



# Holy Trinity Church, Old Hill Magazine

Harvest 2012, Issue 39

7th October 2012

## A HARVEST MESSAGE

HARVEST. What a wonderful time of year; the autumn sun, leaves beginning to change colour, birds migrating to warmer climes. Every year we as a church fellowship bring food to church and sing beautiful Harvest hymns thanking God for His provision. Yet, I have become distinctly aware that families are finding it ever increasingly more difficult to make ends meet. God is interested in those who are hurting, hungry and in crisis. If God is, should we be the same?

I believe God instituted the principle of giving to those who are in need within our communities. Just take time to read the story of Ruth. (Ruth 1-4) It highlights how Ruth, a then refugee of her time, had no means of buying or earning to buy food for herself and her mother in law, Naomi, yet God had provided a way. Within the law of Moses farmers were not allowed to reap the corners of their grain fields; they were to leave them for the poor, the foreigners, the widows and orphans. (Lev. 19:9, 10; 23:22; Deut. 24:19). Almost any way you look at it, Naomi and Ruth were qualified.

You may be aware that over the last few months I've been volunteering at the Black Country Foodbank. The Storehouse is based in Little Cornbow, next to Zion Christian Centre. It began operating in 2006 when its founder, Wendy Fryatt began supplying food to needy families in the Stourbridge area. It has grown to cover the whole of the Black Country area. It acts on a local level to help vulnerable families in crisis by providing three days of emergency food supplies, while a longer term solution is developed.

The Foodbank issues vouchers to local organisations for example; CAB, Jobcentres, Church-

es, Children's Centres that encounter people in hardship. They act as referral partners and give the vouchers to people whom they consider need food. The people then go to one of the local distribution points where they exchange their voucher for food. At the distribution centre the individual or family is offered a drink and a chat with the project

team. They may also be offered help in finding other professionals who can assist them out of their crisis by directing them towards debt counselors, advocacy or appropriate agencies.

Food is given to the Foodbank through individual donations, collections by volunteers at supermarkets, regular and harvest collections from churches and schools as well as surplus food direct from food producers.

Sadly, the foodbank is experiencing a rapid growth in demand for their help and 2012 looks set to be another record year. In 2011 the foodbank provided food supplies to 6915 people, an increase of 24% on 2010.

So next time you go shopping and you're swayed by the supermarket to purchase a BOGOF item why not donate one of them to the foodbank. I hope to

provide a labelled box at the back of church where you can drop off your item. If you want to know more just ask me around church or log onto the website where you'll get more up to date information. ([www.blackcountryfoodbank.org.uk](http://www.blackcountryfoodbank.org.uk))



(Continued on page 2)

## From the editor

After spending three weeks away over the summer, it was good to get home. I had a great time on my travels, but spending so much time away from friends and family, no matter how wonderful the destination, meant I did spend some time considering what I missed about home.

I realised one of the main things I loved was our wonderful, unpredictable British weather. I'm a great believer that it's easier to make yourself warmer than it is to make yourself feel cooler. And maybe it's because of this that I really enjoy the changing seasons.



I don't mind the darker mornings and evenings. I look forward to coming home to a warm house. We tend to eat fewer salads and cold food in autumn and more stews. And after the chores of the day are done, what better than snuggling up on the sofa watching tv, reading or crafting.

Maybe it's because I work in academia, but autumn time to me represents the start of a new year. Out come the pristine new academic diaries, we say goodbye to our graduating students as they are photographed in their caps and gowns next to proud family members, we welcome new students and look forward to a fresh start.

As a Christian, the concept of a new start is very

important. Over the last couple of weeks I have been reading Psalm 51 every day. This speaks of new starts using such terms (in the NIV) as blot out, wash away, cleanse, restore me and deliver me. And when I am renewed, the Lord promises he "will let me hear joy and gladness" and "hide his face from my sins".

What a blessing to know how much I am loved. So much so that forgiveness is always there for me if I want to make a new start.

There is something else I have got from reading this psalm. I agree that memory verses are a great tool when studying God's word, but if I'm honest I'm rubbish at remembering them!

But in this passage there are two verses I can remember easily! And that's because they are used in our liturgy.

- Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.
- Open my lips, Lord, and my mouth will declare your praise.

How wonderful it is to praise the Lord for the new start he offers through the gift of his precious son.

Rachel Ford

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Remember God loves a joyful giver or as the hymn writer puts it:



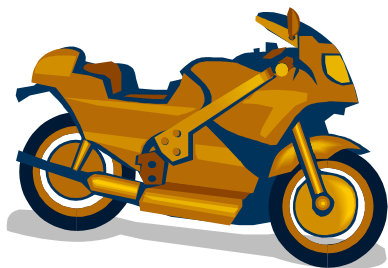
Come, you thankful people come, ...  
God our Maker does provide  
for our wants to be supplied;  
come to God's own temple, come,  
raise the song of harvest home.

