



# Holy Trinity Church, Old Hill Magazine

Harvest 2011, Issue 35

2nd October 2011

## “Westerners have watches, Africans have time!”

You may well have heard this (often very true!) saying, but more importantly, God, from the realm of eternity, always operates at the RIGHT time....., and the RIGHT place.

This year several of our Mission Partners have experienced God’s “right times” as they have dealt with unexpected changes to their plans.

At the beginning of this year, **Ron and Jeanette Happ** moved from Nepal, where they had been for a number of years, to Vietnam, believing it to be God’s right time and place for them. As the long summer set in, however, they found themselves wondering whether they were going to be able to function there due to the extreme heat and humidity – which persists for many months – an unsettling experience in a completely new culture. So after quite a struggle they returned to the UK to seek medical advice and counsel from Interserve, the Mission Group they partner with.

At such times the questions that come to your mind can be unsettling.... like... Does God make mistakes? NO. Do we always understand how he operates? Again, NO. But there again, can we trust Him? **YES!** So after medical checks established that the problems were related to the climate, and that there was no medical problem per se, followed by further discussion with Interserve Staff, they are returning to Nepal



in late October, to continue serving the God of sometimes-inexplicable timing – but absolutely definite faithfulness. Please pray for them in the coming weeks and months as they re-adjust and seek the right spheres of service, especially for Jeanette. Ron will resume his previous Nurse Tutoring role initially at least.

**Ruth B**, meanwhile, completing the school year at a Christian School in the mountains at the eastern end of “the Med”, also felt that she had reached the end of what she was able to do in that situation, and that God was prompting her to step down from her job there. Again, after prayer and seeking advice from mission staff and others who know the country and its needs, she will be starting a new role in a different and larger Christian school on the edge of the capital, Beirut.

Please pray for her too in this adjustment, that the peace she found on initiating this change in her work and ministry will strengthen and deepen as she “finds her feet” in her new job. Please pray also that those responsible for running the mountain school will be guided to the right person, at the right time, to continue the ministry Ruth was involved in there.

**Tom Adams**, as most of you know already, has completed his time on the high seas with OM’s ship “Logos Hope”, during which, at the RIGHT TIME for them, he and his fiancée Gina were brought together, ready to begin seeking

*(Continued on page 2)*

## From the editor

Anyone who knows me will know that I love my gadgets. In my work bag, I have my i-pod, my Blackberry and my Sony e-reader. I like that, wherever I am, I can ring, text or email my friends and family or read a book, listen to my favourite music or play a game.

In the last couple of weeks, on my journey into work, I have been listening to worship music on my walk from the station to my office. It's been a real blessing to get to my desk singing along to these beautiful words and music.

But after putting together this magazine, I can see that the most useful function is going to be the organiser. There are so many things going on at church and in the local area during autumn, I'm going to put them in my diary so I don't miss all the ones I want to go to.

There really is something for everyone in the next couple of months. I hope to see you there.

Rachel Ford

God's will for them as a couple – they were married in USA on 25<sup>th</sup> September 2011. After which Tom will now continue at Bible College in Chicago.

In case you are wondering, **Carol and Tim Derbyshire** are also on the move, though only for a short visit to the UK from Australia later this year. They plan to visit us late October so listen out for details of that visit.

**The Hill family** are in Cambodia, (and Ellie at school in India), but they will be in UK from June 2012 for about a year, probably based in Birmingham, so we will be able to see them and hear their latest news in person then.

**FINALLY – don't miss the Mission Weekend, October 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>, when Patrick Johnstone, an internationally known speaker on world mission, will be with us on the Saturday, 2-5 pm in the church, and at our Sunday 10.45 service followed by a Bring and Share lunch.**

This is a great opportunity to hear an excellent and very knowledgeable speaker, on a subject that should be in the forefront of our minds as citizens of not only this world, but also God's Kingdom on earth. Please bring along any friends from elsewhere who are interested – Old Hill Church holds up to 400 people and wouldn't it be encouraging to fill it that weekend?!

Phil H on behalf of MAG

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### Editor's note

It has now been confirmed that we will be having a visit from the Derbyshires, our mission partners in Australia on 26th October 2011. Please make a note of the date in your diary and look out for more details nearer the time.

