



Newsletter October 2016



*We have an anchor that keeps the soul
steadfast and sure while the billows roll;
fastened to the Rock which cannot move,
grounded firm and deep in the Saviour's love!*

*Priscilla Jane Owens
Singing the Faith 645 (chorus)*

Welcome to the October Newsletter

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A Message from our Minister

What is Church?

I first believed in Jesus in my late teens. I was living at university at the time, and hadn't been a church going person before, so I had to work at the link between my new found experience of God and attending church. What is church?

I continue to ask this important question, because times change and people change and their lives change too. God doesn't change, says the mysterious writer to the Hebrews (Hebrews 13.8), but the human society around us certainly does, and church is made up of human beings, isn't it? Well, yes, almost. The first letter of Peter calls Jesus "the living stone" and "cornerstone", and calls believers "living stones" also, asking them to allow themselves to be built *together* with Jesus into a "spiritual house" (1 Peter 2. 4-8). So from this I understand that church is something that is done together with other believers and with Jesus Christ himself. And it's Jesus who does the building.

So really, church is very special, a divine thing, put together, we pray, with God's calling and guidance. We need to keep asking, is church how Jesus wants it? And what can we do to change? Our anniversary weekend in November aims to help us ask, and maybe answer, such questions. May God bless this time in our church life with wisdom and humility and a listening spirit. Amen.

Graham

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## *Church Family News*

As I have received no particular items for our Church Family News page this month let us continue to thank God for each other and pray for those who we know have particular needs at this time.

Help us to help each other, Lord,  
Each other's cross to bear,  
Let each his friendly aid afford,  
And feel his brother's care.

Charles Wesley (Methodist Hymn Book 717 verse 1)

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Church Flowers in October

We thank those who have agreed to donate flowers to enhance our worship this month.

2nd October	Joyce Hallworth
9th October	Beryl and Roger Cooper
16th October	Linda Pitts
23rd October	Sabina Ofori-Quaah
30th October	Frances Impey

As with the flowers at our harvest services last month, we see an expression of God's goodness to us in the displays of flowers we see each week. As we sing in the hymn, 'Think of a world without any flowers'

'We thank you, Lord, for flowers and trees and sunshine;
we thank you, Lord, and praise your holy name.'
Singing the Faith 92 (chorus)

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## Harvest Festival

Our harvest services this year were led by Rev. Donald Finnan and all who came appreciated the services with their thought-provoking and inspiring messages.



Thank you very much to all who brought gifts for our Harvest Festival, which will be taken to the Prebend Day Centre.

Thank you, Maryan, for arranging to take the gifts there.

We thank Beryl and Maryan for their flower arrangements, in the church and the foyer.



Your gifts of money for All We Can (Methodist Relief and Development Fund) have so far amounted to £167, with possibly more to come. Thank you to all those who have contributed to this amount which will go towards the All We Can harvest appeal 'Make a splash' as they aim to provide clean water for communities in countries such as Uganda.

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Wesley Guild Shoe Box Evening



The programme for the 2016-17 session of the Guild is now available. You will be very welcome to come to any of the meetings on Mondays at 7.30 pm.

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We will be filling shoe boxes for Operation Christmas Child on Monday 31st October, and need medium sized shoe boxes and Christmas wrapping paper. Shoeboxes and / or wrapping paper will be gratefully received at any time so we can have the shoe boxes ready.

For full details of suitable items for the shoeboxes and items that must not be included please see last month's newsletter.



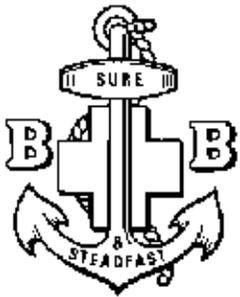
Summarising please note:

- Various small toys are suitable but soft toys must have a CE label.
- Stationery items are welcome. If you supply pencils please consider providing pencil sharpeners especially if the pencils are not ready sharpened.
- Wrapped soap, combs, brushes, hair accessories, toothpaste and toothbrushes are all useful. (Please give toothpaste for each toothbrush.)
- Hats, gloves and scarves are welcome, but no other garments can be accepted.
- Wrapped sweets (not containing chocolate) are accepted, with a best before date at least March next year.
- All items must be new.
- No fragile items, liquids, sharp objects, war related or religious items to be included.

Thank you for all your help.

