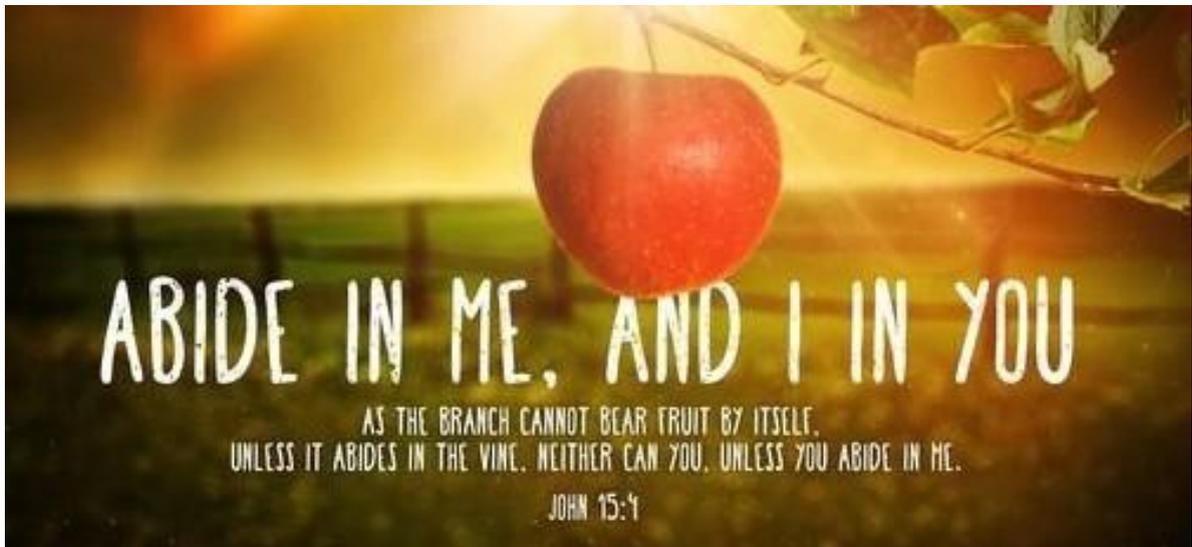


LBC Update

September 2021



What's going on?

Sundays

The Church has entered the building!

From the 12th September we will be meeting inside at our building on Etnam Street. Here are some details on what to expect as we gather again in the building.

Sign up is not required but please be aware that this is the first time we will be back in the building and so, while we are doing all we can to accommodate everyone, there is a possibility that space will be limited.

The main hall will be set out with a slightly increased spacing between rows. Windows and doors will also be opened for ventilation. The balcony will also be available.

The back hall will be set out with seats further apart and in household groups for those who would prefer to be more distanced whilst seated or if there is no room in the main hall. The service will be shown on the screen in this room via a video link. Windows and doors will be opened in this room for ventilation.

Refreshments will be served outside in the car park after the service. As such we are asking everyone to make use of the car park behind the chequers pub. Parking there is now free on a Sunday.

There will be activities for the young people along similar lines to what we have been doing when we gathered in the courtyard. These will develop over time.

Other details– we will not be passing the bags for the collection but will have boxes and buckets around the building which can be used.

Dates for your Diary

The Lunch Club
Leominster Baptist Church
(Etnam Street)

Dates for 2021/22
The second Friday in the month

September	10 th
October	8 th
November	12 th
December	10 th

January	14 th
February	11 th
March	11 th
April	8 th
May	13 th
June	10 th
July	8 th
August	12 th

You are invited to join us for lunch
at 12 noon for 12.30pm

*Coffee Mornings
at LBC*

Dates for 2021/22
The fourth Friday in the month

September	24 th
October	22 nd
November	26 th
December	17 th

January	28 th
February	25 th
March	25 th
April	22 nd
May	27 th
June	24 th
July	22 nd
August	26 th

*Enjoy coffee, cake and great company
from 10.30am - 12.30pm*

As you can see above, **Lunch Club** starts on Friday 10th September and **Coffee Morning** is already up and running again.

Sunbeams started back on Wednesday 8th Sept and **N-ergize** is also starting again on Friday 10th Sept. A start date for **Spectrum** is still pending - more helpers are needed.

Another ministry, our **CAP Job Club**, starts again on Tuesday, 21st September at 10.30am. It is open to anyone who might benefit from some practical and emotional support as they seek employment - just turn up (coffee and home made cake guaranteed!!!).

