

LBC Update

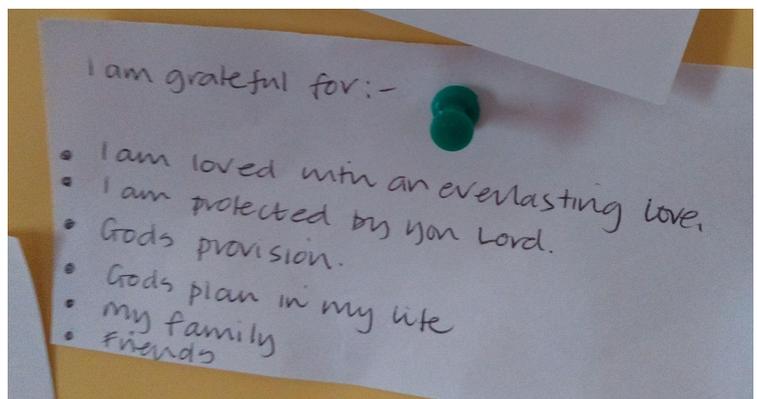
October/November 2021



What's going on?

Harvest

The autumn sun shone down on our harvest celebration held, very appropriately, at the Dales' farm and it was great to see so many gathered to enjoy worship, prayer and Dean's message about gratitude. The picture above shows the board on which everyone, old and young, posted their messages of gratitude which Dean formed into the LBC psalm giving thanks to God for His many blessings.



The Harvest celebration continued later in the day with a shared meal at the church, attended by around seventy people and with the usual LBC abundance of food, drink and fellowship. It brought home to us all how much we have missed these events over the last eighteen months and look forward to many more as things continue to move forward.

All monetary offerings from the weekend, a total of £720, have been sent to Tear Fund to support their work amongst the people of Afghanistan, both in our own country and abroad.

Discipleship

In his message on Sunday, Dean spoke about groups and teaching sessions to help people grow in their walk with Jesus as well as some plans for the coming months. Here is a summary of what has been going on and what is coming up...

The Bible Course began last Tuesday as a continuation with the Alpha group and a few others. It is an eight-part course, using short films and discussion guides to explore the big story of the Bible. If you are interested in exploring the bible in this way but can't make Tuesdays, please register your interest [here](#) and we can look at organising another group at an alternate time.

Sunday evenings will follow the format of one month where we have a particular teaching focus followed by a month in which we devote the time to prayer, worship, fellowship and serving others. In November, on the Sunday evenings of 7th, 14th and 21st, we will be looking at the topic of evangelism together. Through teaching, interviews and discussions in smaller groups we hope to unpack what evangelism is and what role we all have in helping others come to faith. We have called the sessions "Sharing Jesus Without Freaking Out". You are welcome to turn up on the night but we hope to give out some resources and guides for the sessions and so it would be helpful to have an idea of who might be interested in coming. You can register your interest at the welcome desk in the church foyer or by clicking [here](#).

In the meantime..



The main part of the church building has taken on a new, "relaxed" look six days a week, reverting to rows only for Sunday services. This is so that it can more easily accommodate the many groups, big and small, that have started up again without requiring a steady stream of volunteers to move chairs. Our parents and toddlers group, Sunbeams, now makes use of the main hall as well as the back one, creating a calmer environment. House groups, study groups and youth groups meet on various days whilst Job Club continues to meet each Tuesday. And

the space also provides a perfect setting for fruit juice and fellowship before Lunch Club each month as well as being easily adapted for our monthly Coffee Mornings.

Wanted - “Pray-ers”

No! That's not a typing error. Let me explain. The Persecuted Church Prayer Meeting (PCPM) is looking for people to join them on a regular basis to pray for our brothers and sisters who are being persecuted in many countries simply because they believe in the Lord Jesus.

Some years back the PCPM started life at Leominster Baptist Church, meeting at 7:30 pm on the 1st Friday of each month. We attracted others from outside the church fellowship and later migrated to a private home in Bodenham to enable the owners there to attend on a regular basis. Others from Wellington Chapel also joined in. We prayed using the Open Doors prayer DVD and also material supplied by Barnabas Fund.

