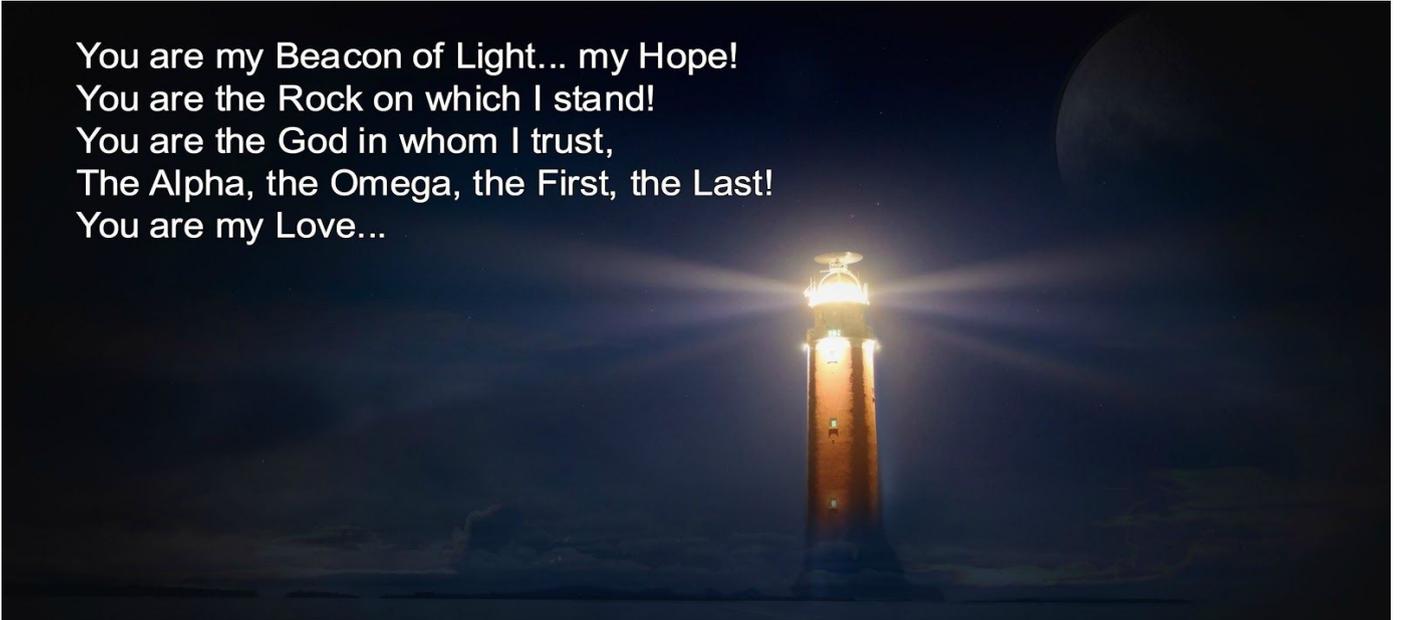


LBC Update

February 2021

You are my Beacon of Light... my Hope!
You are the Rock on which I stand!
You are the God in whom I trust,
The Alpha, the Omega, the First, the Last!
You are my Love...



What's been going on?



The benefit of on-line services - Dean and James had time to build a snowman in the morning on Sunday 24th January as well as having an empty car park in which to do it!! Also a reminder of Isaiah's words

"No matter how deep the stain of your sins, I can remove it. I can make you clean as FRESHLY FALLEN SNOW" Isaiah 1 : 18

Reflections on Timothy's first service - Sunday 13th December

Sunday 13th December's outdoor service will stay in my memory for many years to come for a number of reasons. I did wonder a little in the week running up to it, whether it was a wise idea to attempt to come to an outdoor service in the pouring rain with a 9-week-old and whether we would be more sensible to stay at home. But I am so pleased we chose to come, because it summed up for me so many of the positive elements of 2020.



We were greeted by warm, friendly faces and enthusiasm as we arrived, despite the rain and the cold. It reminded me of our first time at LBC in September 2018 when we were also greeted so warmly. Someone on the gate pointed out to me that our church does not let anything, including bad weather, stop us from worshipping. This reminded me of so many of the different

ways the church has been proactive and innovative in the face of challenges this year to continue to facilitate collective worship and a sense of community.

