

LBC Update

August 2021



What's been going on?



July 25th saw a much awaited return to the farm for our Sunday morning service - a chance for everyone to meet in the open without any restrictions on numbers. Earlier weather forecasts had predicted thunderstorms but the rain held off and the sun even peeked through. We were joined by a contingent from the Christian Life Centre whose Leominster church plant was unable to use its regular premises - Jason Marrett from CLC shared some words to open the service before Dean led the rest of the service, continuing his series on the Holy Spirit. Then afterwards, we really got back to LBC "normal" - a barbecue and a fantastic chance for fellowship over food.



Norfolk House Craft group

We restarted craft sessions at Norfolk house a few weeks ago, having had a meeting for tea and cake in the garden to assess what they wanted. At first only 6 people were able to come along including myself and Sue. But with restrictions easing we were able to increase that to 10 people plus two helpers at the last session. Sue will be moving house in a few weeks so I will be running sessions fortnightly on a Thursday from 1.30.to 3.30 pm,



hopefully with a couple of helpers. At the first session we made cards, at the second we made gift boxes. And at the most recent session we stencilled tote bags, using acrylic paint, sponges and card stencils. They looked lovely and at the next session we will embroider around the designs. *Bev*

Coffee morning



Our first Coffee Morning after more than a year was held on July 30th. We were in the LBC garden, under cover, and despite the showers more than thirty brave people came to enjoy coffee and cake with us. It was an encouraging start.

Our next Coffee Morning will be on **27th August 10.30am-12.30pm**. Do come and join us, everyone is welcome. *Sheila*

LBC family



Paul, Anna and Peter are thrilled to announce the arrival of Tabitha. She didn't hang around, giving Anna just one hour to get to the hospital before she arrived in the afternoon on July 6th, weighing in at 6.5lbs. Our congratulations and best wishes to all the family.

We wish to thank everyone for the cards and good wishes so kindly sent for our Diamond Wedding. We praise the Lord for his great goodness to us as a family throughout all those years. We were thrilled to have a surprise family gathering on 26th June in our own home and garden when we were blessed with glorious weather for the occasion for which we again give thanks to God – for He is good and He never leaves nor forsakes us. God bless you all. **Tom and Joan** (pictured here with Miriam, Catherine, Elizabeth and David)



Ministry And Mission

Yorkshire Camps

We are now very much in the flow of running regular day camps and we often have the grounds full of kids enjoying activities and games. I've found it to be really nice to talk to them and run activities for them and we've had some really good discussions in the discussion times after meetings when the campers get an opportunity to be asked some questions about what they've heard. The other day I had a very good conversation with some campers about the extent of God's mercy. One group came from a school who had never been here before and by the time they left they had already booked to come to another camp in the autumn! Slightly sad news

about the summer camps is that we will not be able to run residential camps but instead we will be able to run lots and lots of day camps with even more campers. There is space to be able to have 360 campers over the summer which is a huge number to be able to share God's word with so we're praying that all the spaces can be filled. We've started to plan the summer camps and we're getting excited about lots of new ideas and about doing bonfires!

The Leyland ministry course has finally come to an end after having a few weeks back in person. We were able to benefit from in person teaching and were able to present our practise talks to a real live audience which I found to be much more helpful than giving them over zoom. The course has been very beneficial to me during the year and I'm hoping to be able to use lots of the skills I have learned in the future. I got a chance to be able to preach in front of a congregation for the first time at a Wednesday evening service at my church which was a very exciting and humbling experience.

It's been really nice as the lockdown restrictions have eased a bit to be able to spend more time with the staff team. We've been able to have meals at their houses and talked to them a bit more. The guidelines for youth work are a little tighter than the rest of the restrictions but we're now allowed to sing inside with them in the meetings which I'm very excited about.

I have recently been very interested in reading biographies and have spent a considerable amount of time doing so. I have just finished reading The Nine Day Queen Of England about Lady Jane Grey by Faith Cook. It was a fascinating read and I recommend it to all you readers out there. I never realised how sincere her faith had been but by reading some of her letters quoted in the book you not only get a sense of her beliefs but of the beliefs of the reformation as a whole.

