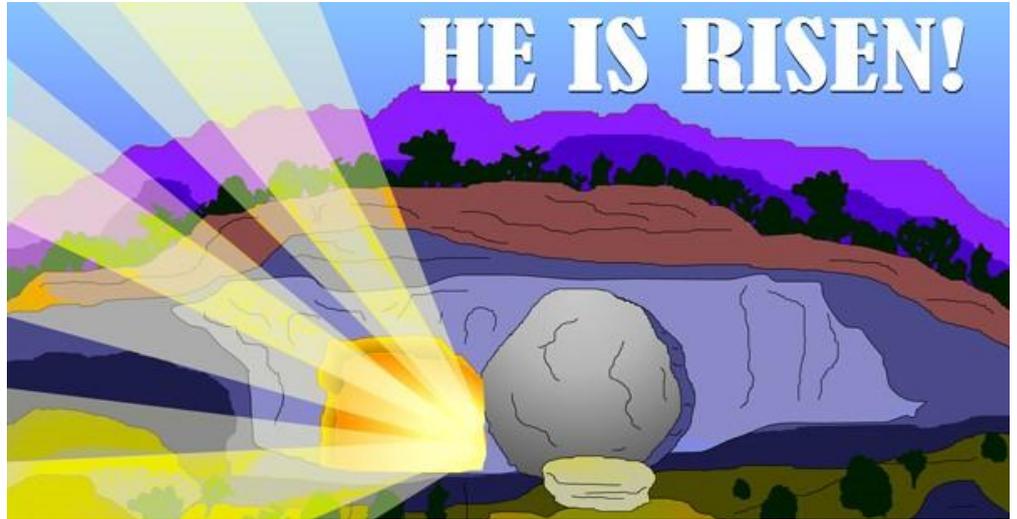
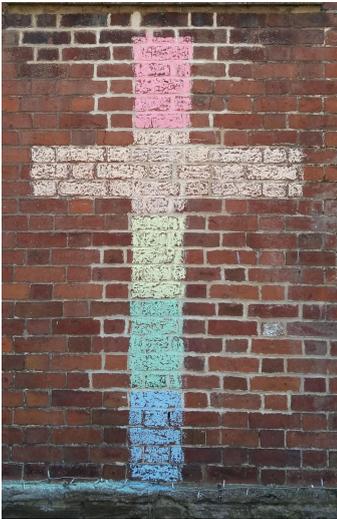


LBC Update

April 2021



What's been going on?

Easter Sunday



Balloons, bunting, chocolate eggs melting in the sunshine... it could only mean one thing. A fantastic celebration of our Lord's resurrection. Around 75 people gathered in the church car park to hear Dean's Easter message and take advantage of the fact that we are now allowed to sing outdoors, attracting plenty of attention from people passing by.

And for those who couldn't join us in person, the on-line service included an aptly themed Easter Egg hunt!!



Dean encouraged us to look for the Morning Star, the sign that the sun is about to come up. A reminder that resurrection is not just about Easter Sunday. In the midst of everything that we are going through, be it fear, disappointment, grief, doubt, failure... we can live in the expectation of change, that the old will go and the new will come. Jesus is the Morning Star, the promise that the sun will rise because the Son has risen.

Meeting together

Prior to the Easter celebrations, we have attended three limited access indoor services at Etnam St. where around twenty people have gathered. Things were much as expected: masks, socially distanced, no singing and watching the on-line video by Dean. Not nearly 'normal' but a start.....and certainly a blessing to see others of our Christian family.

The writer to the Hebrews' letter includes, in 10:24-25, an exhortation to keep meeting together and we know that in different places and times believers are and have been unable to meet because of persecution, or have to meet secretly and quietly... Not being able to meet because of a virus has become frustrating for us as I'm sure we can't wait to be together again.

In between times let's encourage one another as the Hebrew letter continues..... *Eric and Sue*

LBC family

Huge congratulations to Steven, Eva and Beatrice on the safe arrival of Eleanor Sigrid on St David's Day, 1st March, weighing in at 6lb 2oz. Her name means "God is my light". We all look forward to meeting her very soon.



Happy Birthday and best wishes to Pauline and Eileen who celebrated reaching their 60 year milestone on March 30th, with the bonus that it was the sunniest and warmest day of the year so far! Isn't God great!!

They would like to thank the church fellowship for their cards, flowers and messages and say "we've had a lovely day together in the sunshine" *Eileen and Pauline*

Team Trevor Update

We have made it past the halfway mark of Time to Run 2021 raising money for Parkinson's UK. The aim is to run/walk 50 miles in 50 days. As a team, we have already clocked up over 100 miles since the beginning of March - and we finish on 19th April.