Two other dates for your diary - **Church Members meeting** on Thursday 16th Sept at 7.30pm. And our **Harvest Service** which will be on Sunday 3rd October.

Church Flowers

As restrictions continue to be lifted with regard to meeting in our church building, it seems appropriate to draw attention to one of the ministries that take place every week which will shortly recommence. It is the ministry of flowers. It may sound surprising to call it such but I consider those who offer this as a part of service and worship within the fellowship.

After years of faithful service in organising this ministry, Lyn Goodwin has retired from its organisation. Many thanks to Lyn for her dedication to this. We will still be able to enjoy her artistry but the organisation has passed to me. We are hoping to restart placing flowers in church soon and invite anyone (men included!!) who would like to be part of doing this to get in touch. I am able to talk to anyone who is inexperienced and give any help needed, including a hand-holding service until you feel confident. There are a number of ways you can help.

- Providing and arranging the flowers for Sunday worship.
- Donating money for flowers in order for another person to arrange them.
- Offering greenery from your garden. Some of us are not so well supplied. Flowers can be bought but greenery is more difficult to come by.
- Donating garden flowers to be arranged rather than buying them.

Over the years the fashion in flower arranging has changed. Once it was a very formal thing; nowadays something less formal can also be pleasing. In a church we attended, one of the most delightful 'arrangements' provided each year was a collection of small posies of snowdrops from the abundance of the lady's garden. It is always a joy to see flowers in church and I would like to encourage you to be part of sharing in this ministry, whatever your level of expertise. Following the display of flowers in LBC they are given to people who we know will appreciate them. This is often someone who is ill or elderly and cannot be with us for the services.

If you feel that this is something you could be involved in then please let me know. I will be making contact with some folk who have helped in the past but it would be lovely to involve some new people. I need your help; however, think of it as not just supporting me in this way, but as something you can offer as part of your worship to God. *Pat Scott*

LBC family



Welcome to the world, Evie May! And huge congratulations and best wishes from us all to Irina, Joe and Ben on your safe arrival on 18th August at 9.30 am, weighing in at 8lb 1oz. You certainly arrived with enthusiasm - an extra pat on the back for your dad for proving his midwifery skills when you decided to make your debut on the bathroom floor!!!!

Congratulations to Dan D on passing his driving test!

September marks the start of a new academic year and some changes for our ever growing church family. So, to keep you up to date, here's a very quick summary of what our children and young people are going to be up to...

Evie, Tabitha, Peter, Eleanor, Henry – hanging out at home

Timothy, Ben, Leah, James – some days at nursery/preschool

Alice, Beatrice, Lucy, Clara – starting school in Reception

Gracie, Ella, Amelia, Aiden, Olive, Emryck, Amy, Matthew G, Eva – continuing in primary school

Alister – starting secondary school

Elen, Matthew D – continuing in secondary school

Bethan, Louisa – starting A Level courses at college

Dan D, Katie, Sian, Ed – continuing at college

Alexander – starting university

Ollie, Phoebe – continuing year 2 at university

Dan C – finished education and now into the world of full time work

Youth and Family

Here's what the youth have been up to over the summer...



We started with Newday online in the back hall of church to join in with the festival virtually. We had about 17 youngsters each night for worship and really challenging talks from the Newday team - as well as some pizza, popcorn, ice cream and fancy hot chocolate.

Following on from Newday we held an informal drop in games and tuck session on The Grange. We played ultimate frisbee and uni-hoc as well as a bit of skipping.

Our final event for the summer was a water games afternoon in the church garden. Many of the regular young people were away on holiday or having to isolate, but those that did come and play had great fun joining in with the silliness. I don't think anyone went home dry!



Ministry And Mission

Yorkshire Camps - Final Update

We have all just finished our year on the training team and have sadly parted with not a few emotional moments but also happily because it has been a wonderful year with much love, joy and service to the Lord. This summer we were able to run day camps throughout and hundreds of kids and young people have come through our doors in person. I have had ample opportunity to run activities with them and to talk to the campers and have spiritual conversations with them. I have also enjoyed the times that I've been on the crew side of things, cleaning and getting things

ready for camp. I even spent one camp working in the kitchen! (Not something I would have attempted last September). Thinking of some of the highlights, I really enjoyed running campfires and leading them in silly songs and being part of sketches. We also reinvented capture the flag as 'capture the cabbage' with two teams of competing rabbits trying to capture the opposing team's cabbages! That worked surprisingly well. It was also a blessing to have my brother Matthew come to some of the camps. I have



only the utmost respect for everyone who gave bible talks this summer; they were really spirit filled and often, I think, amazingly appropriate for some of the campers (and for myself).

