

Excited about Mission!

Andy Wilcock - doc@thewru.co.uk (Home Missions - Development and Outreach Consultant)

The Queen's 90th Birthday

Many of our Churches are planning to host or get together with people from their local community to celebrate the Queen's 90th birthday. The Bible Society have produced a fantastic book called "The servant queen and the King she serves". I highly recommend you order copies to give away to family and friends. You can buy them from CPO for just over £1 when you buy 10, which is an amazing bargain, considering the high quality. Here are some of the things our churches are planning. Please pray these will lead to opportunities to build new links with people in their communities.

Souldern

We are having a **shared service** on Sunday morning 12th. June in the Parish Church, followed by a picnic in the grounds of one of the houses. A village choir of children and adults will entertain us with suitable music.

Chapel in the Valley (Griffydham):

We are holding "**A Right Royal Celebration**" at 10.30am on Sunday 12 June followed by a tea party complete with cucumber sandwiches. We will have special prayers for the Queen and her family along with Bible teaching based on all Christians being joint heirs with Jesus Christ, making us all part of the royal family of the King that our Queen serves. "The servant Queen and the King she serves" is being given to every child in two local schools and to every family represented at all of our Kids Clubs.

Oughtibridge (Sheffield Circuit):

We have purchased quantities of the book "The Servant Queen and the King She Serves" for our own members, for us to give away to friends and to make available to all the groups who use our building. We also offered copies of the schools' edition to our local primary school; the Head Teacher was enthusiastic for us to provide a copy for each of the children in the school as part of their celebrations of the Queen's actual birthday. We also gave a copy of the larger book to all the staff at the school, which were well received.

Dorrington (Sleaford):

We have ordered 70 copies of the book "The servant Queen and the King she serves" to be given to villagers etc. We are **opening our doors** to the village on 11 June between 3pm and 5pm for tea and cakes.

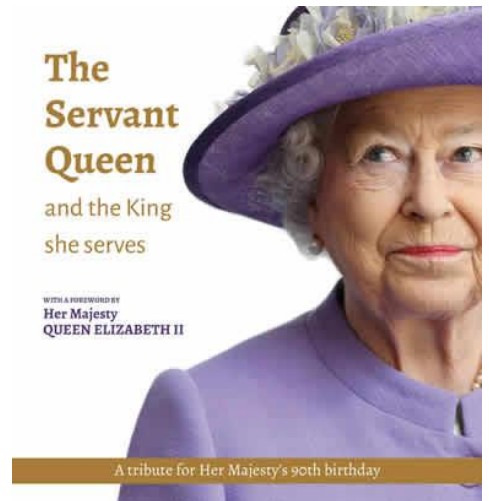
Beacon Community Church (Bradford):

Following the very successful street party for the Diamond Jubilee, we are looking to hold a similar **event on Saturday 11th June**. A road closure application has been sent off to the council who are very helpful and a committee formed with church and local neighbours. 50 queen books have been bought for distribution to local families in a goody bag together with street chalks, colouring sheets and a piece of fruit. Our community choir will sing along with some other musical contributions. We are praying for dry weather!

We have appointed Paul Brown from Llandudno as our pastor who will start in July 2016.

Bethel Community Church (Bradford Circuit):

On Saturday 11th June we are joining in the Queen's 90th **Birthday Celebrations** with a short thanksgiving service followed by afternoon tea. Invitations are being distributed to homes in the



area. We shall be giving out copies of "The Servant Queen" published by the Bible Society. We will also be doing a large leaflet drop in Bierley giving details of all our activities.

New Swannington (Ashby Circuit):

We are celebrating the Queen's 90th birthday a few days earlier - with a "**bring and share**" lunch after our 10.30am service on Sunday 5th June.

Hampden View (Sheffield Circuit)

We are organising an **afternoon Cream Tea** on Saturday 11th June. Yorkshire tea of course, made with Yorkshire water, complete with scones and cakes.

Fritwell (Oxfordshire)

It is our **Anniversary Weekend** on 11th and 12th June, and we are having a coffee morning and a celebration service on the Sunday at 6pm.

Mexborough Life Church and Centre:

Summer 2016 looks like being an even busier one than normal for Mexborough Life Church, and it is normally very busy. In addition to what has now become our summer community events programme, this summer will also include an overseas mission trip to Zambia, Africa. Here's an outline of what we have planned:

Football Crazy 2016: This Summer see's our 6th Annual Football Crazy Event take place during the early part of July. This will involve football coaching and fun games aimed at three age groups (6 to 8 years, 9 to 11 years and 12 to 17 years) on Thursday and Friday evenings, followed on Saturday by a football tournament and family fun day with bouncy castles, face painting, competitions, refreshments and fun for all the family. Over 2000 invitations will be placed in all the local Mexborough schools and once again we expect to see over 100 children and young people participate in an event which is seen as a highlight in the local community calendar. During the family fun day we hope to connect with many families to share the good news of Jesus and pray that God will use this event for His Glory.

