

**DAGNALL STREET BAPTIST CHURCH AND
CROSS STREET CENTRE ST ALBANS**



MAGAZINE

SEPTEMBER 2017

Free

Minister: Rev Simon J Carver, MA, BSc, - 01727 854041

Church Secretary: Chris Penn—01727 864116

Finance Deacon: Trevor Oakley—01727 752732

Property: Ray Saunders – 01727 830260

Site Manager and Caretaker: David Hobbs – 01727 760623

Youth and Children’s Worker: Tim Napper—07974 149700

Cross Street: 01727 846891

Charity Registration Number: 1127791

SEPTEMBER THEMES

	10.30am	6.30pm
September 3rd	<i>Use it or lose it</i> Matthew 16:21-28 Communion	Induction of the Revd Jonny Fillis NB 4.00pm
September 10th	<i>Life in Community I</i> Matthew 18:15-20	<i>The Love Commandment</i> Romans 13:8-14
September 17th	<i>Life in Community II</i> Matthew 18:21-35	<i>All's well that ends well?</i> Genesis 50:15-21 Communion
September 24th	Harvest Festival and Guest Service	<i>God loves all that God has made</i> Jonah 3:10-4:11

Dear Friends,

When we go abroad on holiday one of the first road signs we see in France is pointing towards Dunkirk – or *Dunkerque*, as the French insist on spelling it. I thought that we would miss seeing road signs spelt in ‘foreign’ this year, but in the part of Scotland that we visited, signs are bilingual in English and Gaelic. We were staying in *Aird an Teine*, or Ardentinny, a village a few miles north of Dunoon. However, I had already ‘seen’ Dunkirk, or rather, *Dunkirk*, Christopher Nolan’s film which is about the withdrawal of the British Expeditionary Force from France in 1940. I would recommend it as both an interesting and an inspiring film.



Mark Greene, the Executive Director of the London Institute of Contemporary Christianity, has written an article about the film. He quoted someone who wrote in the Daily Telegraph at the time that, “the prayers of the nation were answered ... the God of hosts himself had supported the valiant men of the British Expeditionary Force.” Winston Churchill referred in the House of Commons to ‘a miracle of deliverance’. Greene noted that a 21st century historian takes a more rational view and puts the evacuation of many more men than the British military expected down to a combination of events – loss of German nerve and the resoluteness of the British and French troops.

Greene’s point is that it’s not just the winners of bloody wars who write the history, but also the winners of cultural wars. In this case it is the secularists, who have no truck with talk of miracles, who have got to write the history.

The Old Testament describes an occasion when Jerusalem was besieged by the Assyrian army and there was no possible way for the city to be relieved. However, one night an angel of the

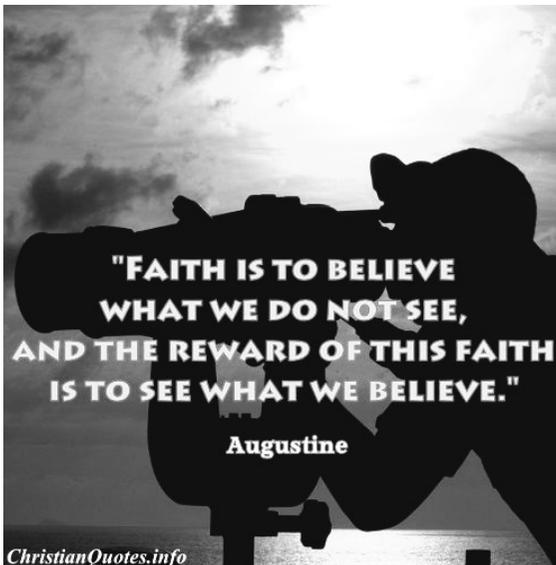
Lord swept through the Assyrian army and wiped them out [II Kings 19:35-36] and the city was saved. This story is told differently in the Assyrian history books, but "it would be, wouldn't it".