There are also a number of stories about how I believe God has been working in the campers that I would like to share. There was one lad who had come on a sports day with his school in which Andy had given a five minute talk about the tightrope walker Charles Blondin walking over Niagara falls. The message had basically been about asking if you'd taken the step of faith; about actually trusting the bible or just saying that you believe it. Anyway, this boy was on a summer camp and remembered the talk; he was very honest about the fact that he and his family believed in God but that he didn't think that they had taken the step of faith into it. So he and his family are worth praying for. Another boy who was quite a bit older was very quiet and probably had some trouble in his background. He always held back and didn't like joining in and the most he would say is 'I don't know'. He came on a couple of summer camps; the second time he came I tried to spend a little more time with him. There was one time that he wasn't joining in with something so I threw a ball with him instead. Another time, I got him and some other boys to try to work together to get around the warrior run whilst all holding onto a piece of rope. Gradually he opened up a little bit and by the time we were having a discussion time near the end of the day he was willing to talk a little more about himself and about the questions from Dave's talk.

Another thing I have loved about the year has been the welcomeness and warmth of the churches we have attended. I went to Martin Top in a place called Rimington, and found that I was very blessed by the preaching there, the weekly prayer meetings and just the tangible love for the Lord that everyone had. Alan Marsden, the pastor, would sometimes invite us out for walks together or just privately and he greatly invested in us. Many people there also invited us round for meals and fellowship. Near the end of the year Alan let me preach a few times which turned out to be a real landmark for me because I could never have even attempted that at the start of the year; it helped me to see where God has grown me in this past year. I pray that the talks, while not much, were a help to those who heard them as well. I was able to use a lot of the things that we were taught at the ministry course to aid my preparation and I'm exceedingly glad of everything we were taught on that course for all that it offered to help me then and for what it has prepared me for in the future.

There were many things that we did on the side this year as well. We did a lot of cycling and even went on a massive 50 mile cycle ride to Hawes and back. We completed the Yorkshire 3 peaks and managed to raise a lot of money for Armenian Ministries. We also went to the Appleby horse fair with Roger Carswell to give out tracts, and that evening I was able to write down six ways in which the Lord had been faithful to me.

Apart from the last couple of months, this year has been jam packed. We made loads of videos before Christmas that got watched widely online and we spent a lot of time running 'camps' on zoom which reached lots of people. We also did a lot of outreach to local schools and who could forget the long period of time we spent running weekly bible studies to a group of youngsters who definitely grew over that time and I pray they were blessed by what we could do.

I am eternally grateful for all the love, prayers, support and encouragement I have received from everyone who has supported me. Thankyou for giving me the money I needed to pay for the year and for the prayers which I am sure have all been answered though I do not know what you may have prayed exactly! Please continue to pray for Yorkshire Camps and the incredible stuff they

are doing there. I will certainly endeavour to venture back there and help out on residential camps which they will be able to run from October. All this year has been so amazing and I am immensely grateful for all the Lord has done. Love in Christ to all of you. *Alexander Gloag*.

tearfund

The desperate situation that people in Afghanistan face has been on our screens over the past weeks. The Tearfund website says:

Violent conflict in Afghanistan has forced around 390,000 people from their homes. Having run for their lives with little more than the clothes on their backs, they are in urgent need of support. Tearfund's local partners are on the ground now, providing life-saving relief packages. These include food, cooking equipment and vital hygiene supplies such as soap and face masks. They're also offering trauma support to people who have witnessed the horrific violence. The need is vast. Afghanistan is experiencing its worst drought in decades, meaning food and water supplies are limited. And the coronavirus pandemic means that hospitals are already overstretched.

This is just one part of the world where there is conflict resulting in pain for ordinary people. Again, their website remarks:

(Families including) more than 3 million children have fled their homes in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and need your help. Tearfund is doing all we can to support them, but with coronavirus, the recent volcanic eruption in Goma and other disasters, our resources are being stretched like never before.

