only is God ruler of creation, He loves and cares for His Creation and that includes you and me. Sadly man chose to do his own thing and shut out his Creator. There is a way back to the way God intended us to be like and that is through his Son, Jesus Christ, who became like us but without any wrongdoing. Jesus gave His life for us, so that we can inherit all the promises that God originally intended for us. Sadly the Bible states that there is no other way to be restored to God, but I rejoice that God has made this provision so that we fully grasp, know, and appreciate life to its fullest.

As for holidays, this is a time to reflect and rebuild, explore new opportunities or revisit familiar ground. In this may you find God, so that each and every day will become holy days and not just a one off holiday.

Esther 2:18 'And the king gave a great banquet, Esther's banquet, for all his nobles and officials. He proclaimed a **holiday** throughout the provinces and distributed gifts with royal liberality.'

Rupert

Mouse Makes

LOST AND FOUND

Jesus told three stories to help us to understand God's love and forgiveness.

The first is about a missing sheep that the shepherd did not give up looking for.

The second is about a lost coin that the owner kept searching for until it was found.

The third is about a young man who returned home after he realised he had made a mistake by wanting to go his own way.

Read the 'Lost and Found' parables in **Luke 15**

S P E N T E N
S W E E P S F I N
A L O O K E L A M P S
J L O R E P E N T S I H R
O I S E A R C H H O G E I
U V T J E S U S E N S E N
R E F O U N D F R O H P G
N C O I N D E A D R O B E
E A T C H U N G R Y M A N
Y L C E L E B R A T E C P
F O H U N D R E D I K
O N E H E A R A G
N S I N N E R

Can you find the lost COIN, the lost SHEEP and the lost SON in the word search? Can you find these other words from the Lost and Found parables too?

HEAR • JESUS • HUNDRED • LOST • LOOK • FOUND
REJOICE • SINNER • REPENT • TEN • ONE • LAMP • SWEEP • SEARCH
FATHER • JOURNEY • SPENT • HUNGRY • PIGS • BACK • HOME • RAN
ROBE • RING • CALF • EAT • CELEBRATE • DEAD • ALIVE

MELODY IN F LUKE 15: 11-32

Author Unknown

At our Father's Day Service on 17th June we had fun retelling the Parable of the Lost Son. David Martin read a fun version called 'Melody in F' Here it is, included in this month's magazine, for you to enjoy!

Feeling footloose and frisky, a feather-brained fellow forced his father to fork over his farthings. Fast he flew to foreign fields and frittered his family's fortune, feasting fabulously with floozies and faithless friends. Flooded with flattery he financed a fully-fledged fling of fast food.

Fleeced by his fellows in folly, facing famine and feeling faintly fuzzy, he found himself a feed-flinger in a filthy foreign farmyard. Feeling frail and fairly famished, he fain would have filled his frame with foraged food from the fodder fragments.

"Fooey", he figured, "my father's flunkkeys fare far fancier" the frazzled fugitive fumed feverishly, facing the facts. Finally, frustrated from failure and filled with foreboding (but following his feelings) he fled from the filthy foreign farmyard.

Far away, the father focused on the fretful, familiar form in the field and flew to him and fondly flung his forearms around the fatigued fugitive. Falling at his father's feet, the fugitive floundered forlornly:
"Father, I have flunked and fruitlessly forfeited the family favour".
Finally, the father, forbidding and forestalling further flinching, frantically flagged the flunkies to fetch forth the finest fatling and fix a feast.

Faithfully, the father's first born was in a fertile field fixing fences while father and fugitive were feeling festive. The foreman felt fantastic as he flashed the fortunate news of a familiar family face that had forsaken fatal foolishness. Forty-four feet from the farmhouse the first born found a farmhand fixing a fatling.

Frowning and finding fault, he found father and fumed "Floozies and frittered family funds and you fix a feast following the fugitive's folderol?" The first born's fury flashed but fussing was futile. The frugal first-born

felt it was fitting to feel “favoured” for his faithfulness and fidelity to family, father and farm. In foolhardy fashion he faulted the father for failing to furnish a fatling and feast for his friends. His folly was not in feeling fit for fatling and feast for friends, rather his flaw was in his feeling about the fairness of the festival for the found fugitive.

His fundamental fallacy was a fixation on favouritism, not forgiveness. Any focus on feeling “favoured” will fester and friction will force the frayed façade to fall. Frankly the father felt the frigid first-born’s frugality of forgiveness was formidable and frightful. But the father’s former faithful fortitude and fearless forbearance to forgive both first-born and fugitive flourishes.

The far-sighted father figured: Such fidelity is fine, but what forbids fervent festivity for the fugitive that is found? Unfurl the flags and finery, let fun and frolic freely flow. Former failure is forgotten, folly is forsaken. Forgiveness forms the foundation for future fortune.

