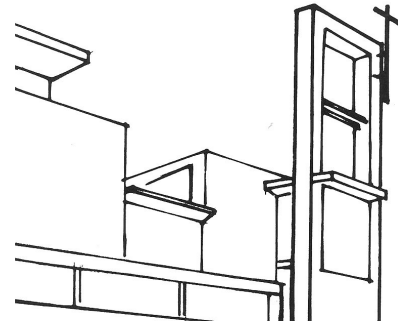


The Octagon



BAR HILL CHURCH NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 330: OCTOBER 2009

AUTUMN

I find autumn to be a bit of a strange season, as it always contains a mixture of beauty and decay, often occurring at the same time. The garden is fading from its summer glory and needs to be cut back and tidied up to prepare for the winter, often looking very bare after the glorious colours of the summer flowers. On the other hand, the leaves on the trees start to turn the most amazing colours, making the drive around the perimeter road a delight for those weeks of the year – particularly during a spectacular sunset. Autumn heralds drawing in of darkness and cold days and nights, yet nothing can quite beat getting dressed up in warm clothes and enjoying scrunching through the fallen leaves and through the autumn mists.

Our own lives can often contain this same mixture of beauty and darkness. Michael Card has sung of the “canvas of colours” that make up our days and of joy and strife existing alongside each other in our daily existence. *“God saw everything that he had made, and indeed it was very good.”* (Genesis 1:31). Yet it was not long before death and decay entered the world as humans tried to take control. (Genesis 3) So the book of Genesis describes the dual reality of human living, in between the beauty and joy of creation and the toil of labour and death.

When he came to earth Jesus proclaimed, *“the*

time is fulfilled, and the Kingdom of God has come near; repent and believe the good news.” (Mark 1:15) By these words he signalled the beginning of the end for this dual living of beauty and decay, joy and toil. By his cross and resurrection he brought in the new kingdom, where all things were transformed and death and decay no longer has any power.

This autumn we celebrate this resurrection power. We find joy in the beauty that surrounds us but we also proclaim that decay and death have not had the final word. That life has come out of death and light out of darkness. As the nights draw in let’s pray for opportunities to live the reality of this resurrection power with each other and with our friends and neighbours (Ephesians 1:18)

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”

Church Meeting, 23rd September

As Ian Spence took over as chairman of the meeting, he established some ground rules that he would insist on to allow everyone to have their say but no one to dominate the discussions.

Youth worker. Rev'd Ruth Adams reported that monies pledged for the support of the youth worker had now reached the target of £20,000, so that we can go ahead with the appointment.

Pastoral Care. Emily Lewney gave her first report after taking over as Pastoral Care coordinator. She has been liaising with Ruth on issues that have come up, and she has met with various folk in the church to discuss how pastoral care has happened in the past and any vision they may have for the future, including how Sue Kenchington is organizing pastoral care for the elderly.

Emily has begun to initiate 'Street Care'. "In July, 14 of us met to discuss setting up a street wide system of pastoral care in the village. We thought through the setting up of pastoral care street by street and how we go about the on-going work of caring for one another, with issues such as boundaries, confidentiality, trust and prayerfulness." A pilot scheme has now got going with three streets to see what works and what doesn't work, and it is hoped to extend this in the near future.

Emily felt the following points from Tricia Troughton's pastoral care report were particularly important:

- How do we bring about a partnership with Christ that is characterized by rest and renewal rather than measuring our spiritual fervour by the amount of our activity?
- How do we care for and support our church leadership - the minister, church council and wider leadership?
- The importance of training for those taking on pastoral responsibilities - bereavement visiting, healing ministry, listening skills.
- How to keep good pastoral care and good communication working hand in hand?
- The value of social events in the church.

Mission shaped church and establishing God's kingdom.

Ruth introduced this item, emphasizing that we are the bearers of God's message to the world, and making the following points:

- open our eyes to all around us, learning to see where God is working and to spot the signs of the Spirit;
- take nothing for the journey, come open handed and open minded, determined not to depend on our own resources;
- we are sent out two by two: this mission is to be in community;
- we support and are accountable to each other; we trust one another;
- our community is a safe place where new people are welcomed into the centre;
- we are a community of prayer, promise and struggle: prayer is a vital ingredient and the journey cannot be undertaken without the Holy Spirit;
- we rely on the promise of God - water for a thirsty world;
- we keep watch: holding the world before God and keeping the door open for him to act
- evangelism and healing go hand in hand.

After this, the meeting split into small groups examining seven areas of church life: mission, home groups, elderly fellowship, publicity, worship, property and children/young people. We were asked to consider two questions for each area of activity:

- Where do we see the Holy Spirit working and God's kingdom coming in this area?
- What else could we do in this area?

After 20 minutes or so of discussion, each group reported back to the meeting and Ruth and Claire Thorby summed up the exercise.

After listening to these reports, your editor spontaneously wrote down the following: "Is the church trying to do too much with not enough people?" and then Claire said almost precisely the same thing! Do we as a church need to listen more carefully to the Holy Spirit, and do church members as individuals need to consider how they may be more closely involved in the church's mission?

