

B Magazine

Family Craft Morning

Sally Dryden's vision for messing up the church on a Saturday morning!

Summer programme

A pull-out section to keep you up to date, with details on guest speakers and exciting events, like our new family worship gathering

Called to be different

David Brown's take on the teaching series from Ezra and 2 Corinthians

Hope for the Hungry

Caroline Burns reports on her work with an impoverished community in Bolivia



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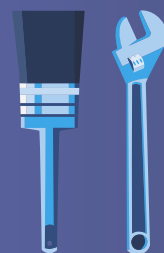


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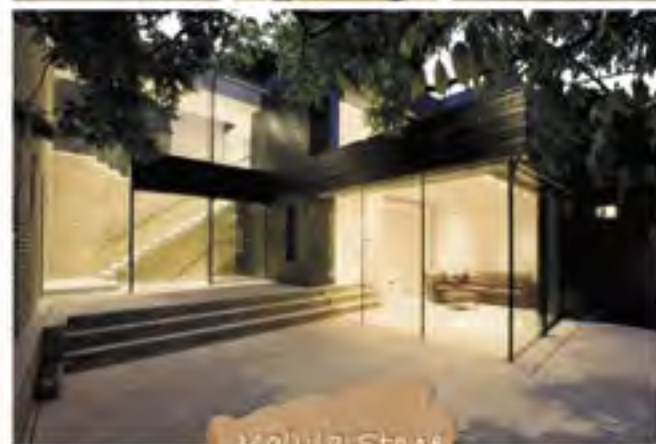
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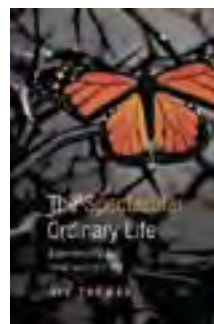
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From the Vicar

From the Vicar

As preoccupation with the forthcoming election rises to fever pitch in our national media, no doubt all of us will be thinking about which way to vote. But the political leadership of the country can only do so much. There remains a spiritual void at the heart of our nation that no amount of political manoeuvring can fill.

In January we among the leadership at St Bs had a time of prayer and fasting and seeking the Lord for more. It's not that St Bs is a down-at-heel church. Anyone who has been part of us in recent years will know quite the opposite is true. Nevertheless we long for more and are not satisfied with being a great church when the country is so lost, so broken, so needing salvation. The stark statistics of church decline in the UK are depressing and nationally the trend is still in a downward direction. Surely we simply cannot stand idly by and watch the disintegration of western Christendom and our society losing any perspective of God?

We at St Bs are not pretending we've got all the answers - we are still calling out to God to show us the way ahead, crying out from our heart for God to lift us out of our mediocrity and rekindle a world-changing zeal

So what can we do? We are after all only one church. The early disciples were a group many times smaller than St Bs is today, yet starting from that ragtag band, over the next few centuries they permeated the entire known world in a peaceful revolution that has no parallel in human history. It was not well organised, they had no elaborate centralised strategic plan. It was simply Christians

living and dying for their faith out in the community. Today we are better organised, better educated, with more money and more influence, and yet somewhere we've lost that radical edge that changed the world. If only we could recapture the New Testament flavour of the church as an unstoppable grassroots movement, rather than a regimented institution putting on weekly events that do little to change our own lives let alone impact society.

If you're hoping that the upcoming general election will provide answers, you are looking in the wrong place. Bill Hybels said "the local church is the hope of the world". We at St Bs are not pretending we've got all the answers - we are still calling out to God to show us the way ahead, crying out from our heart for God to lift us out of our mediocrity and rekindle a world-changing zeal. And I know that at the heart of all this is the acknowledgement that apart from Jesus Christ we can do nothing (John 15:5).

Henry Kendal

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Family Craft Morning



By Sally Dryden

Our slogan, 'You make a mess and we clear it up' is taken literally by our 120 guests as they visit the ten different craft tables at the Family Craft Morning each month, and set to making as much mess as they can. They never let us down! But – what is the Family Craft Morning, I hear you ask? Well, it's church, but possibly not as you would recognise it!

Survey the scene ... in the main body of the church a grandmother is sitting at the painting table with her grandson, helping him create a wonderful multi-coloured picture, while his mum stands by the coffee bar with a friend having a chat. The two ten-year-olds at the bead table are making some amazing jewellery for their mum, and next to them is a dad helping his two-year-old thread her first beads. The cooking table is surrounded by many small people all decorating cup cakes with butter icing and chocolate buttons,

BUT what is the Family Craft Morning I hear you ask?
Well, it's church, but possibly not as you would recognise it!

and on the next table some teenagers are helping some younger children make elephants from empty milk bottles and tissue paper. At another table, covered in glitter, a mum and a team member are praying for a school place for her five-year-old. In the coffee seating area a dad enjoys his morning coffee and reads the newspaper whilst bouncing a small baby on his knee. His six-year-old son is having fun at the junk modelling table with a team member, constructing a rainmaker, spilling rice everywhere!