Returning to Scottish road signs in two languages, it is possible to see not just place names in two ways. People sometimes describe pious talk as the 'language of Zion'. Christian people are called to view the world with eyes of faith. We 'see in two languages'. We are not to be blind to the things and ways of world. We are called to see and hear with the eyes and ears of faith and to be aware of God at work in our world.

*Many, Lord my God, are the wonders you have done,
the things you planned for us.
None can compare with you;
were I to speak and tell of your deeds,
they would be too many to declare.*
[Psalm 40:5]

Best wishes,

Simon



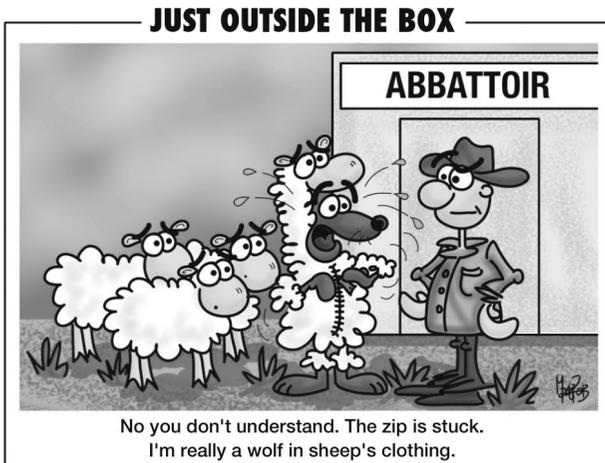


7th October 9.15am – 11.45am

The theme for next **Messy Church** will be **Listening to God**. We will be making megaphones and headphones and carrying our sound experiments, while our Bible focus will be on the story of the young boy Samuel in the temple.

If you've not been before, *Messy Church* is a fun way in which families with children can come together to take part in games, crafts and joining in some action songs.

Simon



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Pastor's News

A brief update on a number of items that might be of interest to the congregation and the wider readership of the magazine.

Bible Studies – *All you need is love?*

For the first of our Bible studies during this session, we will be looking at 'love' in the Bible. There is a choice of two meetings – **10.30am in Cross Street**, or **8.00pm at the Manse**. Both these meetings will be on **Tuesday 12th September**. Anyone is welcome to come to either. Later in this session we will be taking an overview of some Old Testament books and characters.

Church Meeting

Our next church members' meeting will take place in the Cross Street Centre on **Tuesday 5th September at 7.45pm**. If you are a member of Dagnall Street Baptist Church, please try to attend. As part of our **Prayer Week** programme, we will be meeting for prayer before the meeting at **7.00pm**.



Radio Verulam and Premier Radio



There are going to be some changes to my regular **Premier Radio** slot to discuss the latest films. It's moving to a more frequent, but shorter slot. Further details next month. You can also hear me discussing the latest films at the cinema and on television with Danny Smith every Friday from 6.30pm – 7.00pm on

Radio Verulam 92.6FM.

Jonny Fillis – Associate Pastor

Finally, I am looking forward to working with Jonny as he begins his ministry with us. Jonny will be involved with all as

pects of the work of the church, but his primary focus will be engaging with the community in all its forms.

Please note that Jonny will be taking his day off on Mondays to begin with.

Simon

HERITAGE OPEN DAYS

Thursday 7th Friday 8th Saturday 9th & Sunday 10th September 2017



As in previous years, we will be taking part in this month's Heritage Open Days for buildings of historical or architectural merit. This year the church will be open to visitors from 10.00am to 6.00pm on Thursday 7th, Friday 8th, Saturday 9th and from 1.00pm to 5.00pm on Sunday 10th September. Previous years have seen a regular flow of visitors and we are looking forward to welcoming friends and visitors again this year. Please encourage people you know to come along, information will be available and archive material will be on display.

Hundreds of buildings throughout the country will be involved in this annual 4 day event. We're grateful once again to St Albans Civic Society, who have taken on the task of local publicity so pick up one of their leaflets in the Cross Street Centre. Alternatively, for more information about events across England visit www.heritageopendays.org.uk or call 0844 335 1884.