Four facets of the father’s fathomless fondness for faltering fugitives are: forgiveness, forever faithful friendship, fadeless love and finally, a facility for forgetting flaws..... Fank you.

PRAYER TO OUR UNCHANGING FATHER GOD

Gracious Father,
You created us. You know us through and through and still you love us. Because of Jesus’ death and resurrection, you accept us and call us your children when we put our trust in Him. In this world of change and uncertainty you are our still point. You know our names, you provide for us and have good plans for us. We are completely safe and secure in you. How wonderful that is! Thank you loving Father.
In Jesus name, Amen.

By Daphne Kitching

NEWS FROM THE FELLOWSHIP



B.M.S. BIRTHDAY SCHEME

(Sec. Ruth Stocks)

Birthday Greetings and a Happy Birthday
to these friends who have a birthday in July and August

5 th July	Jean Nahnybiduik	8 th July	Hugh Brenton
9 th July	Judith Darling	29 th July	Geoff Clubbe
1 st August	Sophie West	6 th August	Michael Kennelly
11 th August	Fred Rix	19 th August	Bella Saltmarsh
22 nd August	Steve West	30 th August	Mark Jackson

FAMILY NEWS

Prayers for those bereaved

We pray for **Jean Porter**, wife of Colin Porter, and the Porter family. Colin died in May. Some of you will remember Colin well. He was a deacon and organist at Park Road for many years. Margaret Jackson has contributed an article on Colin – see page 14. We pray that Jean and the family will find peace in the loving arms of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

Prayers for those unwell

We pray for **Geoff Clubbe**. Geoff has had pneumonia and remains quite poorly in hospital. At the time of writing the magazine, Geoff is still in hospital. Geoff and Sheila are both so grateful for the wonderful way in which they are being upheld and supported in prayer. We continue to pray for Geoff and Sheila – that they might feel God's strength day by day.

We pray for **Joan and Derek Mansfield**. Joan has broken a bone in her shoulder and has been in a lot of pain.

We pray for **David Hinks**. David has been having radiotherapy for prostate cancer. Please pray for David as he makes daily trips to Peterborough Hospital during the week for treatment. David shares that he has become very aware of the Prostate Cancer charity. Readers might like to go to <https://www.prostatecanceruk.org/> and learn more about this very worthwhile charity.



David Martin has now got an appointment at Papworth Hospital on the 9th July. We continue to hold David and Sheila in our prayers, as he has these hospital appointments and tests. We particularly pray for David's weight loss as he has lost so much weight recently.

We continue to remember **Tony Bass**, recovering from hip surgery and his recent heart attack.

We pray for **Gwendoline Beatty**, who is suffering from glandular fever. Gwen is beginning to feel stronger and have more energy but it is a long process to full recovery.

We continue to pray for **Norris and Gwyneth Twaite**.

We pray for **Sophie West**. She had an eye operation at the end of June to correct a squint. Sophie has been advised to take two weeks off from school to recover and we pray that she will not get too behind with all her coursework.

May all those unwell in our fellowship feel the Lord's strength day by day.

Examinations

We pray for **Alice Williams**. She has her nursing finals on Thursday 19th July. Alice says that she is very nervous as she hasn't sat a three hour exam for a very long time.

Beth Mountain and **Sophie West** have both completed their examinations now. Beth has completed her GCSEs and Sophie has completed AS levels and BTEC exams. We pray that they will both have a relaxing, happy summer break and God will be a presence to them both when they gain their results at the end of August.

Congratulations

Judith Darling's son got married in June. We extend our congratulations to the whole Darling family.

Amy Gardner has finished her degree in Social Work and will be graduating with a 2.1. She will be starting work with Cambridgeshire Social Services as part of the Adult Community Team on 2nd July. Congratulations and we pray for Amy as she starts her new position in July.

Congratulations to **Lily Parker**. Lily graduates in July with a 1st from the London College of Music

Baptism

We had a wonderful evening service on Sunday 24th June and it was a joy to witness **Emily Hickinbotham's** baptism.

We thank God for Emily's testimony and witness for Christ. We ask that God will continue to hold her in the palm of his hand over the coming days and weeks.

During the service Matt Wild shared these verses from 2 Corinthians 5:14-17:

'For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again.

So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer. Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!'

Matt shared the encouraging message that when we accept Jesus into our lives our worth comes from how our Heavenly Father loves and accepts us. Through the death of Jesus we become a new creation for Christ.

Leaving

Fiona Todd (our Parish Nurse) will be finishing with us at the end of August (for family reasons). If anybody feels they would like to contribute to a gift for her, they should give it, by mid-August, to Andrew Macdonald or Pat Woolhouse. We thank God for all that Fiona has contributed to Park Road, for her hard work and dedication. We pray for Fiona as she leaves us and pray for her next steps in life's journey.