The Family Craft Morning is a once-a-month time of creativity, Bible truths and worship. It started two years ago and has gone from strength to strength, quickly growing in numbers to an average attendance of 120-150 people. The messy stuff starts at 10am, and then at 11.40 the mess is called to a halt and everyone heads off to the Parish Hall for 'Cakes with the King' - an interactive Bible talk, worship and prayer time that concludes in muffins and doughnuts for everyone!

The vision of the Family Craft Morning is to provide a place where families can have a fun time together, meet other local families, and also hear all about Jesus. We want to bless the families with quality time with each other, and with God!

95% of the guests are not St Bs members, but have been coming to Barneys Toddler Group, Mini GAP or GAP at St Bs (these form our kids and family outreach programmes) for a while. The Family Craft Morning is a great place for us to continue and extend existing relationships and maintain our support of these families. Also, many of them have regarded Barneys monthly 'Toddler Praise' as their church, and appreciate the 'God slots' that their children attend at Mini GAP and GAP – they are glad to have somewhere their children can continue to hear about God in a fun, relevant and relaxed way.

As a team we have had the privilege of praying with many of the guests. The school place was given to the five-year-old against all odds - praise God! Many new friendships have been made and old acquaintances renewed; there is never a month where God doesn't amaze us. In January we celebrated the arrival of our first Family Craft Morning baby, a girl, born to a local family who have been coming for about a year now!

The vision of the Family Craft Morning is to provide a place where families can have a fun time together, meet other local families and also hear all about Jesus.



SO - on the third Saturday of every month the main body of St Barnabas Church gets extremely messy! From 10am to noon the church is filled with families from Finchley and the surrounding area, all enjoying the colourful and creative craft activities and attending their church at the Family Craft Morning.

Now you know all about us, how about coming along with your family and joining in the fun? Or you might consider joining the team - you don't have to be 'creative,' just able to serve tea and coffee, chat to the guests, pray and help us set up and clear up.

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Hope for the hungry

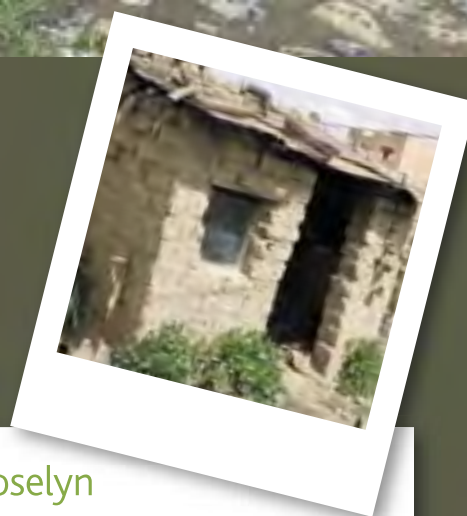
Caroline Burns reports from Puerto Camacho, Bolivia

One changed life

When our project started in October 2009, Joselyn was extremely introverted, and apart from saying 'yes' had never spoken. Her parents had been too busy trying to make an income to notice her speech problems until it was too late. In their desperation they tried medicinal plants and pills to help her speech, but to no avail.

In the project, she receives attention and love from her classmates and Food for the Hungry staff, who also prayed over her. After just three weeks Joselyn began opening up and speaking. At first it was just rare words, as any child beginning to speak. Like a flower bud opening, she is beginning to show her true, bubbly and affectionate personality. She has a permanent smile on her face and is rapidly speaking more as her confidence grows. She is even learning words in English in the classes I give them ... not just Spanish!

She is a very different child to who we first met just five months ago; she's being released to be the person God made her to be.



Six-year-old Joselyn lives with her parents and five siblings in a cramped, part mudbrick, part bricked home. She sleeps in the same room as her parents and four of her siblings. When her parents can find work, it provides around 35p per day per family member to live on. The main meal of the day is soup. It's no surprise they are hungry.

INTERVIEW

What brought you to Bolivia?

I first came to Bolivia in 1999 with Latin Link for four months, before I went to university. Since then the country has stayed in my heart. After finishing a degree in marketing in 2003, God told me to do the 'Tribal Training' (TT) course at St Bs. I began to talk about my heart for Bolivia; but I had no idea how you get 'called' to another country. During TT and whilst working for St Bs I was disciplined, and helped to discover my gifts and calling. I met with the Mission Task Force in 2005 to talk it through. When I found an organization called Food for the Hungry (FH), I knew it was right for me. God guided everything and I arrived here, nervously, in October 2006.