Summer Holiday Club 2016: Once again, we will be holding our annual holiday club during the week commencing 8th August 2016. The holiday club this year has a scientific theme (**It's a Mad Mad World**), and is aimed at children aged 4 to 9 years on 4 mornings during the week from 0945 to 1215. There will be a fun mix of worship, drama, crafts, stories, games and sports during which the Gospel will be shared in an exciting child friendly presentation. Again, we will be inviting children from all the local primary schools in Mexborough and hope to see in excess of 100 children participate as in previous years.

Dare 2 Dream: In addition to the two community outreach events in Mexborough, Summer 2016 will see 21 volunteers fly out to Zambia, Africa on Monday 18th July 2016 until Saturday 30th July 2016. During this visit the team will be involved in providing football coaching and games, working with young people in schools and presenting the Gospel in a number of youth evangelistic meetings. In addition to this, the team will also work with the CICA Charity (Child in Crisis Africa) to provide for the many needs faced by people in Zambia and also with Lordsway Ministries which has planted over 50 churches in Zambia and Malawi. These two organisations are very much at the heart of Mexborough Life Church's Overseas Mission work having been started by Nica and Erica Lugg our church Pastors. We are praying that God will use the team throughout the visit and share the good news and love of God in so many different ways. As the Dare 2 Dream visit follows on very soon after the Football Crazy event, we aim to provide a link between the two and have planned to take a team into all the local schools in Mexborough prior to Football Crazy starting to lead assemblies and share what the team hope to do out in Zambia a few weeks later. The team will share how we can support the many challenging needs faced by Zambian children and young people and hope that children and young people in local Mexborough schools are inspired to look at ways in which they too might be involved.

Bethel Community Church (Bradford Circuit):

We are thankful for answered prayers in that we are seeing growth in our Sunday service, our Thursday "**church@5**" and our young people's work. In addition to our "**Ignite**" Group and "**Monday Drop-In**", we are to start a cell group for the older children which will mean we can keep contact with the ones we would have to lose when they get too old for "Ignite". We are seeing fruit for our efforts to "Invest in Young People" and our employed youth worker and his volunteer helpers are doing a great job. We had two "Activity Days" over the Easter Holidays

and will be planning more for the summer. It is great to see the response we have from the children as we discuss in small groups the stories of the Bible. Work is ongoing to install a new heating system and then to decorate our main Worship Area to make our premises more welcoming to those who come in. In spite of challenges we are in good heart and desirous of seeing God at work in our neighbourhood.

Beacon Community Church (Bradford Circuit)

Presidential Visit & Leaders Workshop: On Saturday 9th April. Steve Hunt (Mexborough Life Church) and Andy Wilcock led an afternoon looking at community outreach, looking at the following subjects **Being Carriers, Getting the right balance between Community Work and Communicating the Gospel, Preventing Burnout, The Challenge of Youth Work.** Andy then spoke at the evening event looking at the **Importance and Value of Home Groups.**

(Note from Andy and Steve, would you like us to visit your area and do a similar Workshop, tailored to your needs? We'd love to hear from you!! Please contact Andy andymarkw@gmail.com)

Ron Stockley's farewell Service on 1st May was followed by a Big Lunch with lots of people bringing and eating and enjoying lots of varied foods. Next week (19th May) The Community Choir are doing a concert with a **Pie & Pea supper.** These evenings are always looked forward to and the Church will be packed. Sadly, the Choir Leader, Jayne will be retiring with her husband Ron so this will be her farewell concert. The Choir needs a new Choir Leader! A **Street Party** is planned for Saturday 11th June - see above

Our **Church Outing** is planned for 1st July and a full coach will take us to explore the Yorkshire Dales. Included in the trip will be a visit to the Wensleydale Creamery for a cheese making demonstration. We will be on the lookout for Wallace & Gromit.

Ellistown (Ashby Circuit):

We will be hosting the "**Free Spirit Gospel Choir**" on Friday 24th June at 7pm - Donations to St James Street Church's Mission to the Homeless in Leicester.

Oughtibridge (Sheffield Circuit)

Men's Breakfasts: These were held on several Saturday mornings in the early part of the year. As well as breakfast the men viewed DVD discussions from a series called "The Reason for God" which they followed up with their own discussion. Participants were believers and non-believers - they had some good times together and there are plans to hold more later in the year.

