

# Welcome to the “on-line” version of our current Church Newsletter

We publish a monthly newsletter which is distributed to all our members and adherents through the pigeon holes in our church vestibule. We also send copies by post to friends of the church who now live away from Nottingham and large print versions are available to those who need them

Please note that, for this “on-line” version of the newsletter, some information from our printed magazine has been omitted. This normally includes:

- personalia
- personal "thank you" letters
- home addresses of members
- some details of events for children and young people

which we have chosen to remove for child protection, security and other privacy reasons.

We also remove material (such as that supplied by Christian Aid for inclusion in church magazines) to avoid possible difficulty with copyright issues.

Full details of the venues, times and names of individuals to contact are in the printed version of the newsletter or are available from the church secretary.

## MINISTER'S LETTER

Dear Friends

On the 27<sup>th</sup> September I was preaching from the Epistle of James Chapter 5 which touches upon the subject of healing. That was the set reading for the day from the Revised Common Lectionary.

In that sermon I mentioned something I would simply like to repeat here. I recalled how many of us had been greatly taken with the Negro spiritual sung as a Choir Anthem: - There is a Balm in Gilead.

“There is a balm in Gilead, to make the wounded whole. There is a balm in Gilead, to heal the sin sick soul. Sometimes I feel discouraged, and think my work's in vain, but then the Holy Spirit revives my soul again. There is a balm in Gilead, to make the wounded whole, there is a balm in Gilead to heal the sin sick soul.”

Those words arise from a question posed in the prophecy of Jeremiah 8:22, where the prophet speaking of the metaphorical cure for the sins of the Israelites has God saying “Is there no balm in Gilead? Is there no physician there? Why then is there no healing for the wound of my people?”

I purposely linked those words to the event which occurs in our church on the second Tuesday of each calendar month:- the ecumenical service of prayer and meditation. The feedback I hear about that service suggests those monthly sessions of 45 minutes have been of great help, stimulation and comfort to those who have attended. Check that out by asking those who say so.

What I find strange is that so few others take up that opportunity to spend a brief time in quietness, in prayer, and in meditation, to recharge the spiritual and emotional batteries, to experience healing and wholeness in Christian fellowship. I know how difficult life is for many of our congregation. Many struggle with all kinds of situations and needs that few know about. One of the aims of the Taizé service is to be a resource and a support in that.

Why not come along and see for yourself? At the very least it will be three quarters of an hour in which you can sit down and find peace. It could also be much more than that!

Yours sincerely

Revd Ian Wiseman

## ELECTION OF ELDERS

The Elders Meeting has agreed that it would be helpful now for our congregation to elect some more Elders.

Any **church member** is eligible for election to the Eldership and we would encourage all members to think about this and make recommendations of church members to become Elders.

The process of an Elders election is that members are asked to submit recommendations to the Elders *without discussion with others, including those being recommended*. Members who receive wide support from across the congregation will be approached by the minister to see if they are willing to be nominated and the Elders will then bring forward names for election at a Church Meeting. This will be our January Church Meeting or church AGM in 2010.

It is in order to avoid possible hurt and embarrassment that we ask you to make your recommendations from your own knowledge of other members and not seek to obtain the consent of someone you may wish to recommend or canvass on anyone's behalf.

Forms for your recommendations will be available in church from Sunday, 1<sup>st</sup> November and completed forms should be placed in the box which will be on the vestibule table until 22<sup>nd</sup> November. (Additional forms will also be available there.)

Your completed forms may also be posted or handed to me to arrive no later than Tuesday, 24<sup>th</sup> November.

Thank you.

Church Secretary

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## **News of our Commitment For Life partners in Bangladesh**

For most children, swimming is a fun activity, but in flood-prone Bangladesh, where over 17,000 children drown each year, it can mean the difference between life and death.

A non-governmental organisation, with the help of a group of Australian lifeguards, is teaching as many Bangladeshi children as possible to swim to reduce a fatality rate that children's fund UNICEF says is one of the highest in the world.

"Every child that you teach to swim is a child that will not drown," Australian swimming coach Jess Moss told a group of Bangladeshi swimming instructors, who will then go back to their villages and train the local children.

The swimming instructors are part of a training programme run by the non-governmental Centre for Injury Prevention and Research, Bangladesh (CIPRB), with help from UNICEF, to teach swimming to children aged between four to ten years. Since it began in 2005, the programme has taught over 30,000 children, with Australia's Royal Life Saving Society sending over instructors recently to give advanced training to the Bangladeshi swimming teachers.

"Bangladesh is particularly prone to floods and it has got water everywhere and drowning is today a major killer of children up to the age of 17," said Brithe Locatelli-Rossi, chief of UNICEF's Bangladesh Health and nutrition Section.

"With some technical assistance from Australia, we have trained people, who today, as master trainers, are teaching children in villages. It's survival swimming."