What does your work involve?

I work on a Community Transformation Project in a neighbourhood called Puerto Camacho on the outskirts of Bolivia's poorest city, El Alto. Their problems include poor education, few work opportunities, an average income of 40p a day, hunger, malnutrition, poor living conditions and lack of hope. We are empowering local people to discover and use the potential God has given them to break the cycle of poverty which currently traps them.

We have a development and learning programme for 100 children, to release their potential to equip them to provide for themselves, and their families, in the future. We also work with the children's families and the church and community leaders, equipping them to overcome all forms of poverty and resolve the community's problems.

I also work as the link between the community and those in the UK who want to help make this transformation possible through sponsoring the community, giving a one-off gift, or praying.

What's it like living in another culture?

I spoke hardly any Spanish when I arrived so had to learn quickly to get by. Now I live and work in Spanish, but I find it frustrating when I don't understand everything, and the language still prevents my friendships from being as deep as at home. The culture is also very different. People are very indirect so I have to think from Bolivian culture rather than British culture to read what they are saying without words! And being one of the only white people around, I get stared at a lot. The red hair doesn't make it easy to blend in! I have struggled with loneliness as a result, so far from friends, family and home.

What have you learnt?

As humans we are very much focused on what we can do. Although the Bible talks about God's strength being made perfect in our weakness, I didn't understand what that looks like until I came here. When I arrived in Bolivia I didn't understand why God had brought me here or what I could 'do'. I couldn't 'do' anything and that was why he brought me here. Here, I really am weak, and I've learned that God really is strong in our weakness.



I couldn't pretend to understand the complexities of poverty, or hazard a guess as to what is best for the poor; so, feeling completely out of my depth, all I could do was pray. God then revealed His plan to me, and my role in it, step by step. It was like walking blindfolded; by faith, not by sight.

That plan was to modify the way Food for the Hungry in Bolivia plan their projects, through involving the community, and more importantly, seeking God's wisdom rather than our own to see Him really change lives, overcoming all forms of poverty and releasing people into 'life to the full'. This resulted in the Puerto Camacho project starting in October 2009 and we are already seeing God at work changing lives.



Where do you go from here?

God has shown me my role is that of a trouble shooter at a macro level. I think the plan is to keep monitoring the Puerto Camacho project as it develops and oversee the extension to other areas of El Alto. Beyond that it could be to replicate it in other areas of Bolivia and other countries depending on what God has planned. I'm planning to be back in the UK for at least 6 months from the end of June to reconnect with family and friends, to share the project and seek guidance about the next steps.

In the meantime, please pray for me and the Food for the Hungry team; and for the community of Puerto Camacho, to break out of poverty and receive life in abundance through Jesus.

If you are interested in finding out more about sponsoring the community of Puerto Camacho, or other ways of helping, contact Caroline on carolineburns29@hotmail.com

Sunday Services

Summer Programme 2010

8am Holy Communion

A traditional prayer book service in the Side Chapel

2pm Japanese Worship

Japanese language service in the Parish Hall led by Revd Hiroshi Ogawa

9.30am & 11.30am

Morning Worship

with Communion on 11 April, 16 May, 13 June and 11 July

APRIL

- 18 St Barnabas Day
- 25 Guest Speaker: Revd Jonathan Oloyede, Convener, Global Day of Prayer London

SERMON SERIES: EZRA – GOD BUILDS HIS WORSHIPPING COMMUNITY

MAY

- 2 A people who belong to God – Ezra 1
- 9 A people of change – Ezra 2 & 3
- 16 A distinctive people – Ezra 4
- 23 A people under pressure – Ezra 5:1-6:12
- 30 A people who worship – Ezra 6:13-22

JUNE

- 6 A people of the world – Ezra 7
- 13 A repentant people – Ezra 8-10
- 20 Fathers Day Family Services
- 27 Morning Worship

SERMON SERIES: A ROYAL PRIESTHOOD, A HOLY NATION (1 PETER 2:9)

JULY

- 4 See no evil
- 11 Hear no evil
- 18 Speak no evil

7pm:

Evening Worship

with Communion on 16 May, 20 June and 11 July

APRIL

- 18 St Barnabas Day
- 25 Guest Speaker: Revd Will van der Hart, Vicar, St Peter's, Harrow

MAY

- 2 Evening Worship
- 9 A people who belong to God – Ezra 1
- 16 A people of change – Ezra 2 & 3
- 23 A distinctive people – Ezra 4
- 30 A people under pressure – Ezra 5:1-6:12

JUNE

- 6 A people who worship – Ezra 6:13-22
- 13 Guest Speaker: Brian Burton, Leader, Phuket Christian Centre, Thailand
- 20 A repentant people – Ezra 8-10
- 27 Guest Speaker: Matt Wilson, National Director, Eden Network