Some prayer points: Please pray for the summer camps to be filled and for all the preparation going into them. Thank God for ministries such as the North West Gospel Partnership (Leyland) which help to teach and prepare people with knowledge of the Bible and to minister His word. Pray that we will not be inhibited by restrictions or any other covid restrictions but we will be able to run to the best that we can. And finally, please pray that the team will be able to continue serving faithfully and committedly, and that we will all continue to grow personally in a closer walk with Him. I'm so grateful for all the prayer and support that you continue to give me. Thank you and God Bless. *Alexander Gloag*

Youth and Family

This last month (or so!) has seen quite a lot happening with our children, youth and families so I'll share some highlights...

Sunday morning children's work resumed in the church garden. Centred around circle time with snacks, we've had stories about Jesus wanting to be our friend and exploring different ways to chat to God.





While on the farm, we have a help yourself 'pick n mix' style table of activities available, along with the instruments and colourful ribbons and flags.

The children that attended Spectrum before the pandemic were invited back for a one-off Ice cream party. This gave us a wonderful chance to catch up. Although we have been communicating with them throughout the last 18 months, it's so different actually seeing them face-to-face. We also took the opportunity to say goodbye to the year 6's who will be moving onto secondary school in September and therefore will join the N-ergize group instead. We had great fun, playing ice cream themed games and, of course, eating ice cream with lots of toppings. It was lovely to see the children again.



Whilst filling you all in on Spectrum news, I'd like to take this opportunity to thank Helen and Rachel. Both are stepping back from their roles leading and helping in Spectrum. After many years of nurturing and caring for all the children that have attended the group, they are stepping down. Thank you both for your time, energy, love and devotion to each member of the group, both young and old.



Nergize met weekly during term time in the garden playing games and doing occasional craft every week except one where we moved across to The Grange

for a wide game. We had a great time as we played Danish Long Ball and finished off with a drink and snack.

We have put together a Summer programme for our secondary aged kids... I'll fill you in on the highlights next time.

As always, your prayers are appreciated as September is fast approaching and our children, youth and families will face more changes to routine as they grow. Groups due to start in September are all in the planning stages and over the next month the plans will hopefully begin to take shape.

I hope you all have a good summer. *Hannah*



Coming Up

Services at the church

We would like to get back to meeting at the site on Etnam Street. The difficulty we have is that while we can meet indoors, many are not comfortable being quite as closely seated as we were previously and so fitting everyone in becomes difficult. The idea of multiple services has been discussed but we wouldn't want to separate one part of the church from another unless absolutely necessary. In light of all this, we propose still making use of the car park when the weather permits with the foyer and building being open and available for any who would prefer to be inside and still part of the service. We will make use of shelters and gazebos for shade when it is needed and when the weather doesn't allow us to be outside, we will then meet indoors. When this happens the main hall will have partly distanced seating (in rows with 1m between them) and the back hall will be set out with more distanced seating (in households with 2m distance between them).

Services at the farm

On alternate Sundays we plan to make use of the farm site because of the freedom and space it offers. Chairs can be set out as people feel comfortable and there are no concerns over numbers that can fit on the site.

Live Stream

We managed to get a simple live stream working on the 25th which we hope to use in the future. As long as the internet holds out it will go out at the same time as the service and then will be uploaded to watch again each Monday.

So the plan for the next 6 weeks is as follows

1st August- Service at Etnam Street

8th August- Service at the farm

15th August- Service at Etnam Street

22nd August- Service at the farm

29th August- Service at Etnam Street

5th September- There is the possibility of there being a service with other churches in Leominster but this is still being explored and isn't set in stone.

We are still asking people to sign up for services at the moment so that we know how many chairs to set out and so that we can get in touch with any last minute changes due to weather etc. However there is no limit on spaces.

Sunday Evenings

We will also be beginning some evening gatherings on Sundays for prayer, teaching and communion.

You can keep up to date with all forthcoming services and activities by visiting the church calendar on the LBC website and we also plan to send out weekly email “bulletins” to let you know what is happening each week.

The next **LBC Update** is planned for the first week in September. Please send contributions - news, forthcoming activities, testimonies, photos etc. - to Chris at riceandco@hotmail.com

Contact details

We have been looking at ways to share prayer requests and last minute updates quickly and simply. To do this the church now has a whatsapp account that we hope to use to communicate through. If you want to receive these updates please text the office number below (or scan the code below with your phone camera) with the words “Sign Up” and you will be added to the list.

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