# Len's Life

Following my last entry recounting my early life, I feel that I must go forward until 1998 in order for you to understand where I am coming from.

When I was retired by the Civil Service as being too old, my physical and mental health deteriorated to the degree that I was put in the care of a Psychologist at City Hospital. After 4 hours of crying my eyes out, it was said that I suffered from recurring clinical depression, which possibly goes some way to understanding how my life had been.

Going back to my earliest years, I found out that my parents had wanted a girl when I was born. Some many years later, I found out that my paternal grandfather had taken his own life two weeks after I was born. That seemed to me a pretty drastic action to take because I was the wrong gender. He had, apparently made himself comfortable by putting a cushion in the oven for his head to rest on. Joking aside, though, he was said to have been suffering from depression and the balance of his mind was disturbed.

When I lost my left hand, this was because our shopman had been called away and left the machine on and we all know that children are inquisitive. Bob died during the war, I was told from an accident whilst fire watching in our shop. My brother, however, said that he had committed suicide, but I have recently been able to put this to bed by purchasing a copy of his death certificate clearly stating that he had died after falling from a bunk bed stretched between two chairs, onto a concrete floor.

These are two significant incidents throughout my life. But this was not all. School continued during the war and we were often ushered into the air raid shelters when the siren sounded. Walking to and from school

was at times frightening as I was always looking for low flying aircraft for fear of being shot at—yes, we did walk to school in those days. The only time I had a ride was when my father was delivering to the grocer's shop opposite the school.

I can remember my mother leaving home with my brother and myself on two occasions due to my father being a heavy drinker and becoming very objectionable when drunk. With my grandfather and father having problems, I suppose that it was not unusual for me to follow in their footsteps.

I was never able to find out if my father always had a drink problem or whether this resulted from my accident and this I will never know. But despite my family circumstances, I didn't become introverted. I enjoyed going out to evening concerts in my primary school, also once putting myself forward to entertain by reciting a poem called the Scissor Man. Strange how one remembers silly little things like that.

I have always liked singing and took part in competitions whilst at primary school and for a while in St Nicholas Church choir.

When I was ten, I sat the entrance exam for the Grammar School, which my brother attended. Much to everyone's surprise, I passed, but this may have been influenced by the fact that I was told that I would be going to King's School, Rochester had I failed and that was something I really didn't want.

See you in the next magazine for more on how the events from my past have brought me to where I am today.

Every Blessing Len Hales

## Christians in Sport

The new football season started in a great way for me because I watched the first match at New Wine with Southampton fans.

Thus far we have seen some super matches with Manchester United and City serving up some exciting football. And it was good to see Wolves topping the premier league on two separate occasions.

If you have the chance to watch Barcelona they are well worth watching. Some TV pundits say they are the best club team ever. I for one would not argue with that.

In the last article I asked for suggestions as to the best club team ever, someone mentioned Leeds United of the late 60s and early 70s. On reflection I found the following information on Leeds United FC :

**Inter Cities Fairs Cup** – won 1968 and 1971, runners up 1967

**Football League 1<sup>st</sup> Division** - won 1968-9 1973-4, runners up 1964-5 1965-6 1969-70 1970-71 and 1971-72

**FA Cup** - won 1972, runners up 1965 1970 1973

**Football League Cup** – won 1968

**Manager of the Year** – won 1969, 1970 and 1972

**Charity Shield** - won 1969

**European Cup Winners' Cup** – runners up 1973

I did see them play. They were a good exciting committed team with some excellent players.

Sport and Christianity have some parallels, for instance Liverpool have the saying, 'You'll Never walk alone..' This is true for the Christian because Jesus is always with us. One major difference is you can lose at sport but you don't lose with Jesus.

Enjoy your footy - cricket - tennis and the like but, don't forget to give the biggest cheer to Jesus. In next month's article I hope to be looking at a football great from the local area, who if he had lived longer would have won a world cup medal.

Enjoy your sport! There's lots of it.

Dave Portman

## Operation Christmas Child 2011

### Sports-themed shoeboxes

We are participating in the Operation Christmas Child project this year and our church will be a collection point.