Chris Penn

 /heritageopendays www.heritageopendays.org.uk  @heritageopenday

The Heritage Open Days National Partnership

 **The Heritage Alliance** 



Supported nationally by  **ENGLISH HERITAGE**

Harvest Thanksgiving and Guest Service

10.30 am 24th September

As in previous years our Harvest Festival Service will be one of the occasions that we can use to invite people who don't normally attend church

Harvest is an occasion for thanksgiving and whether or not a person is a regular church-attender, there is a desire within most of us to express gratitude for what we have and for life itself. Take this opportunity to invite a friend, neighbour or family-member to join us as we give thanks for all that God has done for us.

If you are someone reading this who doesn't usually attend church, you would be very welcome to join us.

Simon

freeho.com



Agnes Waller

We would like to thank Simon and everyone who supported Mum and us over the difficult times.

Also thank you for cards and messages received after Mum's passing , they are very much appreciated.

Roslyn and family.



THE LOST NINE!

Recently I went on a River Danube Cruise. It was lovely, we visited Melk, Vienna, Budapest, Bratislava and Dunstein. We all enjoyed ourselves, but it did not start well!

I and my friend Chris arrived at Munich Airport and met the rest of the group.

This included two married couples, two lots of friends and a single lady. This is where it started to go wrong! We were meant to meet a travel rep and coach to take us on the 2 hour+ journey to the ship moored at Passau. But no one was there, so we waited and waited!

One of our group rang the company in the UK, (thank goodness for mobile phones) but they knew nothing about us! We waited there for 2 hours. Eventually, we were told that two yellow taxis would come and pick us up. This took some time as they were not yellow and they were in the wrong place.

When they came, Chris and I went in the 6 seater.

During the two and half hour journey we all got to know each other. It turned out that the two friends, Georgia and April, lived in Norwich, at a house on the other side of Chris's back garden! David, one half a married couple, was a retired Anglican vicar. He was marvellous, as he was excellent at including everybody in the group and this made a real difference. Two of the group felt that they would not fit in because they were different, e.g. rolling cigarettes in the taxi, but fortunately not smoking them! They said that they were grateful for feeling part of the group at all times on the holiday. The journey took ages because it was very busy but we had fun making up games. The weather turned nasty, with heavy rain and thunder. My friend felt sick because we came off the

autobahn and went on windy roads and three of us were facing the wrong way. An exchange of seating took place in the cramped taxi.

When we reached Passau, the ship was not there! The right driver would have known where it was! The two drivers were very patient and we were very grateful to them. The smokers were getting very anxious and had to get out of the taxi. One was partially disabled and was often agitated and depressed, So more phone calls to the UK. Eventually we found the ship, 4km away. The rain stopped and we were welcomed aboard.

This taught me two things. Out of adversity, we all bonded and became a group. Where ever we went on board, there was always someone

to sit with or talk to if you wanted to and we learnt a lot about each other. Something that would not have happened in normal circumstances. Also,

I learnt how easy it was to judge people and then be completely wrong. We were all very grateful to David for making much of this possible and

I think God blessed us.

On our return, the scene at Munich Airport was so different as we relaxed and ate lunch together. This is a holiday we will never forget. It made a great impression on me. We hope to meet again. In fact, when I visit Chris in September, we hope to meet the couple the other side of her garden fence.

Linda Williams



PASTORAL PRAYERS

July and August have brought several celebrations – wedding anniversaries, birth of grandchildren (congratulations to Richard and Leslie Humber on the birth of their first grand-daughter, Lu-na) and the wedding of John Tromans and Cyril Taylor's 90th birthday. We were glad to welcome back David Hance after a long stay in hospital.

There have also been times of sadness – the passing of Agnes Waller, a member for 60 years and also our oldest member in years. We extend our sympathy to Ros and Roger Prowse, and also to Flo Mintern upon the death of her mother.