Musicians

We give thanks for our musicians, singers and all those who play any part in leading our times of worship.

Fellowship Directory Amendments

The Prayer Line contact person is now Michael Kennelly phone no. 235956 (instead of Brenda White) – please amend the “useful contacts” section of your Fellowship Directory.

New Small Group

We have been asked to arrange a Bible Study ‘Home’ group in Lavender House for one or two residents, and so are starting on July 5th from 2.30 – 3.30 p.m., and then on the first Thursday afternoon each month. If anyone would like to help in leading, or sharing with us, please have a word with one of us, it would be much appreciated.

Bella, Jim and Jill

THE NOYS

(NEWS OF YOUTH STUFF)

July & August 2018

Baptism

Sunday June 24th

- The church family and friends gathered together to witness the baptism of Emily Hickinbotham. It was a lovely afternoon / evening that started off with a buffet, prepared by Miriam.

Then we started the service that was led by Sheila Martin with Emily giving her testimony and a couple of songs.



Then it was with great privilege that Mark Jackson and I were able to baptize Emily. After being dunked Emily was presented with a Youth Bible and given a verse of scripture from Isaiah 49.

'I will not forget you!

See, I have engraved you on the palms of my hands;
your walls are ever before me.'

Isaiah 49: 15 - 16



Afterwards everyone moved upstairs to continue the service where people were encouraged to write encouraging words and scripture for Emily. Matt Wild from CROPS gave the message.

It was also nice to be joined by the Young people from Bourne Baptist Church. Our young people went to Soul Survivor with them and have formed a great friendship with them. It was at Soul Survivor that Emily was really impacted by God.

I would also like to thank Tim Edworthy and his church, Well Street United Church, Buckingham, for lending us the portable Baptistery.

School

The end is approaching for schools. Some of our young people have been really busy with exams. Beth Mountain and Sophie West have been incredibly busy and stressed as they have put in countless hours of revision for GCSE and 'AS' level exams.

All Saints' Primary School

At All Saints' Church of England Primary School (the school I go into on Tuesdays), we have been looking at Matthew 5 and the Beatitudes. The ministry group have been making a display on this theme which is by the entrance of the school.

Sunday Evening service with a difference

On Sunday evening, June 3rd, we had a slightly different evening service than normal. The theme was 'Waking with God' and focusing on how Adam and Eve were in Eden walking with God. We had 5 different stations / activities that represented the 5 different senses and people were encouraged to walk around to these different stations and reflect using a particular sense. With 'seeing' we had a DVD that led us in worship using visuals, with 'hearing' (Listening) we sat in silence listening to God, with 'touching' we made out of play dough something symbolic to represent what God has done in our lives, 'tasting' led people to eat fruit and Ice cream and reflect on God's goodness and blessings. Finally 'smell', people sprayed air freshener as they prayed for the lost and their community. It certainly was an evening with a difference.

Jonathan Greenwood

COLIN PORTER - MEMORIES

Colin died very peacefully on Monday 28th May after many months of ill health and for those of us who knew him, we hold many special memories.

Colin came to Park Road as a 'stand in' organist after our previous organist had died. This was during the late George Balmer's ministry. He was soon in demand to see if he could play more regularly for us. Colin very quickly endeared himself to us all and it was a delight when he moved to Peterborough and joined the membership at Park Road. He was always sensitive to the preaching theme, reflecting the theme in the music he played as interludes and at the conclusion of the service. His playing of 'O Lord my God' is legendary and no one could fail to be moved as birds flew out of the organ in the 2nd verse!

Not only was Colin a brilliant musician on organ and piano, he contributed to the Fellowship in many other ways too, as a Deacon; Chairman of the Music ministry, Home Group leader and in pastoral ways. People were encouraged by Colin to express their gifts of music through singing and playing instruments and he created a singing group called "Gospel sounds".

Everything Colin did was well prepared and thought through to the smallest detail. 'Sankey' and 'Kendrick' Sunday evenings were a delight – again with huge preparation, organising programmes etc. Once he did a marathon organ play, playing right through the hymnbook!

When we bought 'Baptist Praise and Worship', Colin, together with George, searched through the new book and discovered some of the favourites from the old book were not included. To ensure we did not miss out on these, Colin compiled a new hymnbook 'Park Road Praise' as a supplement to BPW, together with some hymns from Mission Praise.

The partnership of Colin with George was very strong and both supported each other in many ways and it was no surprise that George had requested Colin to play at his funeral and Thanksgiving services.

We give thanks to God for the way Colin added so much to the life of the Park Road Fellowship and shared so much of his love of the Lord with us. We lovingly remember his wife, Jean, children and the wider family in our thoughts and prayers.

