

LBC Update

March 2021



And they said, Let us rise up and build. So they strengthened their hands for this good work. Nehemiah 2 : 18

What's been going on?

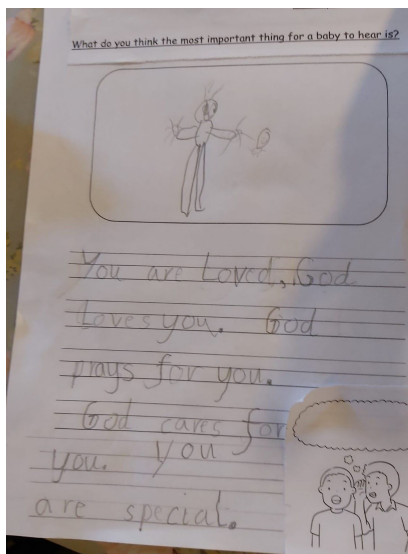
Our weekly online services included a Family Service on 31st January where we learnt a lot about sheep, including the story of Shrek who went missing for six years and thus avoided being sheared with dramatic results.



But, more importantly, we were reminded of how much we are loved by our Heavenly Father through the dramatised re-telling of the parable of the Lost Sheep - "We're going on a Sheep Hunt - featuring Lucy the Sheep"

And the message was backed up by the awesome response to a homework assignment from one of the younger members of our fellowship.

If you missed it or any of our services, or want to watch them again, you can catch up by visiting the LBC YouTube channel at **(239) Leobc - YouTube**



Easter knitting



Our neighbours in Leominster have appreciated the gifts of rainbows and angels over the last year, as seen by the way in which they disappear from the railings as fast as we put them up. As each gift is accompanied by a verse of Scripture and an invitation to our on-line services, this has been a way of blessing people in the town when we can't invite them into the building. For Easter we are going to give people a choice! We are going to knit crosses and hearts which people can use as either key rings or bookmarks. If you would like to join in, please contact me for the patterns. *Anne*

Deacons

As you probably know, the Deacons have continued to meet regularly over the last year, either physically when permitted or via Zoom, to seek God's guidance for the Church and its business, and to pray for the Fellowship and all its needs. What you may not know is that three of the Deacons have come to the end of their current three year term of office and have decided not to seek re-election in April. They will, however, continue to function in their other roles at LBC. We are all so grateful for all the prayers and work that Chima, Paul and Ed have contributed to the life of LBC and the way that they have helped lead the work forward - especially Ed who has been a Deacon now for the amazing period of 35 years!! The remaining Deacons will miss his wisdom and experience, but it's good to know we can still count on his advice and guidance when needed. So we give our thanks and best wishes to all three of the retiring Deacons. *Jeremy*

Food Bank



Leominster Food Bank is moving again - hopefully for the last time! Over the past year the demand for the services of the Food Bank has grown tremendously. For example, in May 2019, 94 people were supported whereas in May 2020 that number rose to 531. As well as the change to pre-packed bags the range of support has also grown. For instance, food bags were offered to all school pupils during school holidays when this wasn't provided by the Central Government. Due to grants received, families who are home-schooling children have also been able to receive support with heating costs. The support that the Food Bank receives from individuals and organisations has been amazing.

The Food Share is a new venture making use of fresh and packaged food that supermarkets and local shops cannot sell. This food is able to be offered to all and has proved particularly helpful to families who have lost their second income because of the pandemic and are therefore struggling to make ends meet. It also avoids food waste as this food would otherwise have gone to landfill. Food Share means that we never have to turn people away from the Food Bank because they don't have a voucher.



All this has meant that the premises in the Community Centre car park have not been able to store all the food. At one point six storage facilities were in use. We have had a temporary distribution unit at Hinton Terrace for the last six months but now everything can be in one place as the Council are renting us part of the Old Priory building, opposite the Youth Hostel. This means that there is a storage room, Food Bank room and Food Share room as well as a kitchen and toilet facilities. All our sessions will happen there from 27th February. If you would like a Covid-secure guided tour please contact me. *Anne*

LBC family

Memories of Gwen Trigg



Our previous pastor, Derek, had a habit, when somebody was unwell in hospital or simply a bit lonely at home, of saying, "I'm quite sure so-and-so would not mind an occasional visit." We had recently moved to Leominster upon Ken's retirement and I had been asking the Lord what I might get involved in. Visiting the elderly was something I had done for years in the two churches where Ken had been the pastor. And so started a relationship with Gwen which lasted for some seventeen years. I would go to her home once a month, we would talk for a while

and then read and pray together before I returned home. I believe Gwen read God's word every day because, when I went to see her, there was always a Bible laying somewhere nearby.

I would like to share with you one highlight from that period. Gwen had come from a village named Ballingham and in May 2004 she asked Ken and myself to take her to Ballingham Chapel, her home church, because they were celebrating their 100th church anniversary. What struck me was that many people seemed to know her, came over to chat with her and were pleased she had been able to be there. It is lovely to see people on their home turf and so obviously enjoying themselves!

Now she has gone to heaven, where she will receive a rich welcome into the eternal kingdom of her Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ (2 Peter 1:11). *Bep*

Gwen's funeral was held on Wednesday 24th February at Hereford Crematorium and was led by Dean. Our thoughts and prayers continue to be with Les and all the family.

Thank you

Emma and I would like to thank all of you for the cards, flowers, texts, phone calls, doorstep chats, walks and most importantly your prayers. It has been a trying few months with many ups and downs, and we are happy to report that Emma is completely cancer-free post surgery. We genuinely feel that your prayers played an important role throughout her treatment, and that ultimately this trial has and will continue to bring glory to God. Our gratitude could not be deeper. *Josh*



These two lovely ladies are going to be celebrating a significant birthday on March 30th. One shouldn't, of course, disclose a lady's age but if you perform a mathematical function on the two numbers featured in that first sentence, you should be able to work it out!! Our best wishes for a very Happy Birthday to Pauline and Eileen.

Run 2021 for Parkinsons

Starting on 1st March, as a family we are taking part in Run 2021 to raise money for Parkinson's UK. The challenge is to run or walk 50 miles in 50 days. Trevor is aiming to walk the distance and Lorna is hoping to run and walk. Debi is also taking part and will be running each day in Cheltenham. We are proud to be a part of #TeamTrevor, supporting Parkinson's UK in their vital work. If you would like to support us our team page is:

<https://events.parkinsons.org.uk/fundraisers/TeamTrevor>. Thank you. *Lorna and Trevor*

Ministry And Mission

Open Doors

World Watch List 2021



Find out more at www.opendoorsuk.org/persecution

Barnabas Fund - Myanmar

A chilling Myanmar Army document has been discovered instructing soldiers to “punish and breakdown” ethnic-minority Christians and other civilians deemed to be against the military regime. The discovery came in the same week that mass protests took place in Myanmar (Burma) over the recent military coup, with a ramping up of armed patrols in Karen and Kachin States reported. There are many Christians amongst both the Karen and the Kachin ethnic groups. The official document lists a sequence of actions that military personnel should take including firing a 12mm weapon (equivalent to a powerful machine gun) at individuals or using a 38mm weapon (a gun capable of launching grenades) on groups of civilians. The directives include special instructions to round up any dissenting civilian doctors and nurses and to report on any local leaders who are not fully cooperating with the military.

Christian leaders in the region requested prayer for the people of Myanmar and for a “change of heart” of army and coup leaders. “Please pray for the Karen people hiding in the jungle,” they asked. Thousands of Christian villagers fled military bombardment in Karen State to take refuge in remote jungle on 1 February, the same day as the Myanmar leader, Aung San Suu Kyi, and her democratically elected government were ousted in the military coup. Since December 2020, the military have increased ceasefire violations in Karen State, shelling villages in order to clear land for new roads and military installations.

For decades, the military-controlled government of Myanmar brutally oppressed mainly-Christian ethnic people groups including Karen, Kachin and Chin, as well as the mainly-Muslim Rohingya people which includes a small minority of Christians. Even during the transition to civilian democratic rule, a process which began in 2011, violence against the ethnic minorities continued.

Pray for the protection of all Christians and other civilians at risk in Myanmar. Ask that persecuted Christian families taking refuge in the jungle will be kept safe in the shelter of the Most High (Psalm 91:1) and that their practical needs will be met. Call on the LORD to incline the hearts of army and coup leaders towards compassion and lead them to a personal encounter with the Prince of Peace.

Vennture



When the name of Vennture is mentioned, I would think that most of you would associate it with Street Pastors or Family Pastors. Due to Covid there has been considerably less happening in the 'night-time economy' during the last year, so therefore less need for Street Pastors.

Family Pastors have been keen to support families whose problems have probably been even greater than previously but, with the necessity for social distancing, home visits cannot take place. So, the support is being delivered in a different but permitted way. Each volunteer Family Pastor, all from different churches around the county, now has a specific family to pray for and bring before our loving heavenly Father. Link workers continue to make some visits, otherwise contact is made by telephone.

The Building Better Opportunities project team, through link workers, continues to help individuals rebuild their lives, supporting them with, for instance, battles against addictions and issues with temporary accommodation. Working alongside them is the Housed Homeless team which helps people to find permanent accommodation as well as sourcing vital furniture and equipment for their new home. Often homelessness goes hand in hand with domestic abuse and debt. Link workers are able to signpost towards debt counselling and give advice and support to help people back into work. Each step forward may be small but in the right direction.

The Ambassador team has increased once again with some of our Lean on Me volunteers helping out. The aim is to have two teams out in Hereford every day and it is once again looking positive. Vennture also has a Winter Provision team working from St Peter's which is working closely with the Ambassadors. They are able to reach out to rough sleepers, provide them with short term solutions such as a warm coat for the night whilst endeavouring to find them better places to lay their heads. *Polly*

Yorkshire Camps update

Hello friends! Here's another update letter after a couple of months. At the start of January everyone performed a mad rush back up to the hall to get here before the new lockdown kicked in so we are all safely back at Netherside, happily Covid free. It has been pretty cold and snowy the last month and a hot water bottle has become an essential! One of the first things we did was to create some memory verse videos that hopefully we will be able to use on future camps. It has been just as useful to us as hopefully it will be to them, and we very much enjoyed doing them. My group managed to fit Romans 12:12 (ESV) to Livin' on a Prayer by Bon Jovi. I'll let you look that up and see if you can sing it. We also spent that week starting to work on a video that intends to show off Netherside Hall to supporters, and I will certainly include a link to that at some point when it has been finished.

Despite the new lockdown, we have been ploughing ahead with all sorts of things. The Wednesday Zoom bible studies have continued and they seem to be going really well. Dan has given me the opportunity to do the talk for one of those coming up, so I'm getting excited for that. In these studies there is always a point when we go into Zoom breakout rooms to have a discussion about the talk with the kids to talk about what they've just heard. We're mixing up the groups a bit more now, so whereas before Christmas I would always run the boys' breakout room with Dan, now I'm in the breakout room with different kids and different leaders. I think this has been really nice to be able to work with some more of the kids and hear what they all have to say. Sometimes they can be quite quiet when you try to interact with them but more and more often I'm finding that we can have good discussions and they are becoming more confident to answer questions.

The Leyland ministry course is still on Zoom and we have been continuing to receive excellent teaching from the likes of Mark Pickles and Steve Casey. This month I gave a talk on the parable of the persistent widow from the gospel of Luke. In March my passage is from Judges chapters 4 and 5 where Deborah and Barak lead Israel.

This week starting 13th Feb was very exciting because it was half term for most people and we ran a whole host of Zoom camps all week. We prepared games, activities and question times with

great enthusiasm and we had to get our heads around Zoom in order to run breakout rooms and work on the tech side of the camps. Many of the camps have packages sent out to the campers full of books, games and treats that we used on the camps. There was also one live streamed to Facebook and YouTube on Tuesday the 14th aimed at year 3s to year 6s. I'm so happy that we are able to run camps this way and that so many people have shown interest. It just goes to show



that God still has ways of working, even when they're not what you expect.

In our free time we have continued to be adventurous and have walked to places such as Rylstone Cross. It's a great blessing that churches are allowed to be open despite the lockdown and I have been very much enjoying Alan Marsden's preaching at Martin Top. So in general it has been a very lovely and enjoyable start to the year with many more things to come!

Prayer Points: We are looking for training team members for next year, so pray for more applications. If you know anyone who might be interested do give them a shout. Pray for the team, that we all continue to grow in the Lord and with each other. Thank God for his provision and the way he is using Yorkshire Camps.

As always, thank you to everybody for all your prayer and support. God Bless. *Alexander Gloag*

BCM - ToyLink thank you

At Christmas we were overwhelmed by the generosity of so many wanting to donate a gift or money for a gift to help another family going through hard times. And we helped 1,230 of them – that's 3,000 children! This text which was received from a family after receiving their gifts is the best way to show you what ToyLink means to them: *"Thank you from me, my husband and my children who are very overwhelmed with the amount of presents they have received. The best surprise ever!! A lot more than what we expected and certainly what we cannot afford"*

Youth & Family

Please remember all the ages in your prayers as this phase of life continues to be tough on each and every age bracket. All are still in the throws of homeschooling - roll on 8th March!



Activities this month have included the Spectrum children making Egg-heads and the Sunbeams children decorating animal masks.

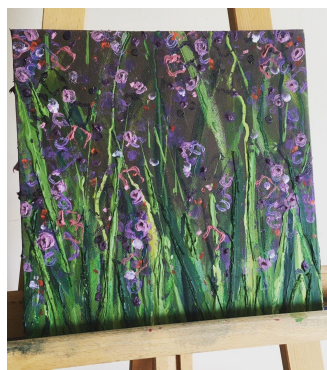


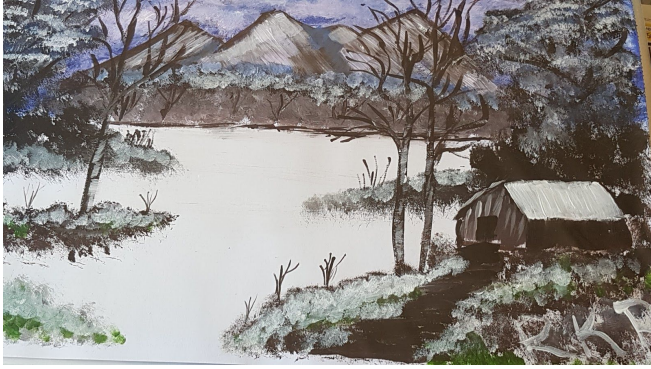


During Lent our families are counting down to Easter with a calendar. Each day there is part of a story to read and a corresponding sticker. *Hannah*

Life

It is not just the younger members of LBC who have been tapping into their creative skills. In response to the question "What have you made during lockdown?".....





This and the painting of the lion are from the Bonfield household.

“Our painting began when we came across a tv programme called The Joy of Painting. We were so inspired by Bob Ross that we thought we would like to give it a try. So for Bob’s birthday in September last year I brought him all the paints, brushes and paper to get started. Painting has given us real enjoyment as we sit and paint

together. A few hours are passed and we have a sense of achievement when we have finished a piece. Bob is enjoying painting landscapes whereas I have tried a few things including animals, flowers and cartoon characters. We never would have thought a year ago this would be what we would be doing. We would encourage anyone to watch this programme on BBC 4 Monday to Thursday at 7.30pm. You might enjoy it and also want to have a go for yourself. Happy painting and God bless” *Bev and Bob*

Coming Up

Indoor Services

With guidelines and advice changing we are now considering the possibility of gathering in person for services. Unfortunately the latest guidelines still prohibit meeting outdoors and so we are considering how we may begin to hold services in the building at Etnam street. As we have tried to do through the last year we want to ensure that we move together and so we will begin with showing the online service videos in the building so that those who feel comfortable with gathering can begin to do so and those who don’t will still be served. We will build from there as restrictions ease, case numbers drop, vaccinations increase and people become more at ease with the idea of gathering. We are also hoping that faster internet will be installed soon so that in time we can move to live streaming from the building.

In order to help us plan we are asking everyone to answer a few questions through our usual sign up procedure. You can find them here: [Indoor Services Questions](#)

World Day of Prayer



A final reminder about the **World Day of Prayer** service organised by LBC on behalf of all the churches in Leominster. It will be available as an interactive on-line service from 1.30pm on **March 5th** at leobc.online.church - it includes the participation of people from all five Leominster churches and the invitation to join the interactive service has gone out to all the churches. It would be great to have plenty of people from LBC joining in the pre and post service chat. The service will also be available on YouTube from March 5th at <https://youtu.be/5ZR5OtZAtqQ> to watch and share with others.

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 for your support and prayers. *Chris & Pat*

Mighty Hikes

A reminder that 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 April. Please send contributions - news, forthcoming activities, testimonies, photos etc. - to Chris at riceandco@hotmail.com

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