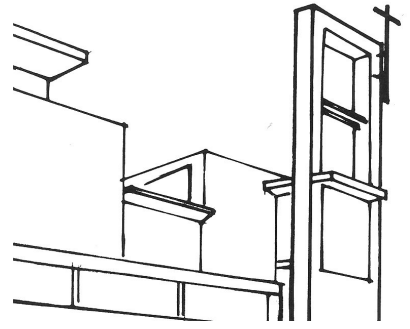


The Octagon



BAR HILL CHURCH NEWSLETTER

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Please send your Spirit, Lord

Lord, send the gift of your Spirit

to fill this place

and myself

and the world

Touch me with truth

that burns like fire,

with beauty that moves me like the wind;

and set me free, Lord.

From *Guerillas of Grace* by Ted Loder

How can I find true freedom and peace in this world of chaos and stress? We know that this is a vexed question that many people are asking today. Rarely a month goes by without our newspapers or magazines writing an article on the subject of stress and busy-ness. In a world of shouting and competing voices, many offer the solution; whether it is taking a remote holiday in a peaceful place, escaping from the hustle and bustle, or taking a shower with a gel that promises stress release through aromatherapy.

On Pentecost Sunday, a couple of weeks ago, we remembered a God who comes flooding in on us, in the midst of the noise and the madness of our everyday worlds. Jerusalem, on the day of Pentecost was bustling with people from all over the known world. The writer of Acts recalls “Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome,

both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabs.” (Acts 2:9-11) Through the spirit-filled disciples, God spoke to each person in a tongue that they could understand. No one could say, “I would like to believe, but you are not speaking my language, it’s too confusing.” God stepped into the middle of the confusion and babble of all of the different tongues that were around and spoke directly to each one listening.

The message was one of freedom and transformation. “*Repent and be baptised...and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit*” (Acts 2:23) The gift that burns like fire within you, transforming and cleansing, filling you with a vision of God’s energy and purpose for the world and, like the wind, that blows you in the direction that God is desiring.

The challenge of this, of course, is that when we go on a fantastic holiday, or treat ourselves to a particularly pleasant shower gel, we get a temporary relief for stress that is at least in some way under our control. When we submit ourselves to Christ we lose any control we had over our lives - we hand over all that we are and will be. In our society, where freedom is often defined as having control over your destiny, this can seem like the ultimate foolishness and we may be accused, as the disciples were of having indulged in “new wine.”

Yet this is the truth of Pentecost that we are called to proclaim, as God’s “guerillas of grace” in the midst of a stressed-out and noisy world.

Please send your Spirit Lord, and help us to do it. That others may hear your message in words they understand and be led into peace and freedom.

Rev'd Ruth Adams

As servants of Christ we commit ourselves to worship, work and witness together in his name to establish his kingdom in our village and beyond”

Word 4 Weapons

Word 4 Weapons is a Christian based organisation started by Michael Smith in 2007, who was moved to prayer after seeing many young lives being lost to gun and knife crime. He felt something different had to be done to reach a society that is becoming numb to violent crime and his prayers were answered loud and clear, "Ask the young people to swap their weapons for one of ours". The Bible says in 2 Corinthians 10:3-5; "The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds". It was on the basis of this principle that Word 4 Weapons was formed.

People are invited to anonymously hand over their weapons or place them in a secure knife bin and, if they wish, in return they can request an 'All I need' bag. This contains

- a Bible,
- some leaflets exploring Christianity,
- a comic about the dangers of gang membership
- and some small gifts.

At least eight knife bins have been established in London and there are plans to encourage other areas of the country to take part in the scheme too.

One example is All Saints Church in King's Cross who placed a secure knife bin outside its premises last year - the first non-police location to host a secure knife bin. In just one year over a hundred bladed weapons were deposited, an average of about two a week. Sadly in that time a teenager died from stab wounds only 100 metres from the site of the bin, but the church trust that other lives have been saved due to the knives leaving the streets.