This year, why not come to church for Harvest, give thanks that God has provided for you and donate one item of food, for someone who is not as fortunate.

Irene Portman

# Len's Life

I ended the last part of my story having taken over the butcher's rounds, not because I claimed to be a good butcher, but because I enjoyed driving, which, even with my disability, I could do as well as anybody else. I also



enjoyed the freedom away from the shop. You see, I didn't really like being a butcher, but life hadn't prepared me for anything else. However, I

was good at scrubbing benches and cleaning windows, so all was not lost.

At this time I was, as I later found out, suffering from recurring clinical depression. This was to follow me all of my life. It was so bad, that on two occasions I took the van out late at night with the intention of putting myself out of my misery, but something always stopped me going through with it.

I didn't have many real friends except another butcher. More recently he suffered from Multiple Sclerosis although he was not diagnosed until much later in his life and sadly it was from this that he died just a few years ago.

When he was in hospital, I always had the use of whatever car he owned at that time. It was with him that I spent so much time in my early working life. He was always buying a new car or motorbike and we had a lot of fun, especially on his Triumph Thunderbird. Once we had at 100 mph on the Thanet way and to cap it all, this was with no hands on the handlebars! You can probably guess what happened next! Yes, we came off at the next roundabout but fortunately all that happened was that I tore my trousers. The story my parents were told to explain the ripped clothing was that this had happened as I got onto the machine.

Anyway, this was also the first period in my life when I started drinking heavily. I never liked alcohol; as I had tried it at 14 years of age at my half brother's wedding and to me it tasted foul. However, I must have followed my father as I can remember well the times he came home drunk. On two occasions my mother left with my brother and myself, but always returned home eventually.

Bill, my mate had become engaged to be married but this did not happen. We used to go to Chatham Town Hall on Saturday nights and Bill was a good dancer, I was as hopeless at dancing as I was at most other things but enjoyed the music. Anyway, we went out as usual on the Saturday night as Bill wanted to drown his sorrows and being the good mate that I was, I joined him.

That night, the dance was run and the bar staffed by members of the local Constabulary. We had the best of service with one barman just refilling our glasses as they became empty. Not a good move as it turned out as I slid down the wall to end up sitting on the floor. We had gone in my car and I was supposed to be driving. But fortunately someone else we both knew was at the dance and he helped Bill get me to the car, not without incident as they dropped me and I bounced all the way down the marble stairs. They took me to Ma West's pie stall and gave me a strong coffee which ended up all over me.



I'll stop here whilst you either have a good laugh ready to continue this saga next time or decide that you want to know me no more!

Every Blessing

Len Hales

# COFFEE TIME WITH DAVE



## Born to be Blessed

As we feel the autumn weather creeping up on us and we try to resist putting the heating on, let me share a few thoughts that hopefully will keep us warm today and into the coming week.

When I was much younger there was a song around called "Born to be wild". I liked the song; it had great energy, but I didn't like the idea of being wild.

As I continue on my pilgrimage and meditate on the bible I believe that, as Christians, we are born to be blessed, both us and those we love.



After our second birth conversion or Damascus Road experience, the blessings should flow.

In Matthew's gospel, chapter 5 we see Jesus teaching his disciples. We have a window through which we can see the Master talking to his friends. And is he saying "Guys, you have picked a loser in me, your lives will be sad and miserable now"? On the contrary, in the first eleven verses, Jesus tells them nine times that they will be blessed. He even tells

them to rejoice (verse 12) when things are not good!

In Mark's gospel Jesus encourages people to believe in his good news. He goes on to perform some miracles just to reinforce his good news message. And Luke and John continue the same message throughout their gospels.

Have you ever thought "Where do the blessings come from?" I believe that when we look at God, really seek him out, fall at his feet and surrender all to him, then we have found his nature.

His nature is the same to all of us, and that is to love us and the ones that we love. It is a story that is above all other stories and it knows no end.

The bible states "Test me—and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room for it."

What a message! Amen.

**Dave Portman**



my retirement from being "front man" at the service.

I would like to thank all those associated with the Thursday Midweek Worship for the good wishes card and gift voucher presented to me on

Special thanks to all those who preached, all those who led the service, all the musicians who played and for all those who said grace when we went through to lunch after the service.

Once again thank you very much and God bless you all.