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1st Flitwick Boys' Brigade



Boys Brigade returned with a back to BB party that also celebrated a number of BB Birthdays and one Special one! Most Boys have returned. We have gained an Anchor Boy, but a couple of Junior and Company Section lads are still to return, most of which have had a change in schools to adjust to.

Then we took inspiration from the recent Olympic Success and have been learning about Brazil and giving some Olympic sports a go. The boys have tried some traditional Brazilian food thanks to a visit from Tania Spittle a member at Amptill, and also created some Samba music. Olympic Sport wise the boys have tried table tennis, basketball, and shooting.

At time of writing we are looking forward to a weekend camp at Pulloxhill for Junior and Company section, which we hope will include camp craft, Kite Flying and Orienteering.

Looking ahead to October then Battalion Activities get under way with football for younger members and 10-Pin Bowling for the Company Section, where we have a title to defend.

Thank you for your continued support of BB.

*Angela Brydon
Company Captain*



Come and join us

on

Sunday 9th October

at 10.30 a.m.

for our annual combined

JMA Awards & Parade

Service

with Keith Lilley

(accompanied by the band)

All about earthquakes



Prayer Morning



The next Prayer Morning will take place on Saturday 5th November from 9.30 am to 12 noon. This is another opportunity for you to come and spend some time with God in the peace and quietness of the church.

The theme of the morning will be “Looking Back and Looking Forward” and there will prayer stations with a variety of suggestions for reflecting on the theme. These prayer stations are to help guide your thoughts, or you may just wish to come and sit and pray.

The prayer mornings allow us to slow down and leave behind the many distractions in our daily lives and so enable us to connect with God.

You will be very welcome. You can come for just a few minutes or stay all morning if you wish.

Coffee and tea will be available from 10.15 am to 10.45 am. There will be a Bring and Share lunch at 12 noon.



Have you read ‘the connexion’?

The latest issue of ‘the connexion’, number 6, is available now. There are some copies in the foyer and you are welcome to take one. Each issue has short, interesting, illustrated articles and the theme of this latest issue is Authentic Partnership.

There are also a few copies of previous issues still available. They are all well worth reading.



Charity Christmas Card

Many of you will remember that last December we had a pull-out insert in the centre of the newsletter with your Christmas greetings for a donation to the charity we were supporting. A good number of people supported this last year and we are planning to do something similar this year.

For a donation to the Prebend Day Centre you can greet everyone with a message using a maximum of 15 words. Please put your wording and your monetary donation in one of the envelopes that you will find for this purpose in the foyer from the middle of October. Your envelope should then be put into the collection bag. The last Sunday for receiving this will be 13th November. Please note that this is a week earlier than the newsletter deadline as I need time to make sure the card is ready to go in the December newsletter!

It would be lovely to have even more people sending greetings to everyone through the newsletter this year and raising a good amount of money for the Prebend Day Centre, who rely very much on donations for their work to be able to continue. If you have any questions or need any more information please speak to me.

Janet Watts



Church Anniversary Weekend

Next month we will be celebrating our Church Anniversary and as you know we are planning a special weekend on 19th and 20th November. (See the poster on the back page.) I hope you have all kept the date free and that it is already in your diary. More details for the Saturday will be available soon.

Please remember to keep the planning for the weekend in your prayers.

Prayer Leaflet

October 2016



*In Christ there is no east of west,
in him no south or north,
but one great fellowship of love
throughout the whole wide earth.*

*John Oxenham
Singing the Faith 685 verse 1*

Prayer Suggestions for October

Saturday 1st October Thank God for all his blessings.

Week beginning 2nd October - Health Care

Sunday Thank God for the care we receive from health professionals.
Monday Pray for paramedics and ambulance crew.
Tuesday Pray for nurses and midwives.
Wednesday Pray for consultants and doctors.
Thursday Pray for GPs and nurses at our local surgeries.
Friday Pray for physiotherapists and osteopaths.
Saturday Pray for people in countries where access to health care is limited.

Week beginning 9th October - Prisons Week

Sunday The Prisons Week Prayer.
“Lord, you offer freedom to all people. We pray for those in prison. Break the bonds of fear and isolation that exist. Support with your love prisoners and their families and friends, prison staff and all who care. Heal those who have been wounded by the actions of others, especially the victims of crime. Help us to forgive one another, to act justly, love mercy and walk humbly together with Christ in his strength and in his Spirit, now and every day. Amen”

Monday Pray for those who are prisoners.
Tuesday For victims of crime.
Wednesday For the families or prisoners or of victims of crime.
Thursday For our communities.
Friday For those who work in prisons.
Saturday For all working in the criminal justice system.
Please see www.prisonsworld.org for prayers under these headings.