Whilst many of us have enjoyed happy breaks with our families, we need to bear in mind that this can be a difficult time for those who remember this time of year as an anniversary of a bereavement. We also remember those who are lonely and miss Cross Street (closed for a clean and well-deserved break) especially at a time when other activities such as U3A groups and other church groups may also have closed. It is good to know that there is always a welcome and a chat at the coffee morning and 'drop in' every Friday at Jessie Blair's.

We pray for those who are undergoing hospital visits and treatment, those who are worried about children and family members and those who struggle with the pressures of work and job-hunting. Some of the children will be starting new schools or perhaps school for the first time and we pray for them and their families.

We thank God that He is alongside us in all our ups and downs and pray that his love can flow through us all to those in need. We look forward in hope to the coming of our new associate minister, Jonny Fillis and Becky and Josh and pray they will be very happy with us.

Marjorie and Leslie Jones

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Deacons Election

This is the time of the year when we remind ourselves of our obligations regarding the diaconate of our church, and of the need to consider how we will move forward into next year. Deacons are servants of Christ in this church who are called to share with the minister in the tasks of pastoral care, leadership and stewardship within the life and mission of the congregation. DSBC is registered under the Charities act 1993, so the deacons are the Charity Trustees, and as such are responsible for the governance of the church. Deacons/trustees, are normally elected for a term of three-years and the overall responsibility for their appointment falls to the church members.

Our current constitution allows for up to 12 deacons who shall be baptised believers in membership with DSBC for at least 2 years. Our current complement is 9, of which four complete their current three-year term at the end of this year. This means that 5 remain, leaving up to 7 vacancies. The last time we had a full complement of 12 deacons was in 2010, and in 2014 we were 7.

I'm sure you're aware that Baptist's are democratic! So, it is the responsibility of the church members to ensure that deacons are appointed to meet our obligations as a worshipping church. The job specification of deacon is simply that we use the gifts given to us by God and undertake our duties responsibly within those capabilities.

As we approach this year's deacons' election may I remind you of the process:

“Nominations for deacons shall be in writing signed by 2 church members and shall be forwarded to the church secretary not later than 3 Sundays before the election.” The election will take place at the church meeting on

7th November, so the nominations must be with me by Sunday 22nd October. An announcement will be made in church on the 2 Sundays preceding the closing date for nominations, ie. 8th and 15th October.

“Voting is by secret ballot at the church meeting. Each candidate needs support from at least 50% of the members voting in order to be elected.”

I hope that you will, once again, give this matter your prayerful consideration and seek God’s will as to his call upon you. If you feel called to take on this role, or to encourage others, I have nomination forms ready and waiting.

Chris Penn

Mission News

Wonderfully Made - BMS Harvest Appeal – Sunday 24th September

Our Harvest Appeal this year will support the BMS project “Wonderfully Made” which will help to transform the lives of super children in Thailand.

No climbing frame is too high for Adventure Man, no task is too small for Captain Kindness, and no challenge is insurmountable for Mr Determined. BMS has been helping these three children to thrive through the work of Hope Home, a residential and respite home for children with disabilities. Founded and run by BMS nurse Judy Cook in Chiang Mai, Thailand, it is transforming the lives of these three children – and of the other wonderful children like Yim.

Yim has slow development. She only started walking, very unsteadily, aged four-and-a-half. She’s seven now and has never spoken. Her mum Sor hasn’t been able to get a diagnosis to help her understand why. The family have been coming to the BMS

supported team at Hope Home for help since Yim was two. She loves the ball pool and swings and makes a bee-line for them when she arrives for half an hour before school, and five hours after school, every day.

In Thailand, there is a lot of stigma surrounding disability and a need for more support for families. The prevalent belief in karma and the fatalism it breeds mean that disability is seen as the result of wrongdoing – no-one is innocent in their struggles. The outcome is that many children are abandoned by their parents. They often end up in the Bangkok state orphanage for people with disabilities, which currently houses around 600 children.

The fact that Yim is still living with her family is unusual and rather wonderful. Without Judy and the work BMS supports, Sor might have given up on Yim a long time ago. “Many times, Sor has talked about giving Yim away and just looking after Yam,” says Judy. “But because we keep supporting her she comes through those times and says, “it’s okay, I love her too much, I wouldn’t really do it.”