When we hear in the news of yet more knife crime let's use it as a prompt to pray for the effectiveness of this scheme and for lives to be transformed by the 'All I need' bags – and we can pray with confidence because, it was after all, God's initiative.
Pam Vendy

PS: I first heard about this while listening to Premier Christian Radio – I find it really encouraging to hear positive news items like these rather than just the negative reports we usually hear in the rest of the media.

Open Gardens – 27 June 2010

Eleven gardens in the village will be open to visitors on 27 June, from 1 to 6 p.m. This is the fifth year of the event, and there are four new gardens to inspect. Teas, cold drinks, plants, books and a competition will be available.

The money raised will go to Botton Village, a community in the North York Moors established by the Camphill Village Trust for adults who need support. It is home to over 300 adults who live in family units with house parents. Residents work on the community's farms, in printing and in crafts, and in retail outlets.

Start at any one of the following addresses, where you will get a programme giving you details and admitting you to all the gardens: 9 Pheasant Rise, 78 Foxhollow, 10 Chestnut Rise, 67 Little Meadow.

Please come along to support this very worthwhile cause and enjoy an afternoon out at the same time.

Camphill Village Trust registered charity 232402

Items from the Church Meeting, 19th May

Reports on the Senior Fellowship were given by Sue Kenchington and on Property by Mike Sharman. Mike is standing down in September and he thanked those on the property committee who have helped him. Stephen Bull and John Knight were authorised to serve on the Local Advisory Group until the Annual Meeting in 2011. Barry Vardy suggested we write to encourage our local MP in his role as Secretary of State for Health, and will present a draft letter on this at the next meeting. Small group discussions were on how to develop the mission shaped church, particularly with regard to fringe activities.

Youth weekend away

At the youth weekend away in March we went on a slightly creepy night hike around Audley end grounds. We had different teaching sessions throughout the weekend, led by Mark, John, Ruth and Claire. The bedrooms were amazing! Each room had two levels to it. Some people slept on the bottom level and some on the top!

On the Saturday morning we did archery, an obstacle course and a low ropes course. All of them were really good fun! At the end we did a massive relay race on the obstacle course which was hilarious! In the afternoon we did some craft activities and went to a Care Home and entertained the old people with music and hymns.

On Sunday morning we split into three groups to prepare for the morning service. One group practised a short play of the bible story we were doing, another group wrote and said prayers, and the final group decorated the chapel with flowers and put up some of the things people had made in the craft session the afternoon before. We all came together and had a great service, and praised God with singing, drama and prayers!

Gemma and Rebecca

Street Care For The Village Green!

Would you be willing to volunteer an hour of your time before church on Sunday, 4th July? We are hoping to get a group of us to volunteer to help tidy up the green after the village fete on the Saturday.



We will meet at the village hall at 8.30am with others to clean up the village green area. You might like to bring garden gloves; black bin bags will be provided. At 9.15am we will then go over to the Octagon for a continental breakfast together before the 10.00am service.

If you would like to join us, please let Emily Lewney (Tel: 204433) know in order for her to have an idea of numbers for breakfast.

Easter Sunrise Service



This year on a gloriously sunny Easter morning I was fortunate enough to be involved in the early morning hike from Bar Hill church over to All Saints church Lolworth for an Easter sunrise service. This seemed to me a most appropriate way to start the day of celebration of our risen Lord. The mile long walk over to Lolworth commenced at 06.00 am. We met outside Bar Hill church and set off, on foot across the fields in a north-west direction walking away from a beautiful newly risen sunrise in the east, heading towards the 'traditional' style parish church of Lolworth.