Week beginning 16th October - The Bible

Sunday Pray for greater understanding of the Bible when we read it or hear it read.
Monday Pray for Bible translators.

- Tuesday Thank God that more and more people are able to read the Bible in their own language.
- Wednesday Pray for people who distribute Bibles overseas.
- Thursday Pray for teachers and preachers of the Bible.
- Friday Pray for those who run Christian Bookshops.
- Saturday Tomorrow is Bible Sunday. Pray that God will give us a greater enthusiasm for reading the Bible.

Week beginning 23rd October - One World Week



- Sunday Pray that we will all “work together for a just, peaceful and inclusive world”. (One World Week website)
- Monday Pray that we may have a greater understanding of the needs of people both locally and globally.
- Tuesday Pray for world leaders that they will seek ways to work together towards a peaceful world
- Wednesday Pray that people will show tolerance and seek to learn from others of a different culture.
- Thursday Pray that people of all faiths will work together for justice for everyone.
- Friday Pray for refugees, that they will be treated with respect.
- Saturday Pray that we will all work together to combat climate change and its effects.

2 days beginning 30th October - All Hallows Eve

- Sunday Pray that we will shine as lights in a dark world.
- Monday Pray that people will turn from darkness to light.

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Services in October

Please remember in your prayers those leading our worship this month, especially during the week prior to the service.

|              |          |                                                 |
|--------------|----------|-------------------------------------------------|
| 2nd October  | 10.30 am | Rev. Graham Claydon-Knights<br>(Holy Communion) |
|              | 6.00 pm  | Richard Crane                                   |
| 9th October  | 10.30 am | Keith Lilley – JMA and Parade<br>(Café Church)  |
|              | 6.00 pm  | Rev. Graham Claydon-Knights<br>(Holy Communion) |
| 16th October | 10.30 am | Jane Claydon-Knights<br>(WPH Anniversary)       |
|              | 6.00 pm  | Rev. Charlie Connor                             |
| 23rd October | 10.30 am | Helen Boshier                                   |
|              | 6.00 pm  | Angela Brydon                                   |
| 30th October | 10.30 am | Rev. Graham Claydon-Knights<br>(Holy Communion) |
|              | 6.00 pm  | Peter Byass                                     |

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Monday 31st October 3.30 pm – 5.30 pm

All families welcome.

Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Donations welcome to cover costs.

Contact Rev. Graham Claydon-Knights for further details.

Future Messy Church Dates: 31st October, 28th November

Messy Christmas: 24th December 12noon to 1.30 pm

Clophill News

Tea and Chat

Every Wednesday 10.30 am to 12 noon

Service of Thanksgiving and Rededication

Saturday 1st October at 4 pm

Croissant and Coffee Morning

Saturday 8th October

10.00 am to 12 noon

£1.50

Messy Church

Saturday 15th October

4 pm to 6 pm

All age activities, worship and a meal for all the family.

Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Contact 07920568861

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The Upper Room

at **Amphill Methodist Church on alternate Thursdays**

**Dates in October –13th and 27th**

Coffee or tea and cakes from 10.00 am.

Light lunches from 11.30 am to 1.00 pm.

Proceeds after expenses for local charities.

All are welcome.

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Shefford Methodist Church

Raising the Roof

Coffee Morning

Saturday 1st October

10.00 am – 12 noon

In aid of the “Raising the Roof” appeal for the Church Hall

You are invited to enjoy coffee, tea, cakes and a chat.

There will also be a raffle, bric a brac, and other stalls.

Tea Towels and Calico Bags available at £5 each.

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Sponsored Walk

The Rotary Club and Lions Club have organised a 3-4 mile walk round Flitwick Moor.

The Royal British Legion are joining in this charity event and, as a member of the Legion, I have volunteered to participate, along with other members. The walk begins at 7 pm on Saturday 15th October.

I already have some church members sponsoring me and am asking if anyone else would do so.

For every £1000 the Legion raises we will receive £500 for our coffers from the Rotary and Lions Clubs.

*Ann Sharp*

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Volunteering at St John's Hospice

Can you spare a few hours a week?