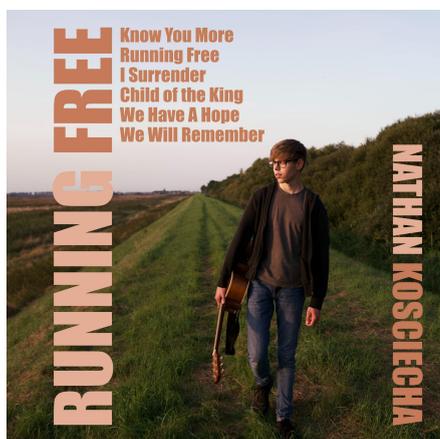
Since the beginning of the pandemic we have not met together in person but some of the people from Wellington Chapel have been holding a zoom prayer meeting instead. In September they were able to hold a prayer meeting in person at their Chapel. Over the same period we have also lost others from LBC who regularly attended, either because they have moved away or been called to glory.

We would like to restart here in Leominster and would invite others to join us in prayer. If you are interested in joining us, and possibly bringing additional information about the persecuted church, you would be very welcome. Please get in touch with me. No day or time has been decided as we are uncertain when would be best. Please let me know your preference. If we once again meet at the church, we would need to fit around other activities taking place in the building. The room we used to meet in is no longer available and Friday evenings see the young people of N-ergise boisterously utilising most of the space. (No criticism implied, merely a statement from past experience!) *Ken Morey*

LBC family

Running Free

Nathan Kosciecha, Jackie and Richard's grandson is about to release his first EP.



“It is coming out 21st October – 6 songs I’ve written from the perspective of a Christian in their walk with Jesus. I’m so thankful to God for His promises and how He’s changed me and everyone who believes in Him.”

The music won't be available in the shops but will be released on Spotify, Amazon Music, Apple Music etc. They will also be available on Youtube by searching for Nathan Kosciecha.

More information can be found at Nathankosciechamusic on his Facebook and Instagram page.

My journey so far

I came over from Malaysia 32 years ago with my deaf daughter who was 6 years old. I am a Malaysian Chinese and now a British Chinese. I am proud to be Chinese where strength and hard work is rooted deep within. My perspective on life, and the world around me, has been shaped dramatically over the years. The different cultures, customs, lifestyles, different sets of rules and laws have been quite challenging. I had to learn to adapt to a different way of living whilst holding tight to my own culture, upbringing and beliefs.

I was brought up in a Christian family although most of my relatives were not. Malaysia is a multi-racial and multicultural country with a variety of beliefs. As a Christian with a very weak Christian upbringing, it was rather confusing and challenging. I believed that all religions' teaching was good and had a lot of influences from non Christians. As a result, I did not really see much difference between the different beliefs!

Now having been living in the UK for more years than where I was born and raised, I have adapted well and have learnt so much. I found out that I can have a relationship with Jesus. How great is that! I started on a new journey, learning more and more about Jesus, about His relationship with His father and how I can learn to become a child of God.

Proverbs 3:5-6 Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.

It took so much time to “unlearn” the different teaching and guidance I had received. I was even subjected to other religious healings and made to do things against my will. You can say that I had a roller coaster of a life! When I look back, I have a lot of regrets and see things I have done wrong. It took me a long time to forgive myself. So I am so thankful that I have come to a point where I know that God has forgiven me and has wiped my slate clean. I now know that He has saved me and given me a new lease of life full of love!

Romans 12:2 Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect

Having thought about my different citizenships, it made me realise that the most important and ultimate citizenship is in heaven. When I gave my life to Jesus and acknowledged Him as my Lord and Saviour, I became a Citizen of Heaven. I have been given a new passport. My citizenship, and my identity, has moved. I am no longer a citizen of this world. I live by His ways and His laws. My heavenly citizenship is not defined by the colour of my passport but, instead, is defined by who I am in Christ.

John 3:16 For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

I am in no way perfect and as I live in this world I know I will sin and I will fall and there will be trials and difficulties in my journey. But knowing that I have a Father who loves me so much, having Jesus as my role model and His Holy Spirit who will guide and counsel me, I am fully equipped. I must, however, focus and continue to walk with God, pray and be guided daily, knowing that I can access His supernatural strength, wisdom and knowledge when my own fails. Thank you Lord Hallelujah. Amen. *Flo Holder*

Youth and Family

Here's a snapshot of what we have been up to...



- Climbing trees - Praying with rockets - Human hungry hippos - Making and floating boats -

Ministry And Mission

Checkpoint Update



I am sure that for many of us we can look back over the last 12 months and see a great mixture of blessings and trials, yet we see God's loving hand in everything. CheckPoint and I are certainly no different in that. At the beginning of this term, let me share some of my reflections on the highs and lows of a "year like no other".