**Brian Billingham**

## DEALING WITH DEBT

The atmosphere in the home can become full of tension with plenty of arguments. There may be many telephone calls a day which never seem to stop asking for payment. No wonder people become depressed and families break up. Debt can be seen as a ready answer to pressing financial need but can quickly become a distressing burden: crushing with seemingly no way out.

When John Kirby saw his own business collapse leaving him with debts of £78,000 he experienced first hand the destructive power of debt as he was harassed by debt collectors. In that mysterious way in which God seems to move John Kirby was asked by a Church Pastor, who was moving into the area, if he could rent John's house. Mortgage payments were way behind so the request was gladly accepted.

In the course of time John was invited to the Pastor's Church and in time baptised, but the stress and worry of debt caused the breakdown of his marriage. He tells of the shame of shopping with his two young daughters every other weekend. In spite of his best efforts to keep a check on prices the bill was unaffordable for him and had to be re-run back through the till. The delayed queue saw it all!

The distress of debt for John is described in

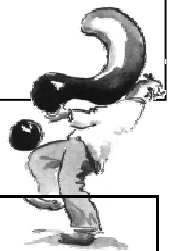
his book, "Nevertheless", in which he tells how his own experience enabled him to start his charity, Christians Against Poverty, CAP. Each year they have the privilege of helping up to 20,000 people who are struggling with debt.



John's work started by undertaking detailed negotiation for debt reduction on behalf of those out of their depth in debt. But another side of CAP's work has been train people as "Money Coaches" equipping them to help people get control of their money before the struggle with debt gets too much.

As a Christian charity, CAP looks for churches where money coaches can be based. At present the nearest centre is in the centre of Birmingham, but there could well be such a centre locally. Volunteers to train as "Money Coaches" to help people draw up their own budgets will be needed. A one day course for volunteers is available.

John Knight



### DATES FOR THE CURRENT ALPHA COURSE ARE ...

Week	Date	Topic	Week	Date	Topic
1	01/10/12	Who is Jesus?	6	05/11/12	How does God guide us?
2	08/10/12	Why did Jesus Die?	7	12/11/12	How can I resist evil?
3	15/10/12	How can I be sure of my faith?	8	19/11/12	Does God heal today?
4	22/10/12	Why and how should I pray?	9	26/11/12	Why and how should we tell others?
5	29/10/12	Why and how should I read the Bible?	10	03/12/12	What about the Church?

**Friday Evening Friday 2nd and Saturday 3rd November 2012 ....The Holy Spirit Weekend**

# BCM – A family affair!



The present day Birmingham City Mission was started by Edwin Orton in 1966. It started with open air meetings delivering the Gospel in the Bull Ring. Many homeless people were attracted to these meeting and soup and blankets were given to them.

It is now headed by Wes Erpen and helps thousands of people each year through the many different things that it does to share the Gospel.

BCM holds a special place in my heart and prayers because it employs some members of my family and I admire the great work it does in serving our Lord Jesus and declaring his Good News both in words and actions.



My Auntie Helen has worked in the charity shop for 3 years. The shop sells furniture, clothing and household items. It also includes a Christian Bookshop upstairs. She enjoys having the opportunity of sharing her faith with the customers that come into

the shop. They also have a prayer board in the shop where people can request prayer and she finds this such a unique and great way of being able to support her customers with their spiritual needs.

You can support the shop through praying for the work that it does and making donations of clothes, household items, Christian books and resources.

My Uncle Chris has worked in the resource centre for 6 years. He loves the job and enjoys being able to help people in need. It puts a smile on his face when he sees the smiles on the faces of those he



helps. He collects and distributes furniture, clothing and bedding to those in need.

You can support the resource centre by donating food, toiletries, unwanted furniture, bedding, kitchen utensils and children's toys. Larger items can also be collected from your home by ringing 0121 643 4324.

My Uncle Rob has worked as finance administrator for 15

years. He enjoys the variety of things he has to do and loves the fact that ultimately what he does helps others. There are many ways you can support the Birmingham City Mission financially. You can for example donate online, gift aid or leave a legacy.



If you want to find out more about Birmingham City Mission, how you can help them, pray for them or if you wish to consider volunteering why not visit their website at [www.birminghamcitymission.co.uk](http://www.birminghamcitymission.co.uk) or attend the Annual Celebration, Saturday 13th Oct, 7 pm at Carrs Lane Church Centre.

**Becky Broughton-Mills**

## Just for laughs

- A friend of mine moved into a new house at the weekend so I took him over a couple of radiators. Just a little house warming present.
- I went to my allotment last week and found someone had covered it with 2 inches of soil. I went again yesterday only to find it covered again with another 2 inches of soil. The plot thickens!!