The dampness of some people's jeans suggested that by this point, when I was just arriving, some people had already been there hours. A team of people had been out in the rain setting up the service to facilitate all the different groups of people who would be taking part, including those in cars tuning in on their radios, those sitting out and those joining in by watching at home.

I've had to quickly learn how to navigate being outdoors for extended periods with a newborn this winter due to government guidelines. We've had to learn how to feed and nappy change outside in order to be able to see people safely (many tips and funny experiences have been shared with us by the church community on how to do this successfully - thanks!). At times this has been rather complex and required some serious planning, trying to time things correctly when out of the house, knowing we couldn't go inside other people's houses or use public facilities. It surprised me how relaxed I felt bringing Timothy to church. Instead of being anxious about what we would do if he got upset or needed this or that, I felt calm about bringing him, knowing we were coming to a family where we wouldn't be judged or run the risk of upsetting people if things went wrong and we had to get up and leave.

Timothy didn't seem to mind the pouring rain and damp clothing as we sheltered under the edge of a barn and had fun trying to make out the message over the sound of the rain thrashing down. He was very content looking at all the faces in the cars and watching little ones jumping in the puddles. The message, all about the Christmas story and coming home, was such a positive reminder and invitation to find your home in God again. Whilst this year has definitely had many challenges and not been what I imagined it would be, it has presented me with so many blessings: more time at home whilst suffering with morning sickness was so helpful; beautiful weather and lockdown spirit meant we got to know our neighbours better and feel so at home in our village; countless hospital waiting rooms, scans and medical appointments on my own forced me pray more and focus on the presence of God with me when I felt alone... and as the end of 2020 drew near, the service on the 13th of December reminded me how blessed we are to have such a wonderful church where bringing Timothy along for the first time felt like bringing him home to meet the family.



Whilst it was a rather unusual first experience of church for Timothy, it was definitely a memorable one. They say that babies process new experiences and learning each night when they sleep. It was clearly a lot to process as he slept soundly for 7 hours straight through that night (which he has not done before or since). I do wonder what he thought of it all. It's impossible to know. Will he think church is when cars line up to pray and cows munch their breakfast whilst being played worship music? Or will he think church is when people gather to worship God and care for each other? I hope the latter. (Though it may take a few more years for him to get the idea!) *Naomi*

Week of prayer

This year's week of prayer was from 11th to 17th of January with daily Zoom prayer meetings. Dean had prepared some excellent daily guides for us to use and, in addition, there were five online "bitesize" videos. The guides were very helpful in helping us focus on what is important to God and His desires in every area of life and even more so in the situation in which we currently find ourselves. Each day there were prayer prompts, prayer practise and a prayer.

Monday - *Personal revival* was a call to each one of us to check where we are in our spiritual growth and walk with the Lord. Romans 12:2 Question. How do we get our minds renewed when there is so much "fake news"? What can I do? Suggestion. Jn.8:12; Ps.119:97-105; Jn.16:12-14. It must be all about relationships. How well do you know me, or Me?

Tuesday - *The Church* is made up of those who are in the world but not of it. Eph.2:19-20 "Fellow citizens, hello! Is this about relationships too?" We are to be an influence for the Kingdom of heaven on earth by the way we live, what we say and our prayers of faith that release God's will on earth. The call is to build one another up in our most Holy Faith.

Wednesday - *The Least of These*. We are not to be too busy that we don't see these people. It has been said, "You don't know how well off you are." or "There's always someone worse off than you." What are we known for? Being the Good Samaritan? Let's be that.

Thursday - *Evangelism*. What is your Jesus testimony? What doors can your Heavenly Father open for you to talk about Him? Where is the harvest He is seeking to reap? We must learn to see what He sees, look where He is looking. God is not willing that any be lost. Jesus died for that person too. The smallest of seeds can still produce great results. Be a sower and/or a reaper!

Friday - *As we go*. You are the light of the world. The smallest light is visible in the dark! Even the little light we have, God will use if we don't hide it. God has put us where He wants some light!

