

# *FOCUS*

*ON*

COLCHESTER  
Baptist Church



JANUARY 15 - FEBRUARY 2012



At Colchester Baptist Church

Our PURPOSE is to follow  
Jesus Christ and  
make Him known

Our VISION is to be a  
growing, thriving,  
nurturing family of God



*Sarah Twitchett with a friend at Colchester Zoo*

I found this photo on Facebook and thought that everyone would like to see it (with Sarah's permission!)

Sarah volunteers at the Zoo and I hope there will be a short article from her next month.

Other photos and articles of hobbies and activities welcomed.

***Editor***



*20s-30s Cell Group*

## Letter from Nick Lear



Dear Friends

It's very tempting to write this letter about New Year's resolutions and how often we make them and (usually) break them. I wonder how many of yours are still active at the moment?

But I am going to resist that temptation and ask you a different question: what are you good at?

Take a few moments to consider this and, as you are probably reading this to yourself, be honest and forget modesty, nobody else will know! What are you good at?

Perhaps you are a good conversationalist or a good listener. Maybe you are creative with flowers or paint or craft materials or taking photographs. You might be good at making numbers add up correctly. You may offer good advice to people. Are you good at your job? Can you teach others?

Whatever answers you have come up with, thank God for those abilities, and offer them to him afresh this year.

And there is one thing you are the best in the world at. If there was an Olympic event for this you would win it easily... you would walk away with the Oscar... you would win the Nobel Prize... for being you. Nobody is better at being you than you are.

God has put together your unique blend of talents, personality, gifts, ideas, experiences and relationships, and he thinks you're fantastic.

Of course, like the athletes preparing for the Olympics, there's always room for us to improve with a bit of training. I'm not talking about going to the gym (you might) but about training with God's Spirit bearing his fruit in your life.

Pray that he will bear that fruit in your life to enable you to grow and flourish and be your best – and that people will clearly see God at work in you.

Yours heartily,

*Nick*



## Comforting thought for 2012

But for Thy upholding  
Where would strength be found?  
By Thy arms enfolding  
Thou dost gird me round.  
Faith a shining beacon,  
Hope lest I lose heart,  
Love that never falters,  
All O Lord Thou art.

*from Joyce Giles*

## Preachers until end February

See weekly sheet for these



We welcome Lynsey back from maternity leave

and holiday on

21st January



## Flowers

### January

22nd - Geoff Edwards in memory of Barbara

29th –

### February

5th –

12th –

19th - Eileen Warner in memory of mother

26th -



The flower list for 2012 is now on the notice board. If you would like to donate flowers in the name of a loved one or for a special occasion please add your name to the list and let Yvonne Lee have your cash or cheque (in her name please) nearer the date. The cost is £25 (the same as it has been for the last 8 years) but if you want certain colours or flowers the cost could be slightly more.

## BMS Birthday Scheme

First the bad news .. Una Daldry is unable to continue to be our loyal BMS Birthday Scheme Co-ordinator because of her health. So this is to thank her for the many many years she has looked after the Scheme in the Church, sending out cards every year to participants, collecting donations from them and sending the resulting cheque to BMS World Mission.

This valuable ministry enables BMS to propagate the gospel more than it would otherwise be able to do. As many of us also know, Una has been a very good friend to many people in the Church and she looks forward to the day when she can join us in Church again.

And now the good news .. Anne Walker is taking over as our BMS Birthday Scheme Co-ordinator. We are very grateful to her for stepping into Una's shoes and are sure that she, like Una before her, will continue to make a success of this valuable ministry.

If anyone reading this would like to know more about the BMS Birthday Scheme and in joining the many members of the Church who support it, please see Anne in Church or give her a ring on 01206 560344.

