



CONNECT

June 2009

'To know Jesus and make Jesus known'

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Dear All
 Here's something for us to ponder on.
 One day, a small opening appeared in a cocoon; a man sat and watched the butterfly for several hours as it struggled to force its body through that little hole. Then it seemed to stop making any progress. It appeared as if it had got as far as it could, and it could not get any further, so the man decided to help the butterfly: he took a pair of scissors and opened the cocoon. The butterfly then emerged easily, but it had a withered body, it was tiny, and had shrivelled wings. The man continued to watch because he expected that at any moment the wings would open, enlarge and expand, to be able to support the butterfly's body. Neither happened. In fact, the butterfly spent the rest of its life crawling around with a withered body and shrivelled wings. It was never able to fly. What the man in his kindness and his goodwill did not understand was, that the restricting cocoon and the struggle required for the butterfly to get through the tiny opening were God's way of forcing fluid from the body of the butterfly into its wings, so that it would be ready for flight once it achieved its freedom from the cocoon.

Sometimes struggles are exactly what we need in life. If God allowed us to go through life without any obstacles, it would cripple us. We would not be as strong as we could have been.

I asked for strength ...and God gave me difficulties to make me strong.
 I asked for wisdom... and God gave me problems to solve.
 I asked for prosperity... and God gave me brains and brawn to work.
 I asked for courage... and God gave me obstacles to overcome.
 I asked for love... and God gave me troubled people to help.
 I asked for favours... and God gave me opportunities.
 I received nothing I wanted, but I received everything I needed.
 Live life without fear, confront all obstacles and know that you can overcome them. God Bless. Sue

Family Focus Project

This is a critical time for our Family Focus renovation plans. We are completing the specification, starting tendering, waiting for feedback from the planning office and making our first grant application. Please pray for all the preparations.

Following Sue's request at the church meeting, please also pray and consider whether God is calling you to a new/different role within the church. We need someone to lead our community activities with seniors (Lunch Club, Coopers Court, Third Age Project etc) and also support for creative prayer, puppets, audio-visual, GB and Christian Aid.

This is an exciting time as we begin to consider our focus for 2009/2010. There are so many opportunities for being "*a church for the community*" and many new friends amongst us to help. However, we need to pray and consider God's priorities for the church and our own role now, ahead of making more definite plans from September.

KH



Early Notice! The annual Strawberry Tea will soon be here - July 4th

All details are on the board. It would be good if everyone in church was able to contribute just ONE quality or nearly new item please. We are not collecting Bric a Brac or plants this year. All items to Sue Goold please? Also needed - scone makers, cake makers and the offer of lifts for those that don't drive.

New to the church? Want to get involved? Do see Sue Goold who would love to hear from you.

The Mobile Phone vs. The Bible

Ever wonder what would happen if we treated our Bible like we treat our mobile phone?

- ◆ What if we carried it around in our purses or our pockets?
- ◆ What if we flipped through it several times a day?
- ◆ What if we turned back to go and get it if we forgot it?
- ◆ What if we used it to receive messages from the text?
- ◆ What if we treated it like we couldn't live without it?
- ◆ What if we gave it to kids as a gift?
- ◆ What if we used it when we travelled?
- ◆ What if we used it in case of emergency?

This is something to make you go, 'hmmm...where is my Bible?'

Oh, and one more thing...unlike our mobile phone, we don't have to worry about our Bible being disconnected, because Jesus already paid the bill!

Help needed for Cotswold Hospice Charity Event

Would anyone be able to help our hospice to check, or most importantly check out, walkers at the midnight walk on Friday 26th June please?

Not everyone's cup of tea but some of you might be night owls! If you can help please let me know a.s.a.p. Sue Goold.

Services for June

7th June

10.30 Communion Service
"The Authority of the Kingdom"
6.30 Prayer Service

14th June

10.30 Values of the Kingdom
6.30 Communion Service with Prayers for Healing

21st June

10.30 Fathers Day speaker Jonathan Hill
6.30 Bible Study on the book of Job
"Is God for me or against me?" Chapter 19

28th June

10.30 The Power of the Kingdom
6.30 Open to God

Dads Sonbeams

10.30am Saturday 6th June
Friday Friendship Club at Coopers Court
Friday 12th June 2pm Speaker Colin Ayrton
Eastwood Park Prison
Tuesday 16th June. We leave Cheltenham at 5.30pm
Names to Sue by Monday 15th please.

If you would like to:

- advertise an event on this newsletter;
- submit an article;

OR

- tell the world about how God has answered your prayers;

Then please email me before the end of the month at

www.ckbc.org.uk