Margaret Jackson

HEALTH AND SAFETY

Gwendoline Beatty

Please, please take notes and observe

1. The in and out sheet **MUST** be filled in during the week. This is most important, because if we must evacuate the building, the fire brigade need to have the exact number of people who were in the building.
2. Please check if you are the last to leave the building, that there is no one left in the building. There have been times that I have been locked in! I have a key- but please be thoughtful just in case you do lock someone in.
3. Also, I am still noticing that the straps are not being fixed across the tables. This is important as we have small children in the building. So even if there is one table the straps must be fixed in place.
4. There have been times on entering the building where lights have been left on and doors left open. Please check as it is a fire risk to leave doors open and expensive leaving lights on.
5. Please note, when the front doors are open, there must be someone in the vestibule.
6. Please do **NOT** leave flower vases in the kitchen, they belong in the flower room.

Many thanks for your help.

Gwendoline

CHURCH DIARY DATES JULY & AUGUST 2018

JULY 2018			
DATE	TIME	ACTIVITY	LOCATION
Sun 1st	10.00am 6.30pm	Morning Communion Evening Worship	Church Hall
Mon 2 nd	12.15pm 7.30pm	FoodCycle – lunch club Julian Prayer Group	Hall Sparklers Rm
Tues 3 rd	2.30pm	Tuesday Fellowship	Hall
Wed 4 th	7.30pm	Prayer meeting	Barrass Rm
Thur 5 th	6.30pm 7.30pm	Fizz Kids Club Leadership Team Meeting	Hall
Fri 6 th	10.00am	Toddlers & co	Hall
Sun 8th	10.00am 3.30pm 6.30pm	All Age Service Florence House Service Evening Worship	Church Flo. House Hall
Mon 9 th	12.15pm	FoodCycle – lunch club	Hall
Thur 12 th	10:30am 6.30pm	Lunch Club Fizz Kids Club	Hall Hall
Fri 13 th	10:00am 7.00pm	Toddlers & co Peterborough Street Pastors 10 th Anniversary Service	Hall St Mary's Church
Sat 14 th	7.00pm	CROPS	Church and Hall
Sun 15 th	10.00am 6.30pm	Morning Worship Evening Communion	Church Hall
Mon 16 th	12.15pm	FoodCycle – lunch club	Hall
Wed 18 th	7:30pm	Church Member's Meeting	Hall
Thur 19 th	6.30pm	Fizz Kids Club	Hall
Fri 20 th	10:00am	Toddlers & co	Hall

DATE	TIME	ACTIVITY	LOCATION
Sun 22nd	10.00am 6.30pm	Morning Worship Evening Worship	Church Hall
Mon 23 rd	12.15pm	FoodCycle – lunch club	Hall
Sun 29th	10.00am 6.30pm	Morning Worship Evening Worship	Church Hall
Mon 30 th	12.15pm	FoodCycle – lunch club	Hall

AUGUST 2018

DATE	TIME	ACTIVITY	LOCATION
Wed 1 st	7.30pm	Prayer meeting	Barrass Rm
Sun 5th	10.00am 6.30pm	Morning Communion Evening Worship	Church Hall
Mon 6 th	12.15pm 7.30pm	FoodCycle – lunch club Julian Prayer Group	Hall Sparklers Rm
Tues 7 th	2.30pm	Tuesday Fellowship	Hall
Thur 9 th	10:30am	Lunch Club	Hall
Sun 12th	10.00am 3.30pm 6.30pm	All Age Service Florence House Service Evening Worship	Church Flo. House Hall
Mon 13 th	12.15pm	FoodCycle – lunch club	Hall
Sun 19 th	10.00am 6.30pm	Morning Worship Evening Communion	Church Hall
Mon 20 th	12.15pm	FoodCycle – lunch club	Hall
Sun 26th	10.00am 6.30pm	Morning Worship Evening Worship	Church Hall
Mon 27 th	12.15pm	FoodCycle – lunch club	Hall

THOUGHT FOR JULY & AUGUST Gwendoline Beatty

How committed are you?

When we look back at certain points in history there have been people who have been passionate about a cause. In some cases, these were good and beneficial, others not so. Take for example “The Suffragettes”, it was because they stood up and said that they were no longer going to be pushed around. I can’t say I agreed with some of their methods. They were treated appallingly, and one lady lost her life, after throwing herself in front of the king’s horse.

Another commitment is to work, partly as we normally sign a contract. If we break that contract, we lose our job.

So, how committed are we to God, Jesus, the church and the world? Being a Christian is not just a Sunday event. We should be reflecting Jesus where ever we go each week. It should be in our speech and body language.

How committed are you to roles within the church?

The following are quotes taken from my NIV Study Bible.

“Commitment”

1. Commitment to God arises from faith in his promises, is expressed in worship and adoration, and leads to obedience to his commands.
2. Commitment to Jesus, is grounded in the knowledge of his saving power and divinity, again it leads to adoration and obedience.
3. Commitment to God means a commitment to his people. Believers are meant to be nourished and supported by the church and towards its edification.
4. Commitment to the world, we are called to be in the world, but not of it.