We are here to take  
the love of Jesus in  
actions and words to  
all people



The church at the heart of the  
community

*We're on the web*  
[www.holytrinity.org.uk](http://www.holytrinity.org.uk)

## MAGAZINE DEADLINES AND PUBLICATION DATES

### **Christmas Edition**

Deadline for copy **2<sup>nd</sup> December 2012**

Publication date **16<sup>th</sup> December 2012**

### **Easter Edition**

Deadline for copy **10<sup>th</sup> March 2013**

Publication date **24<sup>th</sup> March 2013**

### **Summer Edition**

Deadline for copy **7<sup>th</sup> July 2013**

Publication date **21<sup>st</sup> July 2013**

### **Harvest Edition**

Deadline for copy **22<sup>nd</sup> September 2013**

Publication date **6<sup>th</sup> October 2013**

Annual Subscription £2. See Rachel Ford.

For details of Services and Regular Activities  
at Holy Trinity Church, Old Hill,  
see back cover.

## Christians in Sport

What a summer of sport we have just had. Here are some of my highlights and of course, as you would expect, some Christian thoughts.

So, how good were the Olympics? I saw the first week of the games while I was at New Wine and then the second week in Torquay—it was great.

At New Wine there were about 8 televisions in one large venue and it was packed full of people cheering enthusiastically. We had a great time.

To be able to see athletes perform such as Usain Bolt, Mo Farah, Sir Chris Hoy, Andy Murray and many others was a special treat. Arguably though, the best was yet to come—the Paralympics.

These athletes, in my view, took sport to a new level. Seeing a person getting ready for

a swimming race and realising they have one arm and no legs is quite remarkable. I think all the competitors were a total inspiration to those who saw them

With both of these events all the athletes had to be focussed, not just for the time they were competing but during all their training times too.

Likewise, we are called to be focussed (see Hebrews 10, from verse 19 onwards), however the focus in this case is not on what we have done but on the blood of Jesus. As a consequence when we are “washed” by Jesus then we can reach new heights. Praise his wonderful name!

We look at the Olympic and Paralympic athletes and we salute them all but at the same time we give thanks to God and praise him that he has created us all so wonderfully. DP

**Services and Regular Activities**  
**During holiday times, please check with group leaders which**  
**weekday activities are taking place.**

### Sunday Services

#### 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday

10:45 a.m. Family Service  
 6:30 p.m. Evening Prayer

#### 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday

10:45 a.m. Morning Worship\* and Holy Communion  
 6:30 p.m. Evening Prayer

#### 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday

10:45 a.m. Morning Worship\*  
 6:30 p.m. Holy Communion

#### 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday

9:00 a.m. Morning Prayer  
 10:45 a.m. Morning Worship\*  
 6:30 p.m. Hungry for God

#### 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday

10:45 a.m. Morning Worship\*  
 6:30 p.m. Evening Prayer

\*With Junior church, young people's groups and FROG-GIES for pre school children.



#### Tuesday

1:15 – 3:00 p.m. Tots Are Us  
 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. Tuesday Club  
 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. Bell ringing

#### Wednesday

9 - 11:00 a.m. Tots Are Us

#### Thursday

9.00—11.30 a.m. Coffee and Crafts (Addenbrook Court)  
 11:30 a.m. Midweek worship followed by lunch  
 7.15—8.45 p.m. TNT youth group

#### Friday

9 – 11:00 a.m. Tots Are Us

#### Saturday

9:30 – 10:00 a.m. Prayer Meeting

#### Every weekday

8:30 and 11 a.m. Prayer  
 8.30 a.m.– 1 p.m. Open Door

#### Marriage and Baptism enquiries

Tuesday evenings from 7:15-8:30 p.m.

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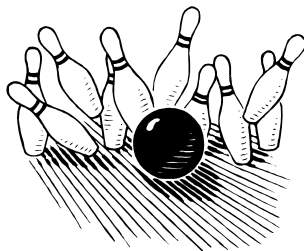
at the lights switch-on? Please see Rachel Ford if you can. At this time of year anything seasonal which is hand-made, knitted or crocheted will raise much-needed funds for our appeal.

## Fundraising and Community Events 2012

Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> October at  
 6 pm

**Skittles evening with  
 Harvest Supper**

Tickets £6



22nd November—

**Christmas event** at St Michael's School, Rowley Regis

Do come along and support this event.

#### Christmas Lights Switch On

PLEASE NOTE THE CHANGE OF DATE

Saturday 3rd December from 4—6pm

Free community event organised with Old Hill Traders

A special note to the **crafters** in our church family. Can you help us by providing craft items to sell on our stalls at St Michael's School and