



# CONNECT

**October 2008**

***'To know Jesus and make Jesus known'***

Dear All,

Several years ago Roger and I had a strong conviction that we should investigate Prison Ministry. This eventually led to a number of people from CKBC becoming involved in leading worship at Eastwood Park Prison, Gloucester Prison and a number of others around the country. It has proven to be a challenging but rewarding experience and one that we would not have missed.

Last week we went to Eastwood Park and watched as God touched some of the women there. When the service began they were tense and miserable but when they left it was obvious that God had given them hope. A number of them asked Jesus into their hearts and were determined to make a fresh start. The Bible says that when one person repents and turns to Christ there is a party in heaven, so heaven must have really rocked that night.

It is important though to realise that asking Jesus into our hearts is a beginning and not an ending. It is necessary to study God's Word so that we can live in the fullness of life and not in myths and misconceptions about what God is like. It is so easy to forget what a great God we serve.

On Oct 1<sup>st</sup> and October 2<sup>nd</sup> we are beginning a lunchtime Alpha and an evening Alpha so that those who are searching for something more in their life can come and ask questions about the Christian faith. All are welcome and we promise we won't pressurise you. Details can be obtained from our church office.

If you personally know the Lord Jesus then you might want to share the good news with someone who doesn't. Pick up an invitation from the office and invite someone to Alpha. You could help change their life forever!

God Bless. Sue

Thanks to all who contributed so thoughtfully at our Sept church meeting when we discussed the future of the pastorate. Looking ahead we will also need to discuss our overall *Strategy* and our *Focus* for the coming year. We have already agreed to be a “church for the community”? Does that mean that we use our presence in the centre of Charlton Kings to provide a “community hub” for

experiencing the love and presence of God,  
serving local people’s practical and social needs,  
helping people come to faith and discipleship  
encouraging people to serve others in wider mission?

Is there something else? Please reflect on this over the coming weeks and feed any ideas to myself ahead of the next church meeting.

Also, there is an improved list of church roles on the left hand notice board in the foyer, with a list of key “vacancies”. If you would like to discuss your own role within the church for any reason, please speak to me or send an email.

Karen Haden ([KarenH@ckbc.org.uk](mailto:KarenH@ckbc.org.uk))

### **Retired and Active?**

Don’t forget that Peter Guns is currently seeking ideas for how we can use our church/cafe better for the retired and active age group. If you are in this group and would like to help Peter, please contact him at [PeterG@ckbc.org.uk](mailto:PeterG@ckbc.org.uk).

### **Alpha**

Two Alpha courses are starting this month:

- Alpha Wednesday: Lunchtimes, starting at 12.15 p.m. On 1st October;
- Alpha Thursday: Evenings, starting at 7.45 p.m. On 2nd October.

This is a relaxed and friendly course for those who want to know more about the Christian faith, and it provides an opportunity to ask questions . A meal will also be provided. If you are interested in joining the course, it is not too late. Please phone 01242 261507 for more information.

## **The Vine**

The Vine Café is run ecumenically by all the churches in Charlton Kings. At lunchtime it serves soup, salads, specials at £4.50, and a range of other meals (many with chips), as well as jacket potatoes and snacks. The Café opens at 10 am. and closes at 3.00 pm. Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday. You can enjoy delicious home-made cake, as well with fair-traded coffee and tea.

This Autumn we are running a special Autumn Offer from now until the end of November, of morning coffee and cake for only £1.20. The Vine is a friendly place where we hope you will feel comfortable and experience a warm Christian welcome!

“The table is booked for you”

Throughout October and November we are also experimenting on a Wednesday with reserving a large table at lunchtime for people coming to the Vine on their own. There is no need for you to book. Just turn up if the fancy takes you and you feel like joining others for lunch.

## **Girls**

There were many positive comments from the 13 *girls* who came to the inaugural get together last month, to chat in a relaxed atmosphere. *Allowing ourselves time in getting to know each other better, can only be a good thing.* If we are a close, understanding community within the church, think how much we can achieve looking outward to the many possibilities that God may show us, and spreading his words of love, understanding and hope. We already have amazing ministries in the local prisons, Sonbeams, in Rumania and India. Our Church members who work in these ministries, work very hard but are receiving joy and fulfilment.

Do you have a project in mind that you want feed-back on? Do you have gifts/skills that could be useful, as a way of being supportive. All these and many other subjects under the sun can be bounced around at our get-togethers. So see you on **Monday 13th October at The Reservoir Inn any time from 8pm** if you fancy chilling out with the rest of us girls.

## **Puppet Day**

On Sunday October 12th, we are holding a puppet ministry training day. Puppets will be used during the morning service, and after a b.y.o. picnic lunch, there will be an opportunity to take part in some puppet training. We are hoping to use puppets more in our children's ministry, and would love to hear from anyone interested in being a part of this.

**Services for October 08**  
**Morning Services are 10.30am**

**5<sup>th</sup> October**

Communion Service  
Launch of Operation Christmas Child – Mary Jones  
6.30pm Prayer Service

**12<sup>th</sup> October**

GB/BB Enrolment  
Puppet Theatre

6.30pm Prayers for Healing

**19<sup>th</sup> October**

“In the Beginning” Gen 1

No Evening Service

**26<sup>th</sup> October**

“Trouble in Heaven”  
Isaiah

6.30pm Open to God

If you would like to:

- advertise an event on this newsletter;
- submit an article;
- tell the world about how God has answered your prayers;

Or

- Receive this by email

Then please email me before the end of the month at  
[mellerina@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:mellerina@tiscali.co.uk)

[www.ckbc.org.uk](http://www.ckbc.org.uk)