JULY

- 4 See no evil
- 11 Hear no evil
- 18 Speak no evil

Events Diary

APRIL

- 21 Welcome Supper 8pm
- 24 Transform Conference 10am-4pm
- 28 Welcome to St Bs course starts 8pm

MAY

- 3 Revival Prayer Meeting 8pm
- 8 Barnabas Group Leaders' Training Day 9.30am
- 10 PCC Meeting 7.30pm
- 12 Synergy Young Adult Gathering 7.45pm
- 15 Family Craft Morning 10am
- 16 Family Worship Gathering 3.30pm

JUNE

- 7 Barnabas Group Leaders Meeting 8pm
- 7 Revival Prayer Meeting 8pm
- 19 PCC Awayday
- 19 Family Craft Morning 10am
- 20 Fathers Day Lunch 1pm

JULY

- 5 Revival Prayer Meeting 8pm
- 7 Youth-to-Young Adult Graduation Party & Synergy Social 7.30pm
- 10 Hope 2010 Community Day
- 17 Family Craft Morning 10am
- 18 Services of Baptism 9.30am & 11.30am
- 24 New Wine LSE starts

Weekly Activities

During term-time

SUNDAY

Kids Church (5s-11s)
9.30am & 11.30am

Mini Church (3s-4s)
9.30am & 11.30am

Tots Church (0s-3s)
9.50am & 11.50am

The Sunday Session (11s-14s) 11.30am

Y66 5pm

The Five (14s-18s youth congregation) 5pm

TUESDAY

English conversation classes for Japanese Women
10am-12noon

Alpha 7.30pm

Ignition Cell (14s-18s)
7.30pm

WEDNESDAY

Barneys Toddler Group
9.30-11.30am

Wednesday Club for Senior Citizens 2.15-4.15pm

Kids Barnabas Group (9s-11s) 4pm

THURSDAY

Thursday Women's Group
9.30am-12noon

FRIDAY

Barneys Toddler Group
9.30-11.30am

Toddler Lunch Club
12noon-2pm

Mini GAP Kids Club (5s-7s) & Mini GAP Café (for parents & carers) 5-6.30pm

GAP Kids Club (7s-11s)
7.30-9pm

Friday Night Chill (11s-14s) 7-9pm

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Called to be different

Ezra and 2 Corinthians

Do you enjoy being the odd one out? Or do you prefer to blend in and be like everyone around you? Well - both the Bible books we have been looking at in our recent sermon series, Ezra and 2 Corinthians, have something to say about this.

Let's start by looking at where the Book of Ezra fits into Old Testament history. After the death of King Solomon around 922 BC, Israel divided into two kingdoms. The Northern Kingdom, known as Israel, lasted until 722 BC when it fell to the Assyrians and its people were taken into exile (2 Kings 17:7-23). The Southern Kingdom, known as Judah, lasted until 586 BC when it fell to the Babylonians, who "set fire to God's temple, and broke down the wall of Jerusalem; they burned all the palaces and destroyed everything of value there. He (Nebuchadnezzar, the King of the Babylonians) carried into exile to Babylon the remnant, who escaped from the sword, and they became servants to him and his successors until the Kingdom of Persia came to power." (2 Chronicles 36:19-20)

After some years of exile, in fulfilment of the prophecies of Isaiah (44:24 to 45:4) and Jeremiah (24:6 and 27:22), Cyrus, King of Persia, allowed the people to return and rebuild the Temple. Ezra 1-6 tells us about this, with details about who returned, and what they took back with them. Despite opposition, they rebuilt and dedicated the temple, probably around 516 BC. Sometime later, maybe as much as 60 years later, Ezra the priest returns from Babylon to Jerusalem as "teacher of the Law of the God of Heaven" (Ezra 7:12). One of the issues which Ezra addresses is that "the people have not kept themselves separate from the neighbouring peoples with their detestable practices ... they have taken some of their daughters as wives ... and have mingled the holy race with the peoples around them." (Ezra 9:1-2)

We jump forward a few hundred years, and find the Apostle Paul (during his second missionary journey) probably around 50-52 AD, preaching in Corinth and establishing a church there. Now Corinth, as a city, was known for a number of things. It was a centre of commerce; a cultural centre where people loved to discuss the latest Greek philosophy; a very religious place with at least twelve temples to different gods; and it was notorious for its immorality ... at one time around 1000 temple prostitutes served in the temple of Aphrodite in Corinth. As a result of



By David Brown

Paul's preaching, "many of the Corinthians ... believed and were baptised" and Paul stayed there for 18 months "teaching them the word of God" (Acts 18:1-16).