"I have always wanted to give something back, now that I have more free time. Coming to the hospice opened my eyes to all of the roles that I could do."

At St John's Hospice, we have roles that include helping in the patient care areas, gardening, supporting events, reception, ward assistants, befriending, shop volunteers and so much more. We also offer bespoke roles for people with specific interests or skills and can always use the skills of our community.

We have a lot of work to do in caring for our patients, their families and carers and we rely on volunteers to help us in so many ways.

Why volunteer for us

There are many benefits to volunteering which explains why most of our volunteers have been helping us for years.

You could:

- support people who have a long-term conditions or a terminal illness
- meet new people and make new friends
- feel valued and be part of a team
- help support members of our team
- share your skills with others

Whether you're retired, working or at college, if you can spare a few hours a week, then we want to hear from you.

We have roles to suit everyone whatever their skills or interests, including:

- accompanying patients to and from the day hospice
- becoming a volunteer counsellor
- being a hospice ambassador at community events
- befriending patients
- delivering collection boxes
- supporting our in-patient unit

- helping at fundraising events
- helping in the gardens
- providing admin support
- showing visitors around the hospice
- talking to families and carers

Everyone brings something special to volunteering at St John's Hospice. We can put those skills to good use, such as offering a drink to patients, taking photographs at our events, cutting hair or helping us complete one of those jobs that needs doing around the hospice.

Anyone interested in a volunteer role at the hospice contact Viv Tannis 01767 642445 or email vivienne.tannis@suerydercare.org.



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Circuit Prayer Meetings

The next Circuit Prayer Meeting at Willington will be held on Monday 24th October at 10.30 am.

In addition a Circuit Prayer Meeting is to be held on the second Monday of each month at 4.15 pm at Putnoe Heights Church. In October this will be on the 10th.

Everyone is welcome at either of these prayer meetings.

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You are invited to attend a Free Church Service in the Lady Chapel on the dates mentioned below:



THE CATHEDRAL AND ABBEY CHURCH OF SAINT ALBAN

Wednesday 5th October 2016 at 11a.m.

Preacher: The Reverend Simon Carver

Baptist Minister, Dagnall Street Baptist Church, St Albans.

- The service is followed by a Fellowship Lunch.

Wednesday 2nd November 2016 at 11a.m.

Preacher: The Reverend Dr. Nick Brindley

URC Minister at Potters Bar United Reformed Church.

- The service is followed by a Fellowship Lunch.

All are Welcome

Contact: Reverend Peter Hudson. 01727 812076

Email: peter.hudson@uwclub.net



Kempston Music Society Concert

at Putnoe Heights Church

Saturday 15th October at 7.30 pm

A presentation by the choir of a varied programme of light and sacred music.

Interval with refreshments

Admission £7.50 (£4 for children)

Proceeds to Church funds
and A4S (Accounting For Sustainability)
Putnoe Heights chosen charity for 2016



News from Paraguay

19th August 2016

I am glad you like my photographs. I am getting quite good at this photo taking thing. It is handy I live on a nature reserve so I never need to go far to take new photographs. I have a couple more I will be putting on Facebook today.

The weather here has been nice and warm. However there was a thunder storm during the night and there are more promised for the next day or two. However it should not get too cold as winter has pretty much gone now.

I am sure Piribebuy will stick to having just one parade in August. It takes so long so organise that if they had two a year there would be no time to do anything else.

I have been keeping track of the Olympics, although without cable television and not seeing any. Team GB are doing very well - everyone over with you must be very pleased with how well they are all doing. However - as for Paraguay - it is a very long list of countries who have won some sort of medal, but Paraguay is not amongst them.

26th August 2016

Just a quick email regarding that Airship thingy. Have you seen it flying around by you? I understand it is rather large and lives quite near you. I keep seeing pictures of it not being very good at landing. It has been on the news with you obviously, but I have also seen it in the Spanish news here and even on the Chinese news.

28th August 2016

Nice to hear that you have a bit of late summer. With a bit of luck it will hang around long enough for your holiday and you won't get frozen on the top of Exmoor! Here it has been hot, sunny and dry for a while. There has been rain forecast for today and it is rather cloudy, but apart from a couple of short little showers nothing that can be called rain.

You will probably have seen my notes about doing gardening. Well you will be pleased to hear that the bank has been cleared all the way along the front and halfway along the top this week - and is it bigger than before.