Last month I requested more feedback from those who went to New Wine: I was not anticipating this, but am delighted to receive this testimony, and to know how much Helena has been helped - Ed.

During the summer I went to New Wine with the Bennett family and Bar Hill Church. Before I went my feet and hands were different sizes. However, at one of the last seminars I got prayed for by the rest of my group and my feet and hands grew so, now they are the same size and I don't have trouble buying shoes anymore.

Helena Davis

Praise you, Lord, for the wonder of your healing...

Church Harvest Picnic To Thetford Forest



It was a lovely day for a picnic at Thetford. The weather was perfect, the food delicious and the fellowship was warm. In the surroundings of such a beautiful place games were played and long walks were taken. It was a reminder in the midst of our busy lives that sometimes it is good to slow down, spend time with others and breathe in the beauty of God's creation.

A poem for the harvest season:

Bare lies the earth

Bare lies the earth
shorn of its summer fruitfulness.
Black birds plunder
where ploughs have carved deep wounds across the field.
Bare lies my heart
entranced in awesome wonderment:
how great the bounty that our God has given.

Deep cuts the chill
of autumn's misty morning song.
Thick fall the leaves
upon the sun-parched field.
Deep my foreboding
at the approaching reckoning
when winter's searing frosts my weakness shall reveal.

Green springs the promise
of the approaching harvest time.
Darkness and cold
may, for a season, hide the shooting wheat,
yet bright is my hope
and shining is my joyfulness,
for Christ my sin will purge, and raise me safe,
complete.

J.J.Davidson

An appreciation

Everyone has birthdays, but my last one I shall never forget and I would like to say a big "Thank you" to Sue and Trevor for turning their annual Knit 'n Natter garden party into a birthday celebration for me. It was breathtaking to see so many people arriving and an absolute joy to meet friends from past and present.

The afternoon's entertainment included a singsong which took us oldies back to the days when we belted 'em out with gusto, and the tune "We'll meet again..." proved we have quite a few Vera Lynns in Bar Hill!

Tea was a sumptuous occasion, a stunning variety of sandwiches and cakes, culminating in the chef's masterpiece - the beautiful birthday cake. The weather of blue sky and sunshine was God's own gift to the proceedings, and for that we give Him thanks.

Yes, it was a truly memorable day, for one old girl in particular. Thank you!

Audrey Adams

OCTOBER CHURCH SERVICES

Sunday 4th	10.00 am 3.00 pm 6.30 pm	Family Communion (<i>Methodist</i>) Harvest Songs of Praise NEWS (Evening Worship)
Sunday 11th	8.00 am 10.00 am 3.00 pm 6.30 pm	Holy Communion Morning Worship Family Fun Evening Prayer
Sunday 18th	10.00 am 6.30 pm	Holy Communion (<i>URC</i>) Creative Prayer
Sunday 25th	10.00 am 6.30 pm	All Age Worship Taize Service with Communion
Wednesday 28th	10.00 am	Holy Communion
There is also a Roman Catholic service on Saturday evenings at 6.00 pm		
People to contact:	The minister: Rev Ruth Adams Tel: 01954 789369 Church Centre Manager: Tel/Fax: 01954 206120 (office hours Monday, Wednesday & Friday 9.30-10.30)	

Gathered in the love of Christ an evening with **Marty Haugen**

**Bar Hill Church, on Tuesday October 20, 7.30 pm
(time tbc)**

Marty Haugen is visiting us again! Come to meet the composer, sing his songs old and new, and share his insights and vast experience on music and liturgy.

Further details closer to the time from Bob
Chappell

Cost £5.00. Under 14s and senior citizens £3.00
Bookings: Stephen Dean 01842 815372
stephendean@decanimusic.co.uk

The trouble with kids

The Ely Diocesan Committee for Family & Social Welfare is sponsoring a seminar on this topic conducted by **Professor Tanya Byron** at 10.30 for 11am on Thursday 8th October at Magdalene College Cripps lecture theatre.

Her record as a clinical psychologist, as a consultant and policy advisor, as a writer and broadcaster, and as a public advocate on children's issues has established her as a leading figure on issues to do with children and families.

Admission by ticket only, which unfortunately costs £25. Book with csfw@ely.anglican.org
tel: 01353 652719.

Please note:

Jan Hewins (publicity coordinator) now has her own Email address: jan.hewins@ntlworld.com.

The Ely diocese monthly newsletter can be accessed at: http://www.ely.anglican.org/news_events/newsletters.



Editor: Bryon Bache. Contributions and letters for future editions to reach the editor by 18th of each month, Email to: bwb10@cam.ac.uk or Tel: 01954 780336. The Octagon is distributed freely around the village; if you would like a copy please contact Alwyn Keeves on 01954 781050. We encourage you to receive it by E-mail: register for this at the church's website www.barhillchurch.com. © 2009 Bar Hill Church. The Octagon is produced and published by Bar Hill Church. Unauthorised copying or reproduction is prohibited: permission from the editor.