However, these converts didn't progress as Paul hoped. In his first letter to them he describes them as "worldly – mere infants in Christ" (1 Corinthians 3:1). And by the time he writes the letter we know as 2 Corinthians, they are still causing Paul concern. It seems that whilst they had accepted Paul's message about Jesus, they hadn't disentangled themselves from their "Corinthian lifestyle". Paul addresses the issues of sexual immorality, and of mixing the worship of God with the worship of other gods or idols. (2 Corinthians 6:14-18)

What the people of God being taught by Ezra in Jerusalem, and the people of God being taught by Paul in Corinth, had both forgotten, is that God's intention for his people is, and always has been, that we should be different from other people. God says this to his people, Israel, in the Old Testament (Exodus 19:5-6, Deuteronomy 7:6) and he says it to his people, the Church, in the New Testament (2 Corinthians 6:14-18, 1 Peter 2:9-10).

Perhaps the most telling image is the one Paul uses when he asks "What fellowship can light have with darkness?" (2 Corinthians 6:14). This image of light and darkness runs through the New Testament. We live in a dark world, BUT:

God is light, and in him there is no darkness at all
(1 John 1:5)

we have been called out of darkness and into light
(Acts 26:18, 1 Thessalonians 5:5, 1 Peter 2:9)

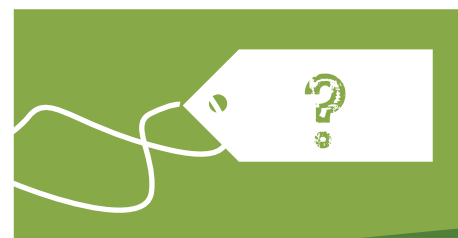
we are instructed to live as children of the light
(Romans 13:12, Ephesians 5:8)

we are called to shine as lights in the darkness
(Matthew 5:14-16, Philippians 2:14-16)

And this is the challenge we all face isn't it? We all have to live in this dark world, and we want to build good relationships with people around us, and we don't want to be thought of as odd or weird. And at the same time, we want to take seriously the message of both Ezra and Paul that we are called to be different.

This is my story

Four St Bs members share a slice of their lives with us ...



WHAT'S IN A NAME?

Andre Radmall



When I was adopted at six weeks, I was given the name William, which became Bill. As far as I knew, that was my name. Then I discovered that I was given another name at birth: Andre. I rather liked this original name and occasionally wondered about the 'Andre' part of me. Later, at a New Wine leaders' conference, I felt God was calling me to reclaim my original name (which means 'manly' or 'warrior') and step into the destiny he had for me. So, a few weeks ago I changed my name by Deed Poll, and on Saturday 6 March there was a very moving Renaming Ceremony for me at St Bs, which really seemed to seal this new beginning in my journey with the Lord.

'What's in a name?' you may ask. Well, quite a lot, actually.

The Bible has many examples of significant characters who God gave new names to. For example, the rather devious Jacob becomes the upright 'God-wrestler'; Peter is given the nickname 'Rocky' by Jesus; and Saul becomes 'Paul'. These new names represent something of the calling God has on these people's lives and how he sees them. It's true for all of us that as Christ-followers, 'The old has gone and the new has come' (2 Corinthians 5:17). I believe that in becoming Andre I am claiming more of the new life that God generously offers us all.



LOAVES, FISH ... AND RICE

Sita Patel



Last summer I was invited to speak at another church, the day before flying out to Bahrain to visit my son Sandeep. A friend who prayed for me before I spoke said the Lord had reminded her of the feeding of the five thousand – that God would bless and multiply what I shared on that day, and beyond.

The talk went well; then I flew to Bahrain. That week we were all to bring food to Sandeep's church for a meal after the service, so I cooked some vegetable rice. After the service an Indian family came up to me; the mother, Tabitha, wanted to see "the mother of this wonderful man who has been so helpful to us, financially and otherwise". They were struggling to make ends meet. Tabitha said she had not come to the service because she felt God had abandoned her. She is a specialist nurse, but very poorly paid, and considering working longer hours – which would mean not being at home for her young children.

I said, "Can I come to your place and pray for you?"

Tabitha was embarrassed about her tiny flat, but she agreed. I brought the remains of the rice in the pot – roughly one portion, after 18 people had each had a helping. I prayed with the family, reassuring them of God's love and faithfulness, especially in his promises to provide for us. They said they felt at peace, and before we left I offered them the rice. Tabitha got out a large serving plate, about 40cm wide, and I remember thinking, 'That's much too big!' but as she poured the rice out of the pot, it kept on coming until the plate was full and piled up high.

I suddenly sat bolt upright as I realised what God had done: he had multiplied the rice!

in a bowl on the table in the flat where I'd put the rice, as if to remind me of the loaves and fish story. What a demonstration that our God provides!