***David Prentice***



### Birthdays

#### January

16th Joyce Miller	20th Gill Balfour	21st Yvonne Lee
21st Geoff Edwards	26th Denise Coote	31st Blanche Malam

#### February

4th Lucy Jewell	4th Dot Dowsing	6th Gillian Driver
17th George Hay	18th Graham Driver	23rd Joan Johnson

## **Finance**

### **Gift Day**



The amount raised in the Gift Day was £5,745 which increases to £7,027 with the addition of Gift Aid.

As you may remember, half of this sum is to go towards finishing the refurbishment of the Sanctuary, which will shortly get underway under the direction of Garry and Helen Willmott; and the other half of this sum is being divided equally between the Kilpins in Southend and EMI UK, the latter to a fund specifically to help poor people in places where they have had projects.

Thank you to all who contributed to this very good result.

### Offerings in 2011

This is an early advice that (subject to internal examination) the offerings in 2011 were £126,259, up 5.9% on 2010 and up 2.2% on budget.

Thank you for giving so generously.

***David Prentice*** - Church Treasurer



The opinions and conclusions published in "***Focus***" are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the views of the Church or Church Leadership



## More than Gold



### **Friday 3rd February**

Christians in Sport Quiz Evening

The quiz evening will be held at the Weston Homes Community Stadium. Entrance is free. Teams should comprise 5/6 people.

It may be possible to enter a team. See Harry Chapman if you are interested.

### **Saturday 28th April**

Church Quiz.. More details later.

### **2nd - 5th June**

The Queens Jubilee Weekend. No special church activity.

### **Sunday 1st July**

Exodus to Mersea with an Olympic theme.

### **Friday 6th July**

Olympic Torch passes through Colchester. No details yet.

### **Friday 27th July**

Opening ceremony of the Olympic Games

### **Sunday 12th August**

Closing ceremony of the Olympic Games

### **Wednesday 29th August**

Opening ceremony of the Paralympic Games

### **Sunday 9th September**

Closing ceremony of the Paralympic Games

There are special events for children planned and any ideas for other activities welcomed.

**It is hoped to make this Olympic Year a special time for our church family and friends.**



## *Songs of Praise*

The second BBC *Songs of Praise* from St Botolphs will be on  
Sunday 22nd January

Women's World Day of Prayer  
Friday 2 March 2012 @ 10.15 a.m.



The Service this year will be at St. Peter's Church, North Hill and the Speaker will be Major Margaret House from the Salvation Army.

As usual the Mayor has been invited to attend, which is particularly appropriate this year as our Mayor is Malaysian and the Service has been prepared by the Malaysian Christian Women.

I hope many of you will be able to come to this year's service. Men are most welcome too, (though 'Women' remains in our title, for the benefit of those who live in countries where women are treated as second-class citizens.). Tea and coffee will be served afterwards.  
*Vivien Spyvee*

## Paralympic Helper

Phillip Calthorpe would have been happy to have any volunteering role at the Olympic or Paralympic Games. Better than that he has been hired to provide prosthetic, orthotic and wheelchair technical support at the Paralympic Games.

His Mum, Macil, will be very proud of him.

*Found in the Essex County Standard*

## Amiable Amblers

4<sup>th</sup> February Pebmarsh The Street -  
Park in the village hall car park. MR 855337.  
Contact John Clubb 01206 864739 for details



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## New Homes



The **Ikuesan** family have moved to:

124 Axial Drive, Colchester, Essex CO4 5RY

Telephone: 01206 844 435

Personal email address in unchanged: [b.ikuesan@btinternet.com](mailto:b.ikuesan@btinternet.com)

### ***Benson Ikuesan***

On behalf of myself, Yemi, Elizabeth and Ayotunde

**AND**

**Andy Bell** has moved to:

13 Leonard Place  
Clarendon Way  
Colchester  
Co1 1AW



07887711814

[Umist\\_abel@hotmail.com](mailto:Umist_abel@hotmail.com).