Be careful with the last comment, we don’t want to take part in what the world can offer, we also don’t want to become a ‘holy huddle’.

Gwendoline

Currently, over one hundred parish nurses working with churches of all denominations serve rural, suburban and city communities right across the UK from Scotland to Cornwall and Northern Ireland to Essex. Parish Nursing Ministries UK (PNMUK) is a Peterborough based charity that provides training and professional development for parish nurses, works closely with professional nursing authorities, e.g. The Nursing and Midwifery Council, to ensure best practice. Another important role is to communicate the vision for Parish Nursing to church leaders, the medical profession and the nursing community at large through meetings and publications.

In the current secular health environment the idea of a church based parish nurse often takes a long time to germinate but following the support given by a parish nurse in the North West of England to patients following discharge from hospital, the associated NHS trust is seeking to engage several more. This recognition of the contribution that parish nurses can make to the NHS, particularly in a time of acute shortages, provides opportunities for the ministry to grow and the vision is to have 200 Parish Nurses by 2020.

To date, PNMUK has relied heavily on grant funding and, whilst this has allowed the work to grow slowly, additional resources are needed to respond to the growing interest. The idea of the 900 mile cycle ride across western France was prompted by the celebrations for the 900th anniversary of Peterborough Cathedral and the discovery that in the early days there was a health ministry exercised via an infirmary in what is now Becket's tea room.

We had frequently cycled in France when on holiday but our experience was limited to day trips of 40-50 miles so we reasoned that, if we broke the journey down into small chunks and took Sundays off, it should be doable. On this basis the planning began in earnest, booking the outward train journeys, finding as much information as we could about the route and buying the necessary equipment, e.g. a trailer to carry the camping stuff.

Finally, we set off from Peterborough station on the morning of 26 April, travelled by Eurostar to Paris and then TGV to Hendaye on the Spanish border, arriving at about 10:30 p.m. After a good night's sleep and a hearty breakfast we put the bikes back together and set off North. Most nights we camped and occasionally, e.g. if it was raining, we stayed in B&Bs. For the first three weeks we met no English people and conversation was all in French which occasionally was quite a challenge, e.g. trying to explain that the bike pedal bearings had worn out! The scenery along the route varied widely; the sandy Atlantic coast, forest and woodland trails with lovely wild flowers, marshland inhabited by wetland birds, pretty towns, canal and riverside paths and a disused railway track. Local people were incredibly friendly, hospitable and fascinated by the idea of two ancient Brits on this long journey. Many people will have seen notes of our daily exploits on the blog and we will in due course try to publish an expanded version as a booklet. In summary, the journey was in many ways like a pilgrimage; allowing time to delight in the countryside, talk together and reflect about God's amazing provision in our lives and where he might be leading us. We finally arrived at the port of Roscoff on 25 May having journeyed just over 1000 miles.

The main purpose of this note is to express our grateful thanks to our friends at Park Road for their support, encouragement and generous giving to PNMUK. Almost £3500 has been raised to date.

Robert and Helen Wordsworth

If you want to read more then go to:

<https://randhcyclefrance.wordpress.com/> and also take a look in the Baptist Times (there is a feature on Robert and Helen!) https://www.baptist.org.uk/Articles/524997/Helen_and_Rob.aspx

ALL AGE WORSHIP JUNE 2018

Miriam West

Jesus looked at them and said,

"With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."

Matthew 19:26

The reading for the All Age Service in June was from John 6 verses 60 to 71. This was a difficult passage - people were finding following Jesus too difficult and were leaving Jesus, deciding to go away.

Jesus asked Peter, 'Are you leaving?'

Peter replied, 'To who shall we go, you have the words of eternal life.'

We looked at some people from the Old Testament, who faced a difficult time, but God was with them at that time.

Nowhere to turn to!

Exodus 14

God had chosen Moses to lead the Israelites out of slavery in Egypt into the land of Canaan. The Egyptian Pharaoh agreed to let them go, and they travelled and camped by the Red sea. Then Pharaoh changed his mind and pursued the Israelites with chariots. Then the Israelites saw that the Egyptian army were afraid, but the pillar of fire and the cloud separated the Israelites and the Egyptians. The Israelites were stuck with the sea in front and the Egyptians behind - nowhere to turn to!

But God has a plan...

At God's command, Moses held his staff out over the water, and throughout the night a strong east wind divided the sea and the Israelites passed through with a wall of water on either side. The Egyptians pursued, but, at daybreak, God clogged their chariot wheels and threw them into a panic, and with the return of the water the Pharaoh and his entire army were destroyed.

Maybe you feel there's nowhere to go! God is there and there will be a way through, trust Jesus. The people of Israel had to wait overnight before God answered.