Sandeep tells me that Tabitha has now found better-paid work without longer hours, and that the family are now back at church. Isn't God good?

I didn't think any more of it, but when I was praying in bed later I suddenly sat bolt upright as I realised what God had done: he had multiplied the rice! Sandeep noticed it too. The funny thing was that there were two goldfish



A KNOCK ON THE DOOR

John Auton



A group of us from St Barnabas recently attended the funeral of Beryl Miller, who died in January 2010 aged 92. Her late husband, Revd Raymond Miller, was our Vicar from 1953 to 1982.

In 1960, when I was ten, my family moved into the parish of St Barnabas. One afternoon, Revd Miller knocked on our door, welcomed us, and invited us to make St Barnabas our 'spiritual home'. At that time I had no interest in a 'spiritual home', but I had great respect for Revd Miller, as he had arrived in a brand new, gleaming cream Riley 1.5 sports saloon. Mother later said, "We'll have to go to church on Sunday", which we duly did.

There and then I made up my mind that Christianity was "Boring, Untrue and Irrelevant" and I did not go again. Although I turned my back on God, He never turned His back on me. Some 43 years later, in 2003, I became involved with a group of homeless men who congregated outside Tesco in Finchley. After shopping, I would sit and chat to these men. In my arrogance, I believed that I was helping them. I know better now; it was they who were helping me.

I became particularly close to one young homeless lad named Steve. After he was arrested for shoplifting I visited him in prison. There he asked me to attend a service at his church, St Barnabas. I instantly remembered Raymond Miller and his Riley 1.5. Steve begged me to go as a favour to him, and I could not refuse.

I walked back into the church on 12 October 2003, not having darkened its doors for 43 years, and I instantly felt at home. I attended an Alpha course where I encountered the Holy Spirit and began to realise that "Christianity could be for me, not just for good people."

Although I turned my back on God, He never turned His back on me.

On 21 May 2006 I was baptised. To this day I can still hear the sound of the water lapping over me and washing away my sins. Then I was lifted out of the water, and the whole congregation, nearly 400 of them, were on their feet, applauding and welcoming me to the Christian family. I now know, without a doubt, that I shall be with Jesus for eternity.

And it all started with Raymond Miller knocking on our door in December 1960.



GUIDED STEP-BY-STEP

Don Skinner

At Christmas 2008 I was faced with the choice of whether to retire at the end of the financial year, or to continue working until my birthday in June. I began to ask God for guidance.

The next month St Bs' Mission Task Force advertised for a part time administrator. Because members of my family have been involved in full time mission I felt that I could make a contribution in the job, and that God wanted me to apply. I applied, was invited for an interview in March and gave notice to retire at the end of March - then God told me that I wouldn't get the job. On the evening of the interview Henry phoned to say that I hadn't got it, **but** they would like to explore whether I could help in another area ...

I felt that I could make a contribution in the job and that God wanted me to apply.

I am now a 'significant volunteer' in the discipleship department; my job is to help David Brown do his job. Besides doing admin work I prepare and distribute the weekly Focus Sheet that goes out to Barnabas group leaders, and I'm the first point of contact for those seeking a group where they will feel at home. I'm enjoying giving something back to St Bs. God has been good to me and shown me again that he has given, and still wants to give his best to each of us.

News from the street



By Liz Kovar

I have to be honest and say that, for many of us, it started out as a real challenge. Used as we were to praying for people in church, praying for complete strangers outside of the church, and on a busy shopping street to boot, was a whole other ball game. However, what started as a challenge has since become a blessing and, if there's one lesson we've learnt, it's that when we step out in faith, God loves to come alongside us and provide us with the tools that we need. And the more we've been out there, the more natural it has become to offer to pray for people, to talk about Jesus and to explain what our faith means to us.

Another blessing has been getting to know and love the other members of the team. We meet up at the church to pray together before we head out and the time we spend in prayer creates an intimacy that would usually take years to form. It's a wonderful start to a weekend: meeting up with Christian friends to head out and see what God has in store for people that day.

I have to be honest and say that, for many of us it started out as a real challenge... praying for complete strangers outside of the church, and on a busy shopping street. However, what started as a challenge has since become a blessing

Healing on the Streets turns two

It's been two years now since we began going as a team every Saturday morning to offer prayer for healing on our High Street, and quite a community has formed. Regulars are often waiting for us as we arrive, as cynics and believers alike stop to chat and catch up. They know where to find us and they know that we'll be there come rain or shine, snow or gales. Every Saturday is different, but God always meets with us, and meets with others through us.