All the money raised will go to Parkinson's UK to fund their vital research and services. To donate please see our fundraising page: <https://events.parkinsons.org.uk/fundraisers/TeamTrevor>

Lorna, Trevor and Debi



This is a poster for my upcoming art exhibition that, all being well, will happen at the Bishop's Castle tourist information centre soon. It's going to be great getting some artworks out there, and also providing artworks for others to see in real life rather than over a screen!

I hope that you can come along at some point and enjoy seeing some of the recent artworks that I've been creating. Many of them were painted in lockdown last year. I am also planning to install some sculpture artworks too. *Gemma*

Ministry And Mission

Gaines

Stan Marshall writes..



“Friends, I am pleased to be able, at last, to give you some very good news of the Lord’s work here at Gaines. About a year ago, a young Christian in his mid-thirties heard of an urgent need for a general manager to work at Gaines and bring it back to be a Centre for presenting the gospel to, especially, young people. The young Christian, Andy Williams, had come to Gaines years ago as a teenager and so knew quite a lot about it.

Andy is married to Lisa and they have two young children, a boy and a girl. However, when Andy arrived at Gaines last year, he was somewhat taken aback at the state that both the house and the grounds are now in! So much to do, both in repairs and maintenance, and so little money available with which to attack it! But he was undaunted and in faith took on the post as Director.

Now with the help of Neil and two young women on the staff, they are all working hard to prepare Gaines ready for after the lockdown. Andy is tremendously grateful for all the financial help many of you have already given and is glad that every chocolate you ate has helped in the work.”

In the run up to Christmas, Stan made boxes of homemade chocolates which he sold to raise money for Gaines. The amount raised was more than £1000 so big thanks to everyone who supported his efforts by buying the chocolates. More info at gaines.org.uk

An appeal for help



In the aftermath of the fire in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh, Rohingya Christians who lost everything in the fire need our help. They were amongst those who lost everything when a terrible fire raged through the refugee camp in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh on 22

March 2021. The devastating fire affected five sections of the huge and sprawling camp, killing at least 15 people, injuring hundreds and making tens of thousands homeless.

The vast majority of the Rohingya refugees are Muslims, but amongst them are a few hundred Rohingya Christians from another background who have suffered much for becoming followers of Christ. The flimsy bamboo homes and meagre possessions of some of these Christians were destroyed by the inferno. The security situation and communications difficulties are causing delays in ascertaining the exact number of Christians affected.

Double persecution - Rohingya Christians fled persecution in their homeland because of their ethnicity and now face persecution in their place of refuge because of their Christian faith. Stirring up the normally peaceful and tolerant Rohingya Muslims to anti-Christian violence and discrimination is an extremist group called the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA).

Rohingya Christians often find they are left out when humanitarian aid from NGOs (non governmental organisations) is given out. The international aid agencies use Rohingya Muslims to organise aid distribution – the result is that Christians receive nothing. The Christians see behind this is the influence of the ARSA.

On top of double persecution, came **double disaster** – Covid 19 has had a devastating effect on the vast and crowded refugee camp. And then came the fire. But Barnabas Fund has been working discreetly since 2019 to give practical help to the Christians in Cox's Bazar and will help the Christian families who lost everything in the fire. Gifts can provide food, clothes and shelter for vulnerable and forgotten believers whom the world does not see.

Barnabas Fund is providing clothes, and emergency food packs of rice, lentils, potatoes, fish, eggs, onions, garlic, ginger, cooking oil, salt and sugar. God willing we will also fund new houses for the homeless families, a little more robust than burnt ones.

Remember the forgotten. **See** the invisible. **Listen** to their unheard cries. **Pray** for their protection. **Give** now. Further details available on their website - barnabasfund.org

Barnabas Fund email on Friday 26th March 2021

Are we Hong Kong ready?



In July 2020, Boris Johnson denounced China's imposition of a security law on Hong Kong as a "clear and serious" violation of its treaty with Britain. He promised to introduce a pathway for as many as 2.9 million Hong Kong citizens with British national (overseas) status to settle in the UK. This is the biggest expected migration to the UK in recent times.

Hong Kongers will come with many skills and professions and will expect to contribute to their new country. But will we manage this influx better than the last one, the Windrush generation, where many people came from the Caribbean to the "mother country" only to find hostility and racism even though they worked in hospitals, public transport and factories?

Hebrews 13:2, says: "Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it."