Lolworth's current church building is thought to date from 1406. The main aspect of the church is still in its original format with a single nave without aisles, however, north and south aisles were a later addition. The original church was almost lost in 1393 when thunder and lightning storms caused many houses and crops near Lolworth to burn down. The church was all but destroyed in this fire and the side aisles were sadly lost and were never rebuilt, only the lower parts of the church walls and pillars survived the fire. Our walk took us past a memorial to this event, a small track close to the church which to this day is still named 'Burnt close' which serves as a permanent reminder to the parishioners after the rebuilding of the church and the village of Lolworth in 1406. Today All saints Lolworth forms part of the United Benefice of Fen Drayton, Conington, Lolworth and Swavesey.

As we approached the church from a distance we could see Lolworth's current vicar Revd John Yule standing outside the church to welcome our arrival. As this was the first year I had attend the sunrise hike I asked those I was walking with how many years they had upheld this lovely tradition? To my astonishment the answer came, "we haven't, this is the first year we have

actually hiked across", although Bar Hill have joined Lolworth for Eater services in the past. This really surprised me as the event seemed to me to be so steeped in tradition, as if it had been a treasured exercise for many years.

On arrival at the church we all received a small candle. Rev'd John Yule lit the first candle from a small flame which had been lit outside the church and we all shared this light, passing it from one to another, lighting one another's candles. We then processed in to the church by candle light. Together parishioners of Lolworth and Bar Hill alike shared in celebration of our risen Christ with a variety of traditional and modern worship and praise.

On leaving the church the congregation joined Mr Yule and Revd Ruth Adams in an active participation of intercession for the surrounding villages. We all walked around the church starting facing towards the west praying for Boxworth, Elsworth and Conington. Then facing the north we prayed for Swavesey, Over, Willingham and Longstanton. As we turned to the east we had the privilege of witnessing God's glorious sunrise, now high in his clear blue sky, it felt almost as if this newly risen sun and all of God's creation below it were joining us in a song of worship to the Lord. As we faced the risen sun, we thanked God for sending us his risen Son, the Lord, the light of the world sent for all. In this direction we also prayed for the villages of Bar Hill, Girton and Oakington. Moving south-east we prayed for Cambridge and finally we finished our service facing south, praying for Dry Drayton, Hardwick and Madingley. We asked that God's light may be received by all the villages for which we prayed.

We enjoyed fellowship with our brothers and sisters on the journey home and ended the celebration back at our own church in Bar Hill where we enjoyed a very welcomed shared breakfast.

For me the hike to Lolworth church was the highlight of my Eastertide it is certainly something in which I hope to participate for many years to come. I would like to encourage you to join us early next Easter morn to share in the glory and marvel of God's glorious creation and to celebrate our risen Lord to whom all the glory should go. *'Lord Jesus, thank you that you are the light of the world for all who will receive'*. John 8:12

Jenny Patton

Christian Aid Week 2010

This year our collectors rose to the challenge of collecting for Christian Aid as always, and managed to cover the whole village again. The total was a little lower than in 2009, but was none the less a magnificent achievement. It amounted to £2,959.03, £71 less than last year. There were 55 collectors, and together they called at more than 2,000 homes.

The response continues to vary greatly between roads. Some collectors get back more than half of the envelopes they deliver, others manage to retrieve less than one third. Five of the individual collections brought in more than £100 each; two yielded less than £20 each. Who raised what is not important; it all goes to make up the total. Gift Aid declarations were completed by 104 people this year. That adds an extra £230.20 to the total.

Some householders greet their collector with suspicion,

many do not answer their door, even more claim they have received no envelope when the collector delivered it a day or so before, and a surprisingly large number of people appear not to understand English. Those people who open the door with a smile and an encouraging word more than make up for all those. This year one young man's dog really had eaten the envelope; a substitute was accepted willingly and returned with a contribution inside.

Everyone who took part has played an important part in this year's effort. Special thanks to the five new collectors: Colleen Chambers, Helen Cook, Sally Page, Jenny Patton and Rachel Suchoki; and also to the many people who faithfully take part year after year. Patrick Collins and Barry Vendy gave valuable support behind the scenes, counting money. We did our best together to help end poverty, and our efforts were well worth while.

Jenny Knight