Of course, the greatest blessing has been in witnessing what happens when we're out there: how people can be touched by the Holy Spirit even amongst the police sirens and car fumes; how people are moved so readily to tears; and how God then changes lives. As the months have gone by, we've had more and more people coming back with wonderful testimonies of God's healing power:

The man whose diabetes was out of control, and who was prayed for several times, before he reappeared one morning with armfuls of fruit as a gift to say thank you. His diabetes had finally settled down and he attributed it to God's healing power.

The woman who asked for prayer because she was, at last, pregnant with her first child. She came back months later with her baby boy, to say they had named him 'Raphael', which means 'healing God'.

The man whose back pain disappeared and who said prayer was better than any deep heat he'd ever experienced.

The man healed of cancer, who then came back for prayer for his friend who had stomach cancer.

We've been fortunate enough to witness the healing of bad backs, shoulders, ankles and knees, and we've been privileged to walk alongside people as they go through periods of suffering, because, of course, it's not the same 'success' story for everyone. We see people trapped in their addictions, and one man we got to know died not long after he came to faith; but we've also seen community building on the high street, healing on the high street and people getting to know Jesus for the first time.

If we stayed in bed every Saturday morning, think what we'd be missing!

If you'd like to find out more about Healing on the Streets, contact Wendy Harrison on 020 8440 4136 or wendy@wendyharrison.orangehome.co.uk.

Whole Barnabas groups as well as individuals are welcome.



If we stayed in bed every Saturday morning, think what we'd be missing!

'I'M A QUIET KIND OF GUY ...'

I got involved after hearing a testimony from Dave Harvey during one of the services. The idea of people being healed on the High Street excited me and I just knew I wanted to be part of it. Even though I'm a quiet kind of guy and I'd not done anything like it before, I wasn't overly apprehensive, because of the training day I attended beforehand. There was clear teaching and a real empowering of the Holy Spirit.

It's been humbling to see God's grace working through us. We just have to have the desire in our hearts and then God imparts something of himself.

I love it! I love seeing the Holy Spirit at work and I'm convinced we're going to see revival on our streets.

Allan Barrett

'I'VE COME HOME'

I was prayed for five or six times on the High Street after having an operation for bowel cancer. The prayer made such a difference to me, enabling me to get through what seemed an impossibly difficult period of my life.

When my chemotherapy ended, I went to see my consultant for the results and he gave me the 'all clear'.

He said to me, 'I don't know what you've been doing, but keep it up!' and I told him I'd been having healing prayer.

I believe God has been in the whole process. Not only am I clear of cancer, but I feel like I've come back home. I was baptised here at St Barnabas as an infant, so imagine my surprise when the lady who prayed for me invited me to join the Wednesday Club at St Bs!

Muriel



News in Brief

A round-up of Who's doing What, Where, When and sometimes Why

Feasting and Fasting

Following the celebrations and parties of Christmas, January opened with a time of fasting for the staff team. With a longing and desire to hear God and know what he wants for St Bs, the team decided to pray and fast through January, including three days of fasting and praying together. We sensed God speaking to us about becoming a more missional, community-orientated church, prepared to take risks for the sake of his kingdom, and we are still processing the implications of this.



£7000 given to Haiti

Once again the generosity of members of St Bs was demonstrated with the offering taken for the Haiti earthquake disaster appeal. We were able to send Tearfund more than £7000; we were also very pleased to welcome representatives from Tearfund to St Bs in March who came to thank us personally for the donation and to update us on the continuing work to rebuild Haiti.

Prayer Themes

In February our prayer themes for 2010 were launched. With a theme for each month and a different focus for each week, we hope to cover in prayer every aspect of life at St Bs over the course of the year. If you haven't got your copy of the leaflet, make sure you pick one up from the back of church.

Leaders' Weekend Away

The last weekend in January saw nearly 100 members of St Bs, all of whom are involved in leadership at St Bs, gather together in the Holiday Inn Aylesbury for a weekend of teaching, worship and fellowship together. It was a significant time of learning with great teaching from Viv Thomas, and of getting to know one another.

Your country needs God

Based on the Creme Egg advertising, this was the theme of our Easter publicity this year, including 10,000 postcards, which were delivered by members of the congregation around the area. The Easter weekend included a moving reflective service on Good Friday attended by more than 500 adults, plus 100 children and then great Easter celebrations on Easter Sunday.

Mission Possible

The Spring Term at St Bs has seen plenty of activity for Mission Task Force (MTF), St Bs' world mission agency. In February we had our annual Mission Sunday involving interviews and video clips from some of our mission partners, information about how to get involved with mission, slots in Kids Church and The Five and a Synergy curry evening. It was a day filled with opportunities to find out, and get excited, about what St Bs members are already doing around the world and to think about how the rest of us can get involved.