## Car park donations 2012



Donations for the use of the car parking facility in Vineyard Street for 2012 are now due. The amount for 2012 is £40 – as agreed at the November Church Meeting – having stayed unchanged at £35 for the last 3 years. I shall be pleased to receive your cash or cheque, payable to Colchester Baptist Church, together with your up-to-date Registration Number of your car as soon as possible. Please note that cheques received in December will not be banked until January.

Please continue to observe the following:

- a) The use of the car park is limited to ‘paid up’ key holders who are regular attenders at Colchester Baptist Church. This facility should not be used by key holders’ children or extended family.
- b) Only one Authorisation Card/Disc is issued to each household and it should be displayed in the car being used to identify the Authorised user. Two Registration Numbers can be put on the card where there are two cars in the household. This is so that two cars are not occupying two spaces at the same time.
- c) The car parking facility is intended for short stay parking and key holders actually working in the Church. It would be most helpful if key holders shopping in the town and/or visiting banks, dentists, hairdressers, etc, could use the car park in the afternoons wherever possible to relieve the problems we have in the mornings.
- d) There is NO parking facility for long stay parking ie, for those in employment in the town or attending colleges.
- e) It is most important for all users to lock the barrier both on entering and leaving the car park until 4:30pm. Although this is burdensome, it does limit the use by unauthorised persons who take advantage of free parking.

If all key holders displayed the issued parking Card/Disc in their car we could more easily identify the intruders.


F) The key to the barrier is for the use only of the 'paid up' key holder, and must not be loaned, copied or passed on to any other person.

g) No parking is allowed in any spaces marked LW. Please would every key holder co-operate for the benefit of us all.

May I also ask any present key holder not using the car parking facility to return their key to me so that new members and regular attenders of the Church can avail themselves of this facility.

Thank you,

**Leisa Koenick** - Car Park Administrator



## MIMIC - an update

Older teenagers, age 16-19, have been invited to participate in MIMIC, a new scheme with two elements: one is an online resource looking at what following Jesus means in today's world. The other is an adult mentor, who meets with the young person once a month to encourage and support them.

So far three young people have taken up this opportunity, though there have been some initial difficulties e.g. with accessing the website.

The first cohort will be invited to a celebration at the end of the summer term. Then we'll see if we can use their experience to relaunch in September.

Please pray that these young people will grow in their walk with Jesus.

**Susan Sydenham**

## Korr, Rendille, Camels

This might remind some people of collecting money to supply a camel to the Rendille people during a drought in the early 1980s. They are a nomadic people in north-east Kenya, for whom camels are their source of more or less everything. Steve Pillinger had been asked by Wycliffe Bible Translators to help Nick and Lynne Swanepoel with Bible translation for the Rendille, which meant learning the language, and committing it to written words before being able to start translation. I believe they started with Genesis because life in those days was similar to their own.



He and Johanna were there during the drought, hence our Church's involvement in trying to help.

So, it was most interesting to read an article in the latest Missionary Aviation Fellowship magazine about the situation today. Over the years, a large part of the New Testament has been translated and the Rendille have learnt to read and write, with enthusiasm. Those Rendille involved in the Literacy Programme asked for more teaching and in 2004 a nursery school was started in Korr with other places following. Sunday School and Vacation Bible school followed and eventually a Secondary school.

Now the Rendille themselves are running the literacy training. The Swanepoels are still involved in the area, and MAF fills a vital need in transporting medicines and supplies safely, which would otherwise have to go by the very dangerous roads.

It was very encouraging to have up-to-date information about a project we had been involved with all those years ago.

*Vivien Spyvee*

## Meet the Ancestor

Henry Spyvee points out to Mr Keith Langford the memorial to his great-great-great-grandfather, Rev. Robert Langford, in our sanctuary.



Keith who lives at Walton-on-the-Naze was researching his family tree. He now has a photograph of his ancestor and some record of his doings as our minister in the years 1842-72. He also met Nick Lear, his ancestor's present day successor.