Mum Sor says that much of Yim’s growth has come from the activities Judy and the team have encouraged her to do. She can walk quite far now and she’s developing other motor skills too – grasping and holding things and, helpfully, putting things back in boxes!

But raising Yim is still hard for Sor. When you don’t have a job that pays you very much money, looking after any family is difficult. And having a child with extra needs has bought extra challenges. But thanks to support from BMS, Sor has received help that has enabled her to commit to caring for her precious daughter. Judy goes on to say, “When you hear Yim laugh, you can feel joy bubbling up inside yourself too. That sound is the very definition of perfectly innocent, pure happiness. You have to smile.

But there is one sound Sor longs to hear even more than her daughter's laugh, and that's the word 'mum'. The day Yim learns to call out to her mum in words will be even more joyful than the sound of her giggles. And that's something worth praying for."

Envelopes will be available in church for your gifts to support this project on Sunday 24th September. And if you want to hear Yim's beautiful laugh, visit: bmsworldmission.org/laugh

BMS World Mission News

One of the best ways to keep up to date with BMS World Mission, is by signing up to receive Engage magazine for free four times a year at bmsworldmission.org/engage. Alternatively, you can access the magazine via the BMS World Mission website.

The current edition of Engage magazine includes a number of thought provoking articles including "The Girl Who Smiles" from which the above was taken. There are also inspiring articles about BMS work in Afghanistan, and about incredible stories of faith in Uganda.

The current edition also includes a goodbye and thankyou from former General Director of BMS David Kerrigan, who retired in August. In a covering letter, he asks us to do two things:

1. **"Donate £10 right now at bmsworldmission.org/farewell.**

Don't wait please do it right now. I will, and I'll encourage my friends and colleagues to do it. And I'd love for you to do it too. If you have any inclination to wish me well, I thank you, and I say this is better than any card: £10 that I know will be used responsibly and effectively by the wonderful organisation that I am leaving. There is no self-congratulation in this request, no self-interest. Just a genuine belief that every £10 (or any amount you choose) will make a real difference to people's lives. So please, go to the link and make a donation."

2. Give Kang-San Tan the love and support you have shown me. The new General Director will face many challenges, not least getting to know the incredibly supportive, committed and sacrificial supporters of BMS. As he takes BMS into its next chapter, I'd ask that you would give him the space to lead and the grace to take BMS in new and necessary directions. You have been so kind to me. Please do the same for him."

Chris Penn

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September 2017



August 2017

Dear Friends

We returned from holiday last week and I must admit to the post-holiday blues. Although we live comfortably in Nepal, adjusting again to power cuts, monsoon rains, 90% humidity, water deliveries when our water runs out, soaking our fruit and salad in iodine solution to clean it, putting loo roll in a bin rather than down the loo, takes a few days.

With nervous excitement, Rebekah, Sam, Tabea and Josh started back at school on Tuesday (years 10, 8, 4, 6). It's their school (KISC) we would particularly ask you to pray for this month.

Sometimes when I am sharing about our need for teachers to teach children like ours, people respond, "I would be willing to come to Ne

pal, but I'd want to work with the Nepalis not the expats". I understand the sentiment; the desire, given the sacrifice of career, salary and closeness to family and friends, to make a difference where it matters most and to be among the neediest. But that also reflects a limited view of the impact a school like KISC has. I see it in two ways.

KISC aims to provide excellent education, primarily to the mission community. It exists to nurture and educate our children. "Third culture kids" (TCKs) is a term coined to describe children raised in a culture other than their parents', such as children in the military, business and diplomatic circles as well as overseas mission. Research has shown some unique traits in these children. They can connect with many cultures, but can struggle to feel ownership of any. They become skilled at building connections quickly because they live in a place where friends come and go frequently, but they live with the perpetual grief of missing friends who have moved on. This way of life can build resilience and flexibility, but TCKs can also feel