The 2012 London Olympics is only just around the corner, so Samaritan's purse have decided to get into the Olympic spirit as part of this year's Operation Christmas Child campaign.

How? Through sports-themed



Share in the joy of a shoebox...

shoeboxes, of course!

As well as giving you the chance to do something a bit different with your shoeboxes, this is also your chance to send a few sporty items out to needy children in our world – children who might otherwise not have the chance to experience the joy of sport for themselves.

Look out for the dates for bringing your sporty shoeboxes into church later in the year.

# COFFEE TIME WITH DAVE



## BLESSINGS ARE THERE IN ABUNDANCE

As the leaves are coming off the trees and harvest time arrives, these are clear signs of God's blessings. However, I believe that by faith, there are many other blessings that God so desires to give us.

In the creation story, Genesis 1:28, it states, "God blessed them." I wonder what this blessing was?

Then in Genesis 12:3 "... and all the people on earth will be blessed through you." Again, I wonder what this blessing meant.

Later, in Deuteronomy 28:1-14, we find specific information and some clarity on God's blessings for his children. The text tells us that God's blessings include :

- Blessed in the city and in the country;
- Fruit of the womb will be blessed:
- Crops will be blessed:
- Blessed when you come in, blessed when you go;
- Blessed on everything you put your hand to.

As you can see, God really wants to bless his people.

Most people would agree that God's blessings include grace and the giving of Jesus. I would agree, however I believe by faith in his word there are so many more blessings for us who believe. The vehicle that delivers is not positive thinking but faith in his word.

I hope I have given you food for thought and that like the trees that are changing at this time of year, our minds will continue to be changed and become "faith seekers" as we seek out more of God's blessing in our daily walk with the Master.

### Romans 12:1-2

"Therefore I urge you brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of the world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind."

Dave Portman

## Churches Together

Janice Mills, our representative at Churches Together in Cradley Heath, Old Hill and Dudley Wood reminds us of the following events which Churches Together have organised for the remainder of the year.

- Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> October at 7.30 pm  
United **Harvest Service** at Dudley Wood Methodist Church
- Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> October between 10 am and 2 pm  
Churches Together **Quiet Day** at St Luke's

Church, Cradley Heath Drinks available, with a bring and share lunch.

- Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> December at 7.30 pm  
United **Carol Service**, at Macefield Mission, Old Hill
- Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> December 11am – noon  
**Christmas Songs of Praise** in Cradley Heath Market.



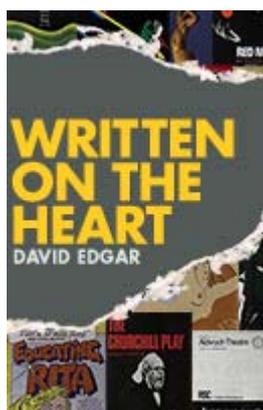
## "GETTING TO KNOW YOU SUNDAY"

On **Sunday** 20<sup>th</sup> November at our 10.45 am service our theme will be 'Encouraging one another'. As part of that, after the service we are going to spend a little more time in "getting to know each other" as we enjoy a 'bring and share' lunch together.

**THIS INVITATION IS OPEN TO EVERYONE – SO PLEASE COME WE WOULD LOVE AS MANY OF US AS POSSIBLE TO BE THERE.**

For more information please speak to Yvonne Binder or any member of the Pastoral Care Action Group.

You can contact Yvonne on 0121 559 7376 or email: [yvonnebinder@talktalk.net](mailto:yvonnebinder@talktalk.net)



Across an 80 year divide, two men translate the word of God into the English tongue. For one, it means death at the stake. For the other, it could mean an archbishop's mitre.

After almost a century of unrest, the King James

Bible was intended to end the violent upheavals of the English reformation. But deep-seated conflicts force a leading translator to confront the betrayal of his youthful religious ideals, for the sake of social peace.

Written by David Edgar, whose extensive work for the Company includes *Destiny*, *Pentecost* and *Nicholas Nickleby*, and marking the 400th anniversary of the publication of the King James Bible, *Written on the Heart* is directed by Chief Associate Director Gregory Doran following his production of *Cardenio*, Shakespeare's 'lost play' re-imagined.

Performance Information

## Stay-at-home Christmas?

Are you staying at home for Christmas?