Saturday - *Governments and Leaders*. Well, who doesn't want to live in freedom? Many voices with their own agenda pressure governments to have their way. Satan has an agenda too. Pray for God's wisdom to be given to them so that they make righteous decisions. Most important is that we pray for God fearing people to be in government at all levels. Prov.29:2 (RSV) "When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice; but when the wicked rule, the people groan"

Sunday - *Influencing the spiritual climate*. Recognising that there is a spiritual influence in this world that is constantly opposed to God's plan for the lives of people is the reason Jesus Christ

came to the earth. God has provided armour to protect us but it has to be put on. We are not to be a casualty but a soldier who stands and resists the evil forces in the name of Jesus Christ.

Are we all ready and properly dressed? What about that relationship? The soldier must know his commanding officer or else whose instructions will he follow?

These are just some of the points that caught my attention. There is more. How about you? The call of Jesus Christ is "Follow Me." A suggestion - what might we expect if we all considered these guides in the first week of each month this year? If you haven't got the guides, it's worth asking for a copy. May God's blessing be you always. *Alastair*

LBC family

We are sad to announce that **Gwen Trigg** went Home to be with her Lord on Saturday 30th January after a short illness. Our thoughts and prayers are with Les and all the family.



Congratulations and best wishes from all of us to **Penry** who celebrated his 90th birthday on 25th January.

I first got to know Penry when he and Betty moved to Leominster in the mid-1950s and he became one of my teachers at the secondary school where Willie and I were in the same class. Gordon Lloyd was an LBC youth leader and was also a teacher at the school. He invited Pen to a mission at LBC where the evangelist was a (very good looking) American, Bill Bathman. That was where Pen and Bet came to know the Lord. They joined LBC and both became Sunday School teachers. Pen became Sunday School Superintendent and joined the National Evangelistic teams, visiting chapels in the countryside to take services. He couldn't drive so often I would take him in our

minister's Morris 1000 van or sometimes in my dad's car. I particularly remember being provided with lunch by two elderly sisters who put the two of us in the "back room" to eat because we were the preachers and therefore "special". I so enjoyed those trips – he was the same lovely man that he is now and I would always be proud when Betty introduced me to people as Penry's favourite pupil!! *Beryl*



And at the other end of the age spectrum...

Two clues to two reasons why we are going to need a bigger creche once we are able to meet at the church once again!!!



If you want to know who the second photo is, there's a price!

Directory update

Chris and Derek Simpson, 12 Cleveleys Avenue, Lancaster. LA1 5HD tel. 01524 840528 mobile numbers as before.

Tim Simpson, 20A Leycester Drive, Lancaster. LA1 5HW 01524 931275

It is now six months since we left Leominster and are feeling quite settled here in Lancaster. Work on the house continues and the kitchen is just about finished; the next task is to decorate our bedroom. Derek has been in contact with people in Brazzaville and the other week did a teaching session for a Pre-ordination Conference for pastors, he was supposed to do a second session but could not get a good enough connection.

It is a delight to spend time with our grand-daughter Soraya, she is now one and walking everywhere. Anna needs our support now she is on her own and we are glad that we are here to do that. Derek's sister Maureen (who has been to LBC) has also needed much support in recent weeks; her daughter Karen who is only 44 has been diagnosed with brain cancer. She has had surgery for one tumour and is to start radiotherapy and chemotherapy for the other this week. We thank the Lord that He has put us here to help with these situations and would value your prayers.

In everything we give thanks to God for His faithfulness and care for us.

Our love to you all, *Chris and Derek*

Ministry And Mission

CheckPoint



With the schools being closed, obviously I am no longer able to go into the schools like I was doing before Christmas. However, like during the first Lockdown this does not mean the end of the schools work. Every other week I will be producing a YouTube assembly that the children can view from home. I know that the schools really appreciate these and some of them have used the one I sent out two weeks ago as part of the home-schooling schedule they send to the parents. It is really encouraging to know that the resources I produce are appreciated and being used. Praise the Lord!

I have also started producing the Spotlight Clubs From Home again. These are a two-page activity sheet that contain games, crafts, challenges and, of course, a Bible story. I will be sending out one each week and the current series is looking at the life of Moses. Again, I have already had some lovely feedback from a school saying how much the parents appreciate it.