School Visit: We were pleased to host a curriculum visit from Oughtibridge Primary School when one 'year group' were investigating different religions. We organised a variety of activities to help them understand what Christians believe, what the Church is and why the Bible is important to Christians. They were very enthusiastic and inquisitive. We enjoyed their visit and the opportunity to share something of our faith with them.

We still present "Open the Book" assemblies in the school and run a lunchtime Bible Club for Year 1 and 2 children.

"Grow" course: Following the good response to the "Live" course we ran in the autumn for ladies, we have just completed the follow-on course - "Grow" - 5 sessions about how to grow in our relationship with God. We have been delighted to have nearly 40 ladies attend again, all keen to learn together from the Bible - some of these are still investigating the Christian faith and we are having an exciting journey together. We feel God is at work in many lives and we are privileged to be involved in this.

Rushden High Street (Wellingborough Circuit)

In 2015 we started a new men's group at High St called "PTC" - ("**Palm Tree Collective**"), that

meets fortnightly for Bible Study, discussion and to organize events. During the last 3 months the following have been held:

- (i) Two **Family Cinema Nights**, showing feature films suitable for all ages on our big screen, plus popcorn, sweets and squash. Attendance has been 29 and 60 respectively, and a third night is to take place on May 20th.
- (ii) **A Family Fun Day** on May Day Bank Holiday Monday, consisting of a walk in a local Country Park followed by pizza, hot dogs and other refreshments and then large-scale games in our church hall. Approximately 45 attended and the opportunity was taken to give out flyers advertising our next all-age worship service ("Second Sunday") and our May Cinema Night to all present.

These events have been put on totally free-of-charge in order that everyone can come along without having to worry about the expense. Encouragingly at least half of those attending have been from families with little or no connection with the church. Facebook is used as a tool to contact our un-churched friends and acquaintances.

Additional to "special" events, for the last 15 months PTC have also organized a fortnightly Friday evening football session which has attracted in total over 30 men – most of them from outside our church circle. Attendance has varied between 8 and about 20, and the games are played on an all-weather pitch at a local school. Many of the families coming to our other events have been contacted through men coming to the football evenings.

Apart from the above the Church held special events over the Easter period as follows:

- (i) **Craft afternoon on Good Friday** – always a very popular events, with approximately 70 attending this year
- (ii) Joining with other local churches in the usual town **March of Witness and Open-Air service** held in front of our church in the middle of Rushden High St

Mayfield Church (Sheffield Circuit)

On Saturday 23rd April we had the musical evening "**A Passage of Time**" by Pete Ryder. This was well attended and provoked some interesting discussions. He and his wife took our service on Sunday at which he preached and sang.

The monthly **Supper Clubs** started in April and will continue until September - an opportunity to have a meal for £5.00 and listen to a visiting speaker.

Whit weekend is to be a "**White Flower Festival**" on Saturday and Sunday. The church will be open both days, and there will be morning (10.30 a.m.) and evening (6.30 p.m.) services on Sunday.

If you can bang, squeeze, suck, blow, scrape, pluck, strum or warble, then you are welcome at our **Music Festival**. This will be held on Saturday July 9th. Please contact Dave Tuckett for more information. (0114) 2313475, 07789770344, dtuckett@btinternet.com The day will be followed by a barbecue.

Syresham (Oxfordshire)

Easter weekend was a real blessing we had a wonderful Passover meal Maundy Thursday with over 30 people attending. The evening was led by Rev John Williams and the whole service is very moving. Good Friday we had took part in the walk of Witness from The Parish Church to Chapel and Paula led our Good Friday evening. Easter Day started with Breakfast Praise with children and their parents and our evening service commenced with communion led by Chris Bazeley. We are now looking forward to our Church **170th Anniversary in May**

Richmond Church (Sheffield Circuit)

We have recently had a weekend visit from Derek Cleave of Bristol, who is an outstanding evangelist and preacher. He spoke at a **meal and a message outreach** event which we ran with our friends from South Sheffield Evangelical Church. There were a good number present, including a number of visitors - please pray that the Holy Spirit may bring home Derek's message to any there who are strangers to our Lord Jesus.

We have our annual **church barbecue** on Saturday 9th July, when we hope to see more families who have links with our children's clubs join with us for food and an epilogue. Please pray for good attendance and a good listening to the gospel.

We hope to be able to take an assembly and/or lesson in our local junior school based on the Scripture Union "It's your move" booklets. These are a brilliant Christian resource for children moving to secondary school in September. Pray that we will get permission to take the booklets in and that the children will be helped by all they hear and read to make the move, knowing that God cares for them.