In March MTF had an awayday at the YWAM base in Harpenden. Attended by 17 members of the team, it was a day for reflection and looking at the future structure and development of MTF and its work.

And we have also sent off a number of members on short-term mission over the past few months:

Patrick Kendal is now with YWAM doing a 6 month DTS course; Anne Coles, Jane Kendal and Nikki Marfleet had an amazing two weeks in Nepal with Tearfund; and Esther Barlow and Megan Giles have both gone on short term mission to South America with Latin Link

If you want to find out more about Mission, speak to Jess:
jessicamariano@stbarnabas.co.uk
020 8343 5785



Bishop Peter at St Bs

We were very pleased to welcome our Bishop to the 7pm service on 7 March, for a service of baptism and confirmation. With a number of baptisms and 19 confirmations, it was a great evening of celebration with moving testimonies of what God has done in people's lives.

If you want to enquire about being baptised at a future service, contact Margaret:
margaretpeach@stbarnabas.co.uk
020 8343 5780



Springfest

Now a firm fixture in the St Bs diary, these regular events attract families both from our congregation and from our Toddlers and GAP clubs. In March over 300 people came to the church for an afternoon of games, crafts, bouncy castle and food. If you haven't been to one yet, watch out in the weekly bulletin for news of the next event!



Hope House is 10 years old

The evening of Saturday 6 February saw the chairs stacked away and the church turned into a dance floor for a ceilidh to celebrate 10 years of Hope House, our partner charity. With music led by the Doré family, over 200 people came along for an evening of dancing, eating and hearing about the great work that Hope House does with families, children and young people.

To find out more about Hope House, contact Helen: 020 8343 5789
helenshannon@stbarnabas.co.uk



Helen Shannon to be ordained

On Saturday 3 July Helen Shannon will become Revd Helen Shannon as she is ordained at a service in St Paul's Cathedral. Helen would love you all to join her the next day (Sunday 4 July) for a community celebration at 5pm in the Green Man Community Centre on Strawberry Vale.



New Book

After becoming the youngest person to sail single-handed around the world last year, Michael Perham has now published a book about his record-breaking achievement. *Sailing the Dream* was published in March and is available from bookshops.

St Bs Website

Watch out for our completely new website, being launched in April: www.stbarnabas.co.uk. And it's not just the website that has a new look - have you spotted the new St Bs logo?

Staff Babies!

No changes of staff to announce this time, but we are delighted to welcome Liz and Stew Bewley's new baby boy - Nate Joel was born on 27 February. Liz is now on maternity leave and will be back in post in August. We are also looking forward to the arrival of Elliott and Jo Ireton's third baby, due in July.



The Spectacular Ordinary Life

By Viv Thomas

Theology – but not as you know it

A pastor in Ghana once said to Viv: 'As you are speaking I can feel my heart changing. So what are you doing to us? This has never happened to me in a theology class before'.

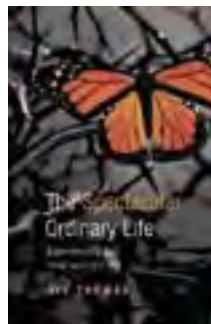
Viv Thomas's teaching, which some of us got to enjoy in person at St Bs' leaders weekend away in January, is intellectually stimulating, but it engages emotions and spirit just as much as minds and, like the pastor in Ghana, I was aware of the Spirit's presence several times as I read 'Spectacular Ordinary Life'.

The book opens with a disturbing but hilarious description of his mother's misbehaviour at his grandmother's funeral. If one of Viv's gifts is finding life amid chaos, and showing us that the gospel does much the same thing, then this story is the perfect illustration. A spectacular ordinary life is clearly not a spotless, cloud-dwelling life.

After the funeral story, this short book starts with the Trinity, goes on to cover the whole of scripture from creation to future hope, and finishes with advice on the spiritual disciplines we can use to hold it all together. He writes about each member of the

Trinity, relating Father, Son and Spirit to love, forgiveness and life. I found that a reminder of the fact that ultimately God is a loving, relational being made a good foundation for what followed.

In 'Story', the main section, Viv takes us through each act of God's salvation: creation, fall, incarnation, redemption, ascension and future hope, showing how we can relate each one to our own lives. For instance, in the creation chapter, how can we live creatively? It's not just about painting. Can we unblock a drain or change a nappy or lead a church creatively? I found each chapter refreshing, especially 'Fall', where Viv calls us to live with the reality of failure: 'We are going to fail and that is fine, for in the battles ahead there will be failure. We live this failure before God and if we can do this it will make us wiser, stronger and ready for the next challenge'.



I recommend getting hold of this book, taking your time over it, and squeezing out all the juice. A lot is packed into each section; the best way to make the most of it would be through individual or group study, using the questions provided. There is wisdom here that we need to get to grips with!

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