Would you open your home and share Christmas with a student from China, India, or some other part of the world, who would otherwise be stuck at an almost deserted UK university?

HOST invites you to give Christmas, perhaps for the first time in their life, to someone who is a guest in this country, who would love to experience your way of life and make your stay-at-home Christmas special.

HOST will match you with one or two guests to suit your household. More volunteer hosts are urgently needed for 1-3 days at Christmas, and weekends all year round.

Please see [www.hostuk.org](http://www.hostuk.org) or call your local voluntary organiser for a chat: Lynette Chappin 02920 693903

HOST UK

Unit 8 Water House, 8 Orsman Road, London N1 5QJ

Telephone: 020 7739 6292

Registered Charity No. 327592

Registered Company in England and Wales No. 2179430

### Stratford-upon-Avon Swan Theatre

27 October 2011 - 10 March 2012

#### Audio Described Performances

Saturday 17 December 2011, 1.30pm

Tuesday 10 January 2012, 7.30pm

#### Captioned Performance

Wednesday 14 December 2011, 1.30pm

**Tickets from £14**



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

## MAGAZINE DEADLINES AND PUBLICATION DATES

### Christmas Edition

Deadline for copy **4<sup>th</sup> December 2011**  
Publication date **18<sup>th</sup> December 2011**

### Easter Edition

Deadline for copy **18<sup>th</sup> March 2012**  
Publication date **1<sup>st</sup> April 2012**

### Summer Edition

Deadline for copy **8<sup>th</sup> July 2012**  
Publication date **22<sup>nd</sup> July 2012**

### Harvest Edition

Deadline for copy **22<sup>nd</sup> September 2012**  
Publication date **7<sup>th</sup> October 2012**

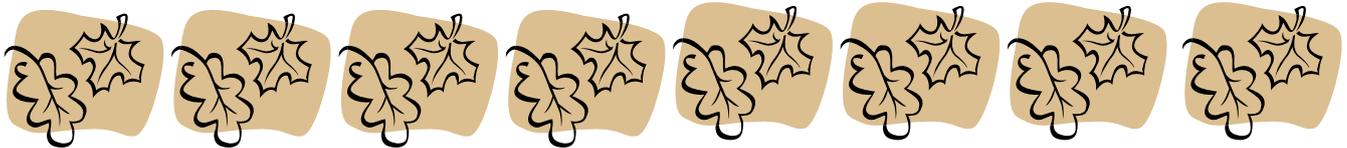
Annual Subscription £2. See Rachel Ford.



The church at the heart of the community

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

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



## The Learning Fields



In a country where hatred wiped out a nation's school system, Christians are running literacy classes to spread the Bible message of love.

The Khmer Rouge regime killed nearly two million people in Cambodia in the 1970s. Schools were destroyed, teachers murdered.

Bible Society in Cambodia has developed a 'Learning through Listening' course to help people living in remote areas learn to read.

In Tuol Sala village, Sam Savan, 45, and his wife Soy Chantay, 44, run two classes per day, five times a week, with 12 students of all ages in each class – and a long waiting list.

The couple use a set of 37 CDs, one for each lesson, created by Bible Society in Cambodia. All the educational material is based on the Bible and the lessons are free.

Their neighbour Ya Phorn, 62, has a granddaughter attending the class. She says, 'Programmes like this should be run all over the country, to help bring education back to the people of Cambodia.'

## 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 FROGGIES for pre school children.

#### Monday

7.30 p.m. Badminton

#### 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  
7.00—8.30 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.

HOLY TRINITY CHURCH, OLD HILL  
Halesowen Road  
Cradley Heath  
B64 6JA  
Phone: 01384 411592  
Email:mail@holytrinity.org

## Fundraising and Community Events 11-12

Friday 21<sup>st</sup> October at 7 pm  
Skittles evening with fish and chip supper  
Tickets £6

Christmas Lights Switch On  
Free community event organised with Old Hill Traders  
Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> November

Table top sale  
Saturday 3rd December

Comedy Night  
Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> Feb 2012

Gospel Evening  
March 2012

Volunteers are also needed for the next Tesco bag pack (date tbc). As well as raising funds, these are great outreach events. Please see a member of the Fundraising Group for more information.