Tearfund is providing clean drinking water, hand washing stations, emergency toilets and hygiene awareness for people living in the camps. *Ivan*

Supporting our brothers and sisters in Afghanistan

At this moment in history, we must remember the people of Afghanistan. As Christians, we must particularly remember, pray for and support the Christians in Afghanistan. Open Doors UK suggests that we pray Psalm 57 1-5. As Christians, we have a mighty weapon against evil and that weapon is prayer. Please pray

- for protection for the small percentage of Afghan believers. Pray that God would make "seeing eyes blind" and that anyone who might be looking for secret Afghan Christians would not discover them.
- that despite their isolation, Afghan believers would be strengthened and encouraged in their daily walk with Jesus. Pray also that they would find safe ways to access the Word of God and communicate with other believers.
- that God would be at work in the hearts of Islamic extremists - e.g. members of the Taliban and the Islamic State group - that they would come to know the transforming grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. What God did for Saul of Tarsus he can do it again for the persecutors of Afghan Christians.

Jeremiah 32 v27 says "I am the Lord, the God of all mankind. Is anything too hard for me?"

Open Doors don't have a fund for Afghanistan - they do for the general area but not specifically for Afghanistan. Therefore, they suggest that we make our donations to Tear Fund, who are working "on the ground", to show the compassion of Christ to all Afghans, Christians and non Christians alike. You may send your donations directly to Tear Fund, 100 Church Road, Teddington, TW11 8QE. Alternatively, you may hand your donations to our Church Secretary or put them in a marked envelope in the donations box in the church foyer.

Used Postage Stamps

Some of us in the fellowship may already give our used postage stamps to the Leprosy Mission via the yellow bin in the church. However, if you so wish, you can also send your stamps to Birmingham City Mission at the following address..

Birmingham City Mission Stamp Appeal, 10 Chestnut Avenue, North Walsham, Norfolk, NR28 9XH

New Life Project, Guatemala

Having set up stringent controls last year to the point where people couldn't leave their homes, leaving them with neither income nor food, at the start of 2021 the Guatemalan government dramatically relaxed the rules and the result was that many people have been taking no precautions whatsoever. A third wave of Covid infections struck in February and then increased after the Easter break when many threw caution to the wind and travelled to see family and friends. With very little or no testing, information from the government is unreliable - by June they were still recording 40-50 deaths a day but they don't really know the full extent of the problem. Many deaths will have gone unreported because people living in isolated areas are scared to go to hospital and/or can't afford/access treatment. The vaccination process is haphazard and slow - the government supposedly paid for 8 million doses of vaccine from Russia and only 150,000 arrived. At the beginning of July, only 1% of the population had received two doses. A recent message from the New Life team said that vaccinations were just beginning to be available in the Santa Faz community so we praise God for that provision.



Recently a team from the USA visited to run a medical clinic over the course of a couple of days with around 160 people attending. As well as general medical issues, they were able to give out reading glasses to

several adults. There was also a prayer team on hand so that those attending were blessed spiritually as well as physically. The prayer highlighted the many problems within the community with the most common being lack of jobs – this is always a problem but has been accentuated by Covid.

As if the pandemic wasn't enough to deal with, recent months have seen an increase in violence in the community – Adonia has commented that it seems to be a pattern which happens each year around the middle months. As well as the obvious danger, it also affects the children

because virtually all of them have a family member or neighbour who is involved in gang culture – there is huge pressure on the teenagers to drop out of education and get involved in gang life. New Life works with the youngsters to support them in this struggle and, where necessary, helps families move out of the community when the danger of involvement is too great. Sadly, the team had to take a week off at the end of May due to the level of threats that they were receiving on a personal level. They returned to the mission in early June. Whilst taking practical precautions like being careful who they speak to, keeping quiet about things they hear and only having specific people in charge of opening the door/letting people in, most of all they trust in God and know that only He can truly protect them.

Adonia writes “As a team we feel privileged by the call that God has put on our lives to serve these people. And we believe that as a team, with God’s help, we can be part of His work in transforming our nation. Thank you to everyone for their love, prayers and support”

We are so thankful that God has provided such an amazing group of people to work on His behalf at New Life and for the love they show in a community where darkness abounds. Please continue to pray for their work in the community, for their protection and that God's light will continue to be seen in the darkness. *Richard and Chris*

Contact details

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

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 this code with your phone camera) with the words “Sign Up” and you will be added to the list.



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