With no swimming pools in villages, children are taught how to swim in murky ponds ringed by bamboo frames for safety. Kamran ul Baset, the national coordinator of CIPRB, said their programme was literally a life-saver.

"Death from drowning is really a big issue for Bangladesh. But if we taught a baby to swim, or even stay afloat, for 90 seconds, we would save a life," he said.

Source: Reuters Azad Majumder, editing by Miral Fahmy

Dr Atiq Rahman, from Christian Aid partner the Bangladesh Centre for Advanced Studies (BCAS) joined Ed Miliband, Secretary of State for Climate Change and Douglas Alexander, Secretary of State for International Development in September to launch the International Climate Champions in Bangladesh. BCAS is part of this British Council initiative which gives young Bangladeshis the opportunity to tell leaders about the impact of climate change in their communities.

**In pictures:** Bangladesh's flood plight. The low-lying country of Bangladesh drains three of the world's largest river systems, the Ganges (Padma), Brahmaputra and Meghna and regularly experiences severe monsoon flooding. Check out this superb gallery of photos on the BBC News website. To see the Christian Aid images [http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/south\\_asia/8085231.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/south_asia/8085231.stm)

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## HARVEST THANK YOU

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the cost of flowers with which we decorated the church for the Harvest Thanksgiving service. A special thank you to Elaine, Carole, Margaret, Pat, Catherine, Irene, Lorna, Sally, Jill, Helen, Adele and Imogen who arranged the flowers for us. We would like to thank Anne who provided the very welcome cups of coffee with Lorna's shortbread through the morning. Our thanks go to everyone who so willingly delivered the flowers after the service.

All the contributions to the Friary Drop-in Harvest appeal were gratefully received by the centre.

Isobel

## **“THERE IS BAD AND GOOD IN MY BIBLE”**

So what about your Bible? Have you ever tried judging it? What criteria do you use? Could you be wrong? Come and explore this with one of our Housegroups. We welcome anyone interested.

Monday morning in Clifton Village, starting at 10.30am on 2<sup>nd</sup> November.

Monday evening in Mapperley Park, starting at 7.30pm on 2<sup>nd</sup> November.

Tuesday afternoon in Mapperley Park starting at 2.00pm on 3<sup>rd</sup> November.

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## **REPORT FROM ELDERS MEETING**

At the elders meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> October the following was discussed:-

Elders election process

- Continuing efforts to obtain organist
- City Centre Churches meeting report
- Education committee talk on Zimbabwe
- House Group meetings
- Pastoral news

## **CHURCH FIREWORK PARTY**

**7 NOVEMBER 2009**

Where? At the Sarah and Jim's home  
When? First rocket blasts off 6:30pm  
Who? Everyone Welcome  
Dress? Bring boots if wet in the run up to the day!

Please bring one large firework per family/group  
Soup, sausages and jacket potatoes available  
For catering purposes, please notify Mark if you are coming.  
Directions available from Mark or Sarah & Jim on request.

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## **NOVEMBER PRODUCTION – “THE GOLDSMITH PLAYERS”**

Following last autumn's excitement of the fire and the falling lift, this autumn The Goldsmith Players are presenting three plays. The first, "Two into One Won't Go" written by Peggy Hallifax, is set in an Antique Shop in the 1940's. After a short (we hope) intermission to allow scene changing the second play is "Alice, Where Art Thou?" by L. Du Garde Peach, which also takes place in a shop, but in a small village. There will then be an interval for refreshments and so to the third play which is "Friends Of Valerie Lane" written by Dollond Parsons when we find ourselves in a flat in London's West End in the 1950's.

These plays will be presented on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> and Friday 13<sup>th</sup> November at 7.30, so please put the date in your diary and make sure to book tickets for yourselves and friends and family.

We hope that you will enjoy these presentations by The Goldsmith Players and would welcome you to join the company. You do not have to appear on stage, there are opportunities for you to be part of the “back stage” team without which the show could not go on! If you are interested in joining The Goldsmith Players please contact Jerry Morris by telephone on 0115 9264701.

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## **BIBLE SOCIETY LUNCH**

on FRIDAY 20th NOVEMBER

12 for 12.30 p.m.

**SPEAKER: - SIMON FOULDS**  
Regional Manager of the Bible Society  
talking about their work in SRI LANKA

Tickets £3 - or you can pay at the door.

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Outreach activities, with help from volunteers – see below, present

# CAROLS IN THE CAR PARK on SUNDAY 6th DECEMBER

Carol singing with refreshments,  
**this year at the slightly earlier time of 6pm**

We have invited all the students who live next door to join us  
so please come along if you can  
Everyone welcome

The Outreach Committee seek willing volunteers to  
assist them on the evening of 6th December

Setting up the gazebo (from 5 (pm not am)

Bringing cakes, serving on the night

Playing in the band

Singing loudly

Clearing up

**Please come along and support this Outreach event**