So, although the schools are closed again, CheckPoint is still able to spread the Gospel and because of the Lockdown we have the opportunity to share the Good News with whole families. If you would like to use the resources CheckPoint has produced or know someone who you think

might, then you can find them all at <https://www.checkpoint.org.uk/resources>. I hope you are well, and I would like to thank you for your continued support. *Joe*

At our last Missionary Focus at LBC in October 2019 we focused on Feba and the Slavic Gospel Association. These missions are all about people. Jesus is all about people. I pray that those who read these short reports will be touched in their hearts by the Holy Spirit regarding so many other needy people and, perhaps, seek more information that is available on each of the individual mission websites. *Keith*

Feba



Praise God that He is the same yesterday, today and forever! He is unchanging. That is so good to know during these changing times. When we experience uncertainty, we appreciate the unchanging dependable nature of God all the more. We also appreciate the people and things that remain dependable too. Radio has been a dependable lifeline for many listeners in the darkest of times and many new listeners who tuned in to Christian radio broadcasts in 2020 have heard about Jesus Christ for the first time.

Between the lines of latitude 40 degrees and 10 degrees north of the equator lies an area that contains 4.65 billion people and 69 nations. This area contains the world's most unreached people who are yet to respond to the good news of Jesus Christ. Will your church pray for our mission partners sharing the Gospel across Africa, Asia, and the Middle East?

This month, please pray for Feba Radio partner "Voice of Egypt" which speaks about everyday issues that young people encounter in Egypt's towns and cities. This team of Christian broadcasters offer solutions from a Christian perspective while sharing the good news of Jesus and promoting community cohesion with listeners from a range of religious and political backgrounds.

SGA



Romania is the non-slavic corner of SGA's mission field. It has been a springboard for much of the work done in the Slavic countries that surround it – foundations of SGA's work were laid in Romania during Ceausescu's time and were then exported to neighbouring countries where God has used the Mission in a quite remarkable way to advance and reinforce vital evangelical worship and evangelism.

Romania has seen many changes socially, economically and spiritually since the demise of communism. There is now a growing need for conservative Biblical material to counteract liberal thinking. SGA supports the production of bible commentaries and works with Faclia Christian Publishing to provide pastors and Christian workers with invaluable books, including textbooks which are designated as compulsory reading for students at Emanuel University. SGA have also helped Faclia by financing a van to help in the distribution of much needed Christian literature as well as helping missionary pastors to buy cars.

Other projects include flood relief, the construction of church buildings, sponsorship of students at Emmanuel University plus support for Christian Kindergartens, the Voice of the Gospel Radio Station and the Preventis project. The latter is a wonderful organisation that helps mentor vulnerable children, offers counselling to many who struggle with addictions to alcohol, drugs and gambling as well as creating opportunities to speak on the dangers and the prevention of such vices.

How grateful we are to our many faithful partners who have stood by us during another year. The pandemic has certainly brought the Mission operational challenges, limited our involvement in the field and curtailed our deputation ministry but God has provided and sustained through your partnership. Thank you!

Life



It seems like only yesterday we first met. I visited Leominster almost a year ago but I still have good memories. Thank you for the unforgettable memories and hospitality during our visit. I had a chance to meet many children there and it was very helpful. Now, I am serving as an evangelist at my church and teaching children (0-10 years old). My church's name is Songwol Presbyterian Church and it is located in Incheon.

The situation in South Korea is not good. Many people are blaming churches for the spread of COVID-19. However, thankfully, we continue to worship through the Internet and restrictions on churches are gradually being eased. By the grace of God, we are still alive and we can worship. Things are getting better. We really hope things go back to normal soon. But for now, we are just waiting for God's timing.

I am praying for the UK. God will take care of you and your family. We are covered with the blood of Jesus Christ. Please pray for Korea (North and South both) and churches in South Korea. I miss each and everyone of you.

Take care. Always Under His Wings, Your brother in Christ, *Paul Chang*.

Here's a little update on what I've been up to after Capernwray and the 10-Day Outreach, which our little group got to spend at your church. Thank you so much for the invite! I still cherish the memories made during our stay with you. It's wonderful to hear all the beautiful things LBC is still doing for so many people. It was evident then, and is now, that LBC is a home that's continually growing, not only in number but also in love for each other.