Robert Langford played a key role in the conversion and discipling of Charles Haddon Spurgeon. It was to Eld Lane to hear Langford that the 15 year old Spurgeon was coming in 1850 when diverted by the snow into the church in Artillery Street where he was converted. Charles did make it to the evening service when Langford's sermon helped him. His brother James became a member here under Langford's leadership until he too went into the ministry.

In 1866 the ailing Langford turned to Spurgeon, now a world-famous preacher, for help. He sent us Edward Spurrier, one of the first students at his college, as Assistant Minister, paid for by the collections when Spurgeon came here to preach. Then in 1868 Spurgeon helped and encouraged the church to build our Church Hall.

We hope Keith appreciates what a remarkable ancestor he has.

***Henry Spyvee*** - Church Historian

## Dates for your Diary

Tuesday 17th January - Deep Thought

Wednesday 18th January - Choir starts 2012 season

Thursday 19th January - Church Meeting

Sunday 22nd January - Songs of Praise BBC1

Wednesday 25th January - Retreads at Ardleigh

Thursday 2nd February - Church Prayer Meeting

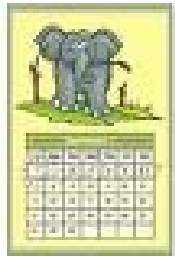
Saturday 4th February - Amiable Amblers, Pebmarsh

Thursday 16th February - Church Meeting

Friday 2nd March - Womens' World Day of Prayer

Saturday 22nd April - Church Quiz

Sunday 1st July - Exodus to Mersea



If you enjoy reading and receiving



*FOCUS Magazine*



Perhaps you would consider donating towards the  
rising costs of producing this publication  
There is a box in the vestibule to receive donations

THANK YOU

## Church Photo Policy

Mums, Dads, grandparents, other carers - and photographers - please take note!



We sometimes photograph children and young people in different groups and activities unless they or their parents expressly request that we do not. These photos may be used for: the child's prayer supporter, displays on noticeboards in church, information packs, occasional projection on screen in church, publication in FOCUS, etc. Photos of young people (age 12+) are sometimes uploaded by leaders or young people themselves to private facebook groups to which the young people have access. However, photos are not used on the church website, or any other website, without the express permission of the parents.

In toddler groups we avoid taking photos without the express permission of the parent or carer, and advise parents to do the same.



If you want to discuss this policy in regard to your child, or you want advice on using photos you have taken, please contact:

Sally Lear (Powerhouse Coordinator) -  
Tel: 769323, [sallylear@sky.com](mailto:sallylear@sky.com) or  
Susan Sydenham (Youth and Family  
Ministry Coordinator) - Tel: 619421  
[susan@colchesterbaptistchurch.org.uk](mailto:susan@colchesterbaptistchurch.org.uk)

## **'Twas the week before Christmas**

Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> December, to be precise! The morning service was led, without interruption, by the children and young people. That is if you don't count the time when Thomas Lear invited half the congregation to join him at the front! It was a memorable service and everyone who took part, in either the organisation or the various items, deserves a big "Thank you" for exceptional effort.

The arts and crafts also excelled – with Jill Chelski's brilliant backdrop as well as the very professional costumes, including numerous crowns. Not a tea towel in sight this year! It must have involved hours, nay weeks, of organisation.

The theme of Jesus becoming lost in all the other attractions of the Christmas season was certainly presented in a way which got everyone (at least, those left in the congregation) asking "Where is this leading?". Then a voice from the gallery (Anne-Marie) intervened and all became clear. I only had one disappointment; I have always fancied being a Christmas tree fairy and was perched all ready to volunteer, but alas no opportunity!

Then there was the evening service – Carols by Candlelight. Not real candles but certainly many real carols. The singing indicated that everyone was in good voice and really enjoying the chance to exercise their lungs. It was great to see (and hear) a contingent of the Open Door/Cornerstone friends.

As usual the singing was led by "Keith and his crackin' choir", and we had some lovely solos from our younger family members, Ella (Chapman) representing youth and Emily (Skull) the even younger. What a blessing to have Simon Heard with us! All the scriptures were read confidently and everything in this non-stop service was on cue. We must also give credit to those whose technical skills help so much.