Academic year 2020 – 2021 certainly was different and at times very trying. I did a lot fewer school visits that I normally would and I only went to about half of my usual schools. I did online assemblies via Zoom for the first time, which took some adjusting to. When I was in the schools, even that came with a difference! I often had just one class or "bubble" in front of me rather than the whole school. At various points along the way we had periods of lockdown when the schools were closed, and everything reverted to online. It was exciting when in June things were starting to open up again, and more schools were having me back. However again things seemed to take

a downturn; a close family member unexpectedly died, and so for most of that half term I was given compassionate leave.

There is no doubt that the previous 12 months were filled with trials and difficulties both for CheckPoint and me personally BUT there were still plenty of blessings amongst the trials. The welcome I received from the schools I was able to visit made me realise just how much the work of CheckPoint is appreciated by both the children and the schools. Having smaller age groups for both assemblies and the Spotlight Clubs made it easier to make each session relevant to each child there, it is tricky to do this when you have both 4-year-olds and 11-year-olds in a session. Also, in August, my wife and I had the huge blessing of a daughter being added to our family.

Last year was definitely a year of ups and downs but as I look forward to this year, I am excited to see how God will bless the work. Praise God, I have a much fuller schedule with nearly all the schools allowing me back in and they will mainly be whole school assemblies. I am really excited to be back in schools, I haven't been to some of them for 18 months, and I can't wait to be able to share the wonderful news of the Gospel with the children of Herefordshire and Shropshire in person once again! Thank you for all your prayerful support. *Joe*

Pause for thought

Be kind one to another. Ephesians 4:32

Have you taken the Kindness Test? (thekindnesstest.org)

"The kindness test? What is that?" I hear you ask. It is "a questionnaire devised by psychologists at the University of Sussex in partnership with Radio 4 to explore people's attitudes towards kindness - and designed to gain new insights to help inform a rapidly growing field of study." They want to explore how people's attitudes and experiences vary across the population and how kindness relates to health, wellbeing, etc. Well, I took the test. They say that it will only take about 30 minutes, but it took me over an hour. You are given a number of questions which have multiple choice answers.

For Christians there are opportunities to be positive about our faith, particularly at the end where there is a space for personal observations. Maybe you would like to take the test too?

My own experience of exceptional kindness happened in the local post office. I went in and put on the counter two large envelopes, all stamped and ready to send. As I came to the next shop, I discovered that I didn't have my purse. Very embarrassing! So I went back to the post office to look for it. It is flat, quite small and had ten pounds in it. The young man at the counter wondered whether it might have got stuck between my two envelopes, so he said, "Let's have a look". He opened one of those large mail bags and went right through the entire contents. Then he did the next bag. He opened the third one, and there, near the top, were my two letters and guess what? My purse was in between! Now that I call kindness indeed! *Bep Morey*

Coming up

Dates for your diary

Friday November 5th at 7.30pm - Church Bonfire

Sunday December 12th at 4pm - Family Christmas Activity

Sunday December 19th at 6pm - Candlelight Service

Saturday December 25th at 10.30am - Christmas Day Service

All these events, along with our regular activities (Sunday services, youth groups, toddlers group, coffee mornings, lunch club etc) and other potential activities, are dependant on helpers (e.g. to set up, steward, serve refreshments etc.) so please do speak to Dean, Marie or Hannah if you are able to help in any capacity.

Keswick Convention 2022



Have you thought about attending the Keswick Convention? It is held each summer in the Lake District. It attracts Christians of all ages and backgrounds for a holiday and a time of spiritual refreshment in the beautiful surroundings of this World Heritage site.

Each day there is a morning Bible reading, an evening celebration and seminars. There are active programmes for children, youth and 19s-24s and, in week 3, an Arts stream. There's space every afternoon to enjoy all the Lake District has to offer. You will enjoy excellent Bible teaching, sung worship for heart and mind, explore contemporary issues through a Christian context and have fellowship with many other Christians who attend. Next year's theme is Grateful.

Most people go to one of the three weeks between 16th July and 5th August. There's no charge to attend, as funding is through donations. All you need to do is book your accommodation and come along! All the details are on the website: www.keswickministries.org *Jeremy*

Contact details

The next **LBC Update** is planned for the first week in December. 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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