You may need to wait, but God will answer your prayers

.... with God all things are possible

At your wits end

2 Kings 4:1-7

There was a widow who had a problem, she was at her wits end. Her husband, who was a man of God, had died leaving a debt, which she couldn't pay. As a result, the creditor was coming to take her sons as slaves to clear the debt.

She went to God's prophet Elisha and asked for help. All she had left was a jar of oil, Elisha told her to borrow as many empty jars as she could and pour the oil into the containers. The woman believed what he said, went home, and she filled many jars with oil. She was able to sell the oil, clear her debts and have money left to live on.

God provided for her needs, God can provide for you when you are at your wits end.

Trust in God, the answer may be something you already have,

.....with God all things are possible

The problem is too big

1 Samuel 17

King Saul and the Israelites faced the Philistines in the Valley of Elah. Goliath, the champion of the Philistines, was over 9 foot tall! (a big problem!) Twice a day for 40 days, morning and evening, he challenged the Israelites to send out a champion of their own to fight him.

The shepherd boy David heard the challenge from the Giant. He heard how Goliath has defied the armies of God, David took up the challenge, taking only his staff, sling and five stones from a brook.

David and Goliath confronted each other, Goliath with his armour and javelin, David with his staff and sling. Goliath cursed David, but David replied: "God saves not with sword and spear; for the battle is God's, and he will give you into our hand."

David hurled a stone from his sling and hit Goliath in the centre of his forehead, Goliath fell on his face to the ground, and David cut off his head. The Philistines fled and were pursued by the Israelites and destroyed.

David took five stones, God only needed ONE.

God can do more than we expect, Trust Him

.... with God all things are possible

Face the challenge

Esther

Esther (a Jew) became the queen to Ahasuerus of Persia. She was personally chosen by the King. Later Mordecai (Esther's guardian) refused to bow down and pay homage to Haman a high official of the king.

Haman became infuriated and plotted to destroy all the Jews in the kingdom because of his pride.

Mordecai heard of the plot and reported it to Esther. "For if you remain silent at this time, relief and deliverance will arise for the Jews from another place and you and your father's house will perish. And who knows whether you have not attained royalty for such a time as this?" (4:14).

Esther bravely faced the difficulty and went to the King, even though this meant he could have her killed! The King accepted Esther – she then outwitted Haman and took her petition to the king and pleas for the protection of her Jewish people from Haman's wicked plan.

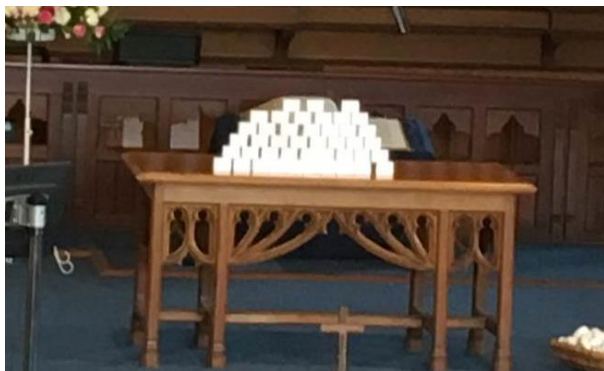
The king, out of anger, has Haman hung on the gallows, which he had built to destroy all the Jews.

Esther's faith and courage saves her people. Sometimes we need to bravely face a difficult situation, trusting in God's will

...with God all things are possible

Prayer Wall

During the service we all were given a small cardboard box. On the box we wrote something we find difficult or a difficult situation we may be facing or someone we know may be facing. We encouraged the children to think of something they find scary and write that on a box.



We built these boxes up into a wall, as difficulties can appear to be like a brick wall in our lives.

We prayed for the situations mentioned on the boxes, and to show the power of prayer, we let the children loose with inflatable hammers, they soon destroyed the wall (and had great fun in the process).

We must remember that following Jesus is not always easy, but God has promised to be with us and

...with God all things are possible

Miriam

A HISTORY OF PARK ROAD (9)

Michael Kennelly

‘The People of the Book’

Revd. George Balmer (1988 – 1996)

Revd. James Bloice-Smith (1992 – 1996)

Shortly after the move to worship upstairs, the church called the Revd. George Balmer (of Orpington) to the pastorate. George was an inspirational preacher, whose sermons were Biblically based and always well structured, with the main points published in the prayer focus each week. He encouraged Bible study and believed that each member of the congregation should know and live out the Scriptures. He was a great believer in pastoral care and was very organised in his approach as he was careful not to miss anybody. When the writer was in hospital in Cambridge, George visited twice. In all of this he was ably supported by his wife, Hanny, who was P/A. to Revd. Jim Findlay of the Leprosy Mission which moved its headquarters to Peterborough at this time.