I have had trips into both Piribebuy and Paraguari but there was no more post waiting for me at the moment.

2nd September 2016

This week has been mainly at home, first due to the weather and then to do gardening. But I did have a morning out and about in Piribebuy yesterday and am off to see Colin his afternoon.

Ramona's college is keeping her very busy and she now has classes most afternoons, so this week she appeared a couple of times in the morning. A couple of days I was still having my breakfast when she turned up and today I was doing the washing!

Oh dear - Colin has just phoned to say he has a water leak, so I won't be going round there today. However, I will get a trip into town tomorrow.

I am able to follow Arsenal on my phone app. but have to remember to look on the computer to check how Luton are doing.

9th September 2016

I was busy doing some work inside the house yesterday morning when I heard a fire burning and when I looked outside I saw that my ground was on fire.

The cause of it was the neighbours. Not the chap who I had sold some of my land to but rather the family who live on it to look after the place for him. As normal during the day there was just the boy of about 20 and his little brother there. It seemed that the plan was to burn off a little bit of the land just behind mine for planting something, which was fine as far as it went, but of course he had paid no attention to cutting fire breaks or to what the wind might do - and being there by himself there was no way he could control the fire if it got out of hand - which unsurprisingly it did.

When I went out the fire had crossed the fence onto the top of my land and for a while I tried to beat the fire back with bits of bush which slowed it down, but was never going to stop it properly with more bits of the fire crossing the fence all the time. So after a while I retreated back to the house to wait for it to work its way down that far.

Once it did I was ready with a hose and although that was never going to put out the whole fire it did enough to dampen the things down around the small trees so I think I have only lost 3 or 4. After battling that for a good while I sat down to watch the fire work its way across the rest of my land where there was just grass and scrub to destroy. Now all around is black as everything has been turned to ash.

Of course mine was not the only place that got burnt. My neighbour on the other side appeared afterwards to speak very angrily with the culprit about the damage the fire had done to his crops and orchard and plans to put cattle on the land I had sold will be put back as the whole of my old land has been reduced to ash and long after the fires had gone out around me I could see smoke rising in the distance. No doubt the owner will not be very happy when he finds out what has happened and we will see whether there is a change of people looking after his land for him. Have a look on facebook at a few of my photos.

11th September 2016

The fire, as you may have seen from my photos, did a very good job of turning my land to ash, and several others around. The tall trees were fine as the fire just past below them. It was the little trees that I had planted around the house that were in danger and needed saving with the hosepipe. Looking around it seems 3 or 4 of them might not survive. As for all the little trees that were growing by themselves around my land - well they have been toasted. The only crops that are growing at the moment are a field of mandioca and as that is currently trimmed back to the ground it will grow back in the spring whilst the vegetable itself is buried underground like a potato.

All the little birds got out of the way and I was pleased to see them all at the bird table the next day, however things living in the undergrowth may not have been so lucky. Oh - and I am still waiting for the fire brigade to show - but then the town only has one little old engine!!

Best wishes

Simon

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### *Bible Study Group*

A Bible Study group meets on the first Thursday of the month from 1.30 pm to 3.00 pm in different people's homes. If you would like to join us, or would like more information please speak to Janet Watts.

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The Newsletter

Thank you for your contributions to this issue of the newsletter and thank you to you all for reading it. I hope you have found it interesting.

It would be lovely to receive something from you for next month's newsletter. The more people who contribute, the more varied and interesting the newsletter will be.

Please let me have your items for the November newsletter by **Sunday 23rd October** at the latest. Thank you very much.

Janet Watts telephone: 717492 email: janetwatts14@btinternet.com

Church Anniversary Weekend *Saturday 19th and Sunday 20th November*

with

Rev. Tony Pick and
Rev. Graham Claydon-Knights

Saturday – A Looking Forward Day

Morning and afternoon sessions
including worship and discussion
and a soup and roll lunch

Creche available.

6.00 pm Meal and Games evening

More details will be available soon.

Sunday

10.30 am Worship led by Rev. Tony Pick
and Rev. Graham Claydon-Knights
United Service with Ampthill and Clophill
congregations joining us.

6.00 pm Worship led by
Rev. Graham Claydon-Knights

Please continue to pray for the planning of this weekend
and pray that, as we look forward,
God will give us a fresh vision of his will for us
and guide us in the way he wants us to go forward.