Nick's short message was to the point – nothing wasted in making the 'reason for the season' crystal clear – not even a joke! Visitors not usually in church, or those there under sufferance, could not object; nor could we, who sit under his ministry weekly, nod off or even have a moment to glaze over! We certainly have some talent amongst us, for which we thank the Lord.

The day also included a family lunch as well as refreshments after the services. I could not participate in any of this – had to get home to feed the other three quarters (i.e. the other half and the dog!) But, at the end of the day, I thanked God that I had been filled, nourished and satisfied during this day with a spirit filled fellowship.

Thank you.

***June Burman***



## **Christmas in Botswana**

It was almost a year ago, in January 2012, that Alan Rootsey preached at Eld Lane to celebrate 300 years of the Church on the Eld Lane site and 300 years since the call of his ancestor, John Rootsey, to the pastorate here.

Alan reports that the temperature at Christmas 2011 is 'boiling' in Botswana and many people go away to escape the heat or visit family.

They decided to relocate their Christmas Day service to the local prisons. As well as a Christmas service and a meal, the Church provided games for the prisoners where they won food, clothing, cards etc. Everybody had a happy, if exhausting time.

A different way to communicate the love which came down at Christmas.

***Henry Spyvee***

## Activ8 at Christmas

Joshua (*below left*)

My picture is of the gold that the Wise Men gave to Jesus as a present. They gave Jesus gold because he is a king.



Chiko (*above right*)

I've done the stable scene. It's my favourite bit of the Christmas story because Jesus was born there, and he is the Son of God.

Joshua (*below left*)

I've done Jesus when he was born because Jesus is the main part of Christmas.

Jesus isn't a phoney so Christmas isn't a phoney. In fact it's really, really important for everyone to hear about it.



Max (*above right*) I've done the stable with the animals.

I thought it would be nice as that's where Jesus was born- in a manger that was in the stable.

I've put presents in the picture too as Christmas is a time when we give presents.

Leaf (*below left*)

I've done a Christmas tree.

It makes me feel Christmassy.

Christmas is special because it's when Jesus was born.



Emily (*above right*)

I have made a picture of Mary, because Mary was the mother of Jesus. That's very special.

When Mary was growing up she was just an ordinary girl. She didn't know that one day she would have a baby who would be a king.

Josh (*below left*)

I've drawn a present. That's my favourite thing about Christmas. We give presents at Christmas to celebrate the gifts that Jesus got from the three wise men, and from the shepherds.



Rebecca (*above right*)

I've drawn Santa because he brings us presents. That's one of my favourite things about Christmas. And we go to Grandma's.



## Christmas Greetings



Christmas cards, telephone calls  
and good wishes for 2012 have been  
received from many past members and  
friends of the church.

Among them are:

Adrian and Hilary Mitchell, Andy and Mel Tapper,  
Gerald Miller, David and Jean Mizen, John and Mary Marsh,  
Dick and Averill Soames, Jack and Isobel King,  
Alison Church (Hanna),

Steve and Johanna Pillinger and Rob and Gen Eldred.

All of them contributed to the work of Colchester Baptist  
Church in the years they were with us.

A card was also received from Gerry Linderman on holiday in  
South Africa.

*Joyce Giles* and others



## Prayer Puzzle

Did anyone find the answer to the prayer puzzle in  
last month's Focus?

June Burman would like to hear from anyone who tried it.



## Retreads



The Wooden Fender

Wednesday 25th January

We start our 13th year with a return visit to the Wooden Fender, Colchester Rd, Ardleigh, CO7 7PA, on Wednesday 25th January (It is always the last Wednesday in alternative months).

We have a two course menu for £9.50 and a three course for £11. Please look on the notice board for the full menu.

If you would like to come than please add your name to the list and indicate your choice and if you require transport. The closing date is 15th January and I would like all payment by then please.