George believed in having an office at the Church as his base, so that he was available to people. He was often there by 7.00am on Tuesday to Friday. Prayer and preparation was important to him. He realised the need for more structure in the church and developed the organisation of Ministries to enable more people to cover the different needs within the fellowship. During this period there were two church holidays to the Holy Land which proved an enrichment in bringing the

Bible to life. He encouraged coffee after morning services to enable more fellowship with one another. The CAMEO Club (Come and Meet Everybody) for older folk was started. Hanny was part of the team and George always joined in at lunch times, circulating around the tables to converse with the members. A further aspect he supported was the concept of 'all-in giving' which resulted in increased giving and enabled the church to support more outside causes.



The increased congregation led the church to have an assistant-pastor to share in the growing work. From Regent's Park College, Oxford came Revd. James Bloice-Smith (and his family Marion, Daniel and Naomi). We have fond memories of 'double acts' in the service; strange gifts (such as 'belly-button warmers') at Christmas; and of Marion's contribution to drama. Marion was also instrumental in starting Toddlers & Co. We recall James' gifting for working with those on the fringe, such as 'men of the road', and 'Big James', who benefitted so much from contact with Park Road. When George retired in

1996, and James moved to Headington Church in Oxford in the same year, the Church realised how much it would miss them.

[Photo shows James (top) and George with Margaret Jackson (Administrator)]

Michael

DIARY OF A MOMENTOUS YEAR:

7 JULY 1918:

WHEN FRIENDS COME TO HELP

1918 was the final year of the Great War. This year, Canon David Winter is looking back on highlights of those critical 12 months, when the very shape of modern world history was being hammered out on the battlefields.



THE GREAT WAR
1914 - 1918

It is called 'World War 1' and certainly no previous conflict had spread its ugly fingers so widely. Of course, we tend to think of the Western Front. Our default image of the War is of men in trenches, of mud and blood and soldiers with drawn bayonets going 'over the top'. In fact, the War was being fought on many Fronts: the Eastern Front (Germany/Russia, about to end with the new Russian regime); the Ottoman Front, in the Middle East; the Italian Front (Italy and France against the 'Central Powers'). Then there was the Ocean Front (U-boats against Allied shipping), the only one where the Germans were winning.

Not surprisingly, in view of all that, the War became one of resources, human, military and economic; and by 1918 the Allies had a great advantage. Hard-pressed armies were being continuously refreshed by the arrival of well-trained and committed troops from many quarters, notably Canada, Australia and New Zealand, and decisively the United States. These soldiers, and many from other countries in the British Empire, were now being equipped with newly designed, modern equipment. At last the Allies outnumbered the Germans in tanks and aircraft – and the new planes were faster, better equipped and armed.

All of this was, of course, evident to the German High Command, and persuaded them to launch in July 1918 what one historian, Gary Sheffield, has described as perhaps the defining battle of the War, the second Battle of the Marne. It was a desperate attempt to inflict a heavy defeat on the Allies – not in the vain hope of winning the War, but of getting a better bargaining position in the peace negotiations that everyone expected. Launched on July 15th, it succeeded in driving the Allies back across the Marne. But they had been prepared for it, and three days later launched a massive counter-attack. Two French divisions captured 15,000 men and 500 tanks in a single morning, and then went on to drive the Germans back across the Marne. From now on the Allies knew they could win the War, and the Germans finally accepted that they could not.

Editor: The Rev Paul Hardingham considers the problem of plastic from a Christian point of view.

The recent Blue Planet II series exposed just how much plastic waste is an issue in our seas. The Prime Minister has called plastic waste *'one of the great environmental scourges of our time.'* The best estimates suggest 10 million tonnes of plastic ends up in our oceans, contaminating and killing sea life. How should we view this issue from a Christian perspective?

When God created the universe, He saw *'everything He had made, and indeed, it was very good.'* (Genesis 1:31). He calls us to share in His care of creation: *'Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves on the ground.'* (Genesis 1:28). Our rule over living creatures is not an excuse to exploit them in a selfish way. As those who made in the image of God, we are entrusted to care for them with responsibility and trustworthiness.

Why do the sea creatures being killed by plastic matter? Because of human rebellion against God (see Genesis 3), our relationship with God and His creation was damaged. No longer do we live with living creatures in harmony and interdependence. Yet after the flood, when Noah rescued the animals in the ark, they are included in God's everlasting promise to protect the earth: *'I now establish my covenant with you and with your descendants after you, and with every living creature that was with you.'* (Genesis 9:9,10). This also points to God's cosmic plan to restore all creation to Himself.

What is our response to be? Where is God calling us, as His people in this time and place, to make a stand in protecting His creation? Time for a plastic revolution?

Paul Hardingham

WHAT'S ON

TUESDAY FELLOWSHIP

Pam Brenton

The Tuesday Fellowship meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month and the programme of speakers is as follows:

3 rd July	Cheryl Matthews (from Oundle Road Baptist Church)
7 th August	Marion Betts (from St Mary's Church)
4 th Sept.	Rosie Sandall (from the Chernobyl Children's Appeal)

The meetings commence at 2.30pm in the Main Hall. Anyone who would like to join us will be very welcome.