As for the update, after the Winter Bible School at Capernwray came to a close, I went back home to the Netherlands, just a couple of days before



all alarm bells were ringing for corona. I don't want to downplay all the hurt or fear that it has caused for so many people, but for me personally the extended period of 'rest' has brought much good. As it was right after the Capernwray adventure, the time gave me a wonderful opportunity to process all that I had learned and to grow in faith. In the months that followed I read a lot of theology (along with the Bible of course 😊) and tried to challenge my own thinking. It's been good and I am grateful that I was given that time, for I think I stand stronger in my faith now than I did before. I still have a long way to go, and probably always will, but I pray that however far or fast my journey will be, I'll always come back to the core and be humbled.

In September university started for me. Currently I am studying Child Development in a city that's close to home, so I get to live at home and spend time with family. So far, almost everything is online, but I enjoy the freedom in how to divide my time that comes with it. I also joined a Christian student union in the city, which meets online weekly. I am grateful to be part of a Christian community like that. Capernwray made me realise the beauty that can be found in it. I'm still settling in there, but by taking on an administrative task within the union, I'm hoping to become more involved. Just like helping out at LBC made us feel welcome in the church, I'm sure helping out in the union, or anywhere else for that matter, will pave the way for good conversations and connection. That's it for me 😊 Many blessings! *Sannelie*



Hello again! My life since being with you all at Leominster Baptist has been full of change, as I am sure yours have been as well. In March, during the very beginning of the COVID-19 shut down, I found myself unable to find a flight home to Canada, and so I was stuck in Heathrow airport for a weekend, London for a week, and then Iceland for over a day! Since then, I have been thankfully safe in Canada, and I am currently at Columbia Bible College in British Columbia in my first year of a degree in Youth Work. When I am not studying, I've been enjoying the gift of living where I am, which is a pretty incredible place, and reminiscing on what I have been blessed with. *Grace*

So our first three contributions to this section are from South Korea, the Netherlands and Canada!

*We are still hoping to **fill** this section in future updates with **your** testimonies, life stories, how God has spoken to you during the pandemic etc.!!!*

Youth & Family

Hi all, it's just a short update from me as youth and children's work still can't happen in its usual way at the moment. However the older youth girls are back on Zoom and some of the older boys are being challenged to read through the gospels. We are keeping in contact with the younger groups and they are receiving regular checkups and stuff in the post.

I think I can speak for all of our church families that life as a family is proving quite challenging at the moment. Each one has a unique story and are facing their own individual daily battles. Now

that probably won't come as a surprise to you, but perhaps it could just be a reminder to keep the families in your prayers.

Rather than dwelling on all the challenges though, the recent snow provided a much needed 'day off' and chance to laugh. Here are some photos of the fun we got up to... *Hannah*



Coming Up

Another reminder and update about the World Day of Prayer on **March 5th** - it is going to be an on-line service which we are busy putting together with the support of participants from all five Leominster churches. Being on-line, no-one has an excuse for missing it (we can make DVDs for those who don't have internet access - let us know if you would like one). The service will be available on the LBC website and via the LBC YouTube channel from March 5th.

We would really appreciate your prayers as we prepare. As well as raising awareness and prayer for countries like Vanuatu, this year's focus, the WDP organisation also provides grants to many christian charities and missions around the world as a result of monetary offerings taken during the service. Visit www.wwdp.org.uk for more information and/or to donate. Thank you. **Chris & Pat**

Bitesize

A new series of bitesize thoughts will be going out from today (Feb 1st). You can find them on our website, youtube channel and facebook page.

Mighty Hikes

WYE VALLEY HALF 2021

Hike a half marathon through the glorious Wye Valley, bordering England and Wales, and get fantastic views of historic Chepstow Castle and Tintern Abbey.

13 Mile Hike details

Date: 11 Sep 2021
 Location: Chepstow Racecourse, NP16 6BE
 Distance: 13 miles
 Registration Fee: £20
 Min. fundraising pledge: £250
 Terrain: Hilly

[View provisional route map >](#)

[Sign up for 13 miles](#)

MacMillan are organising a series of fundraising “Mighty Hikes” - one close to us is from Chepstow on **September 11th**. You can do either the 13 mile or 26 mile option. If enough LBC folk signed up, we could consider travelling together? A wonderful cause worth supporting plus a great way to keep fit. More details and booking available at mightyhikes.macmillan.org.uk
 Anne and I hope to do the 13 miles! *Jeremy*

The next **LBC Update** will be coming out during the first week in March. Please send contributions - news, forthcoming activities, testimonies, photos etc. - to Chris at riceandco@hotmail.com

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