*Retreads enjoying themselves at the Oyster Bar, Mersea  
in November*



## U R a Star!



Nearly 30 children and their families had a day to remember on Saturday 10th December at the 'U R a star!' event at the church. The song which set the theme for the day proclaimed that God is Big, Great, Fab, Strong - and he's my Friend!

Children were put into groups as they arrived, and spent part of the morning doing challenges and activities around this theme. Dodge ball (escaping from Herod) was great fun but squeezing into the prayer tent was just as popular.

The children chose a 'talent group' where they spent some time preparing a dance or song, drama, craft and a video for the presentation to parents. But before that - home cooked soup, fresh rolls and mince pies were much appreciated when parents returned.

What will stick in my mind? The enthusiasm of the children ("Can we do another prayer? Please!"). The involvement of so many new faces in the team - as well as us old regulars - and all so 'on the ball'. Everything was well done, from the registration desk to the music, the plenary sessions, group time, and the workshops. Wow! And Becky being everywhere at once, briefing leaders, preparing the next activity, cool as a cucumber and finger on the button.

Can we do this again tomorrow?" - well, maybe not tomorrow. But definitely something to build on.

*Susan Sydenham*

## Prayer Supporter Scheme



For some time we have tried to pair all the children and young people who regularly attend church on Sunday mornings, or midweek groups, with an adult church member who will undertake to pray for them and take a prayerful interest in them.

The good news is that there are now nearly 30 children attending church who do not yet have an adult prayer supporter! If you are a church member, and would like to take part in this scheme, please contact me, Susan Sydenham, in person, by phone or email.

### Some “Dos” and “Don’ts” for children’s prayer supporters

- Do make yourself known to the child/young person
- Do take an interest in him/her - try and find out a bit about their experience of church
- Do speak to his/her parents too
- Do pray for the child/young person often
- Do send a birthday card or Christmas card etc if you wish
- Don’t expect too much in the way of a direct response to your interest from the child or young person! They may find conversation difficult - but will still appreciate your loving concern.
- Don’t arrange to meet with the child/young person on your own for any reason, even with the parents’ consent.

## What's New in 2012?

Here are some of the ideas and plans for the church's work with children, young people and families over the next few months. Maybe only some of them will take off... Please pray, and consider getting involved!



**CONNECT 12+**

YOUNG PEOPLE CONNECTING LIFE & FAITH

On some Sunday mornings, young people will be able to meet in a smaller age group, allowing everyone to participate at their own level. Older teens aged 15 or 16+ will meet in the Warwick Room twice a month with one or two new leaders.



Can we get a town centre Open the Book group off the ground, offering local primary schools the opportunity of a presentation of a Bible story on a regular basis? Will other town centre churches want to get involved? Will you?!

## Easter cracked!

A fast-moving presentation of the Easter story for 10 and 11 year olds from local schools. This could be making or icing Easter buns – doing a (dry!) demonstration of believer's baptism – sitting with a group as they hear – perhaps for the first time - about communion, or the resurrection!



What's New in 2012?

## Friday night is **clubnight!**

A new clubnight for everyone age 4 to 17 - and involving whole families and new leaders - to be launched in the summer! Are we going to rise to the challenge of following on from what Girls' Brigade and Fusion have meant to so many young people? What do you want this to look and feel like? Do you want to be involved in planning and running, as one of a core team or as an extra pair of hands?



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The Olympic Games will be taking place just down the road in 2012! Here at the church we are considering an Olympics-themed day for junior school children, a holiday club or one-day event at church, and using sports-themed resources in existing groups and activities.

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“In the last days, God says,  
I will pour out my Spirit on all people.  
Your sons and daughters will prophesy,  
your young men will see visions,  
your old men will dream dreams.  
Even on my servants, both men and women,  
I will pour out my Spirit in those days.”

Acts 2 : 17-18 and Joel 2 : 28-29 (NIV)

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