**Thursday Club –
12th July 2018 and
9th August 2018**

10.30 a.m. - 2.30 p.m.

Tickets priced £5, for a two course lunch, available from
Andrew and Yvonne Giles

PETERBOROUGH ECO-FAITH NETWORK SUMMER PROGRAMME

An open invitation is given to this meeting.

**Tuesday, 10 July, at 7.30 in the Friends' Meeting House
When is Peterborough going really green?**

A follow-up discussion with 2 - 4 discussants from the Council etc.
An opportunity to inject some ideas and questions.

Further information: paul.h.ballard@virginmedia.com



**Peterborough Street Pastors
10th Anniversary Celebration
13th July 2018
at 7 p.m.**

St Mary's Church, New Road, Peterborough

Speaker: Revd Tim Edworthy

PETERBOROUGH CATHEDRAL EVENTS

Peterborough Scribes Exhibition – ‘Another Word in Your Eye’ Exhibition Room at the Cathedral Visitor Centre

Monday 2nd July - Wednesday 26th September 2018 –

10.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m. (Monday to Saturday)

11.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m. (Sunday)

An exhibition of contemporary calligraphy by Peterborough Scribes – a calligraphy group now in its 29th year which includes professional and amateur calligraphers who meet monthly to share ideas.

‘Much Ado About Nothing’

Peterborough Cathedral

Wednesday 11 July 2018 - 19:30

Following their sold-out performances of Henry V and Richard III in 2017, award-winning theatre company Antic Disposition return to Peterborough Cathedral with a new production of one of Shakespeare’s best-loved comedies.

Tickets: £20 to £35 (Under 26s £10 off) from **www.much-ado.co.uk** (no booking fee) or 0333 666 3366 (£1.50 booking fee applies).

Tim Peake's Spacecraft

Peterborough Cathedral

Saturday 11 August - Monday 05 November 2018 - 09:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. each day

Tim Peake’s Spacecraft, presented by Samsung and the Science Museum Group, will be on exhibition in the Cathedral as part of its nationwide tour.

YOU'RE THE GOD OF THIS CITY

Steve West

Last month I shared the lyrics of the song 'You're The God Of This City' as part of my reflection on the Baptist Assembly in May. Unfortunately I mistakenly suggested that Chris Tomlin wrote the song! Well, a big thank you to Nigel Burroughs for correcting things. Nigel has explained to me that Chris Tomlin may sing the song but in fact it was written by a young Northern Irish band called Bluetree and the song was written about the city of Pattaya in Thailand.



Aaron Boyd from the band explains about the song in an article in Cross Rhythms and I have included parts of this interview below:

'There's a couple from Carrickfergus, Ian and Leslie, and they moved out to Thailand to a place called Pattaya. We got asked to go and be part of an event called Pattaya Praise. Pattaya is a seaside town/resort place, and physically, it looks to be like the darkest place you'll ever go to. And spiritually, it is THE darkest place we have ever been to. You just feel the evil. You just feel the enemy all over that place. It's a very small place; in Northern Ireland we have a coastal town called Bangor and it's very much like that. But in that small area there are 30,000 prostitutes and that figure excludes kids and excludes anything that's outside of the range of, say 18-30, and who are

female... 90 or 95 percent of Thailand's income comes from the sex industry.'

Aaron continues, "But we got the chance to play in this bar, a two-hour worship set in this bar. I don't think the people in the bar spoke a word of English but we basically got to go in. The deal was that we play and we bring a following of people with us; so we're there, set up, really good gear! Amazing drums, the biggest drum kit you've ever seen in your life... So we all set up and there was like 20 Christians all standing in front of us, and the deal was we play, they buy lots of drinks, alright? I don't think the place has ever sold so much Coke in its whole life in one night!"

He laughs and describes the scene, "So all the Christians are all sugared off their heads on Coke, that's Coca-Cola by that way! The drink! And we got to play for two hours. And just the way the band set up, we like using loops, and at one point I just started singing out. I started singing "Greater Things", something along those lines, almost prophesying over the city. And without going into the band dynamics, slowly this groove emerged from this thing. And long story short; we walked out of that Climax Bar with pretty much a nailed song, as strange as that sounds. Then we were on the way home... It was like, 'What actually just happened in that time?!' It was one of the most powerful worship experiences we've ever had... It was one of the most random experiences but it was a God thing, God was there."

So that is how the song 'Greater Things/ God Of This City' came about. A really inspirational story! A big thank you to Nigel for all his research.

Steve

Interviews and songs are also found on You Tube:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kXh_tqjnYJw

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HgQccYki-9Y>