It is probable that most Hong Kongers with a British National Overseas Passport will settle in cities but there may well be a few in our area. They will need friendship and may appreciate help with registering with a GP, arranging accommodation and getting their children into schools. It is always hard to leave your country and family members to come to a new place.

A Christian organisation has been launched to help welcome newcomers. They encourage churches to sign up on their web-site ukhk.org to receive training and to register as a welcoming church on an interactive map.

The Chinese character in the logo is "Fun Yin", which means "welcome".

Yorkshire Camps Update



Since half term we've been running lots of camps on Zoom that have been going really well. We have a big run of camps now up to Easter. Some of them will be live on YouTube and Facebook. Hopefully we'll soon be able to run day camps again by mid April and in the Summer we will be running full length residential camps! Keep your eyes on the Yorkshire Camps website if you're interested in signing up to any of those or contact us if you're interested in bringing a group.

Before Christmas we ran a programme called Rewind to Christmas that was sent out to lots of local primary schools to do an RE lesson about the real meaning of Christmas. We have done the same thing this Easter and all the packs were sent out to schools on Friday. They are jam packed full of games, quizzes, crafts and teaching. Hopefully the teachers in the classes will only have to pause and play the video. My part in this was to create an activity for them - Ellie and I devised an escape room style Easter Mystery that the children will have to solve. It includes puzzles, maths, Caesar ciphers and more.

I'm hoping that as the restrictions ease we will soon be able to start travelling to Leyland again on Thursdays instead of doing all of the ministry training on Zoom. The last talk I gave was on Judges chapters 4 and 5 about Deborah and Barak. Next term I am joining a special preaching group for giving children's talks, so I am looking forward to gaining some experience in that area.

All in all it is going really well and I'm excited at the prospect of having full residential camps coming up. A supporter video is now up on YouTube for you to watch and there is another video about next year's training team - the links are below. At 8pm on the first Monday of every month there is a prayer meeting on Zoom for Yorkshire Camps and anyone is welcome to join us for that. If you would like to join then please email info@yorkshirecamps.org.uk.

Please prayfor the continuing success of Wednesday Zoom studiesfor the upcoming Easter Zoom, day camps and eventual residential camps. (I'm very excited)for the Leyland Bible Course; we are continuing to benefit greatly from it and I am really enjoying the opportunities to give short preaches giving thanks to God for Yorkshire Camps' ministry and everything it offers to us on the training team and to the children who we minister to.....for wisdom as I am having to choose a university to go to next year.

Yorkshire camps supporters' video - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g7LjsGiQuho>

Do a training team gap year video - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QRzZ8se6R4I>

Thank you for all of your support and prayers. *Alexander Gloag*



The last update showcased the many and varied creative talents of the LBC adults. Now it's time for the children....



Amelia and Lucy have been honing their painting skills whilst Elen and Amy have made an impressive bird table.



Meanwhile Matthew made a UFO complete with an alien whilst Peter went from helping mum to make sandwiches to making some impressive body decorations!!

Coming Up

Future Service

Now we know that meeting in the car park is a possibility, and the weather is improving, we will plan more opportunities for our services to be done in this way. We know some aren't comfortable with being in larger numbers in the smaller space so will do our best to make plans that accommodate the different stages people are at. We will update you through the normal channels in the coming week.

Church Member meetings

There will be a **Special Church Meeting** via Zoom for LBC Members at 7.30pm on Wednesday 7th April to discuss the IT system.

The **Annual Church Members' Meeting** will be held at 7.30pm on Wednesday 28th April at the Church, God willing.

Mighty Hikes

A reminder that MacMillan are organising a series of fundraising "Mighty Hikes" - one close to us is from Chepstow on **September 11th**. The 13 mile option is now fully booked but there is still room for anyone wishing to do the 26 miles. 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 are going to be doing the 13 miles! *Jeremy*

On-line conferences

GoodNews' National Convention will be on-line from 23rd - 25th April with the theme verse "He said to them "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation" Mark 16:15. To access the convention and/or get more details of the times of each session, go to goodnewsuk.com/live or via the website www.goodnewsuk.com. Registration is needed for Zoom Prayer and Fellowship sessions but not for the Programme Sessions - just join in!!

The Birmingham Spring Convention 2021 is being held from 27th - 29th April with speaker Jonathan Lamb. To attend, go to birminghamcitymission.org.uk/bham-spring-convention and follow the link to the BSC YouTube channel. A set of DVDs will also be available at £5. Call 0121 766 6603 or email office@birminghamcitymission.co.uk to order DVDs, for more details and/or to make a monetary donation towards the cost of the convention.

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

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