



CONNECT

“Do not grieve for the joy of the Lord is your strength”

Nehemiah 8:10

Dear All

In January Sue Lord from an organisation called Mercy Ships came to address the members of our Friday Friendship Club held at Coopers Court. Mercy Ships has a fleet of ships crewed by doctors, teachers and others who offer their services free of charge. They travel the world bringing medical and community care to the very poor. At one time they were in desperate need of a new ship but the cost was phenomenal. However what is impossible for us is possible for God. A millionaire purchased an out of commission ferry for them and they eventually refurbished it with all the latest technology for a sum of thirty million pounds. Their vision is to have ten of these ships.

As we think forward to our building conference to be held on 15th March our own vision for a new building costing one million pounds seems small in comparison, but even so it is seemingly impossible for us. It would be easy to give up but the Bible says that *“where there is no vision my people perish.”* I have been looking back over church records from past years and have been amazed at the faith and the vision of members of C.K.B.C. Their vision was to build for the future generations – US! I’m sure we are more than grateful for the buildings that we currently have and the work and outreach that takes place within their walls. It is now our turn to discern God’s will in how to build for the future generations. So let us not lose heart. God is not expecting us to do it alone. What He expects from us is faith—*for without faith we cannot please God.* God has a plan for us just as He had a plan to redeem us through His son Jesus. So let us not be the people who perish but the people who can truly believe that *“nothing is impossible for God.”*

I wish you all a very Happy Easter and pray that every member of your family will come to know the resurrection life that comes from knowing Jesus.

Love and God Bless. Sue

Romania

During the February half term, Leanda and Barbara took a team of young people from our church to Romania to work with families and street children. They took toys, stationery and clothing that had been donated, as well as money to buy food, medicine, curtains, paint, bedding and other basic household items for the families who have recently been found homes. Leanda is really proud of the teenagers who, rather than becoming overwhelmed by the poverty and hardship, simply hugged the kids, picked up paintbrushes and got stuck in! They replastered and re-decorated a whole house and bought enough construction materials to allow a family of 7, who currently live in one room, to double the size of their home. The team had a wonderful, yet sometimes heartbreaking, experience, which will stay with them for a long time to come.



A Midsummer Night's Dream

This romantic Shakespeare comedy was staged by the Charlton Kings Community Players last month and involved several members of C.K.B.C. Sacred Hearts Hall was transformed with vines, flowers and music into a fairy wonderland. The actors tackled the play with gusto to provide an enjoyable and hilarious night out.

Soweto Gospel Choir

In February, some of us joined members of Gas Green Church at the Everyman Theatre to see the Soweto Gospel Choir, fresh from their Grammy success in the U.S.A. It was a spine-tingling, heart thumping evening of spiritual and secular songs, all overflowing with hope, positivity and energy. See them if you get the chance!

Revive Revived!

Tuesday 1st April sees the return of 'Revive.' This is an evening of worship, questions and maybe even some answers! We have a fantastic band joining us-get up and boogie if you feel like it, or sit back and enjoy the music if you prefer. It is for anyone at any stage of their spiritual journey, and there are no age limits. After 'Revive,' you are welcome to come to the Merryfellow with us to have a drink and a chat about God, Life, Love and the Universe, or anything you like really!

Dates Coming Up

- **A.G.M.**

Our A.G.M. will be held on Tuesday 11th March at 7.30 p.m. in the lounge. During this meeting, church members will be able to vote in our Deacons Elections. Profiles of the candidates are displayed in the vestibule if you want to find out more about them. This meeting will be followed by our Ordinary Church Meeting, to which everyone is welcome.

- **O.C.C. Craft Morning**

Get creative with Mary on Saturday 1st March from 10 a.m. - 12 noon. She is already looking forward to next Christmas! There will be a chance to make gifts to go in the shoeboxes which will be delivered to children who otherwise would not get any presents.

- **Church Conference**

Saturday 15th March, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. See Sue's letter for more information. If you need help with childcare, please let Sue know.

- **Imagine**

This is a course organised by WEBA about church, mission and the future. The next meeting is on 6th March at Minchinhampton from 7.30 p.m.-9.30 p.m. Quite a few of us went to the first meeting, but even if you didn't, you will be very welcome at this one.

- **Puppet Day**

This will be with The Salvation Army Cheltenham and is for all those who are interested in puppet ministry. Saturday 8th March 10am- 4pm. Admission is free. It is possible to just attend for part of the day.

Services in March

Sunday 2nd March

10.30am Mothers Day
“The Way Through Failure”
Matt 26:17-30: 31-35

6.30pm Prayer Service for Building Conference

Sunday 9th March

10.30am “Going Through” Matt 26:36-46

6.30pm Prayer Service for Building Conference

Sunday 16th March

Palm Sunday
GB/BB Family Service
“The Crowd or the Cross”

Thursday 20th March

Communion Service
(Footwashing optional)

Friday 21st March

Walk of Witness
Hunger Lunch at Baptist Church

Sunday 23rd March

8.30am Easter Communion Service followed by breakfast

10.30am Easter Celebration Service
“Take Off Your Grave Clothes”

Sunday 30th March

10.30 a.m. “Public Enemy No. 1; The Tongue” James 3: 1-12

If you would like any more information about any event on this
newsletter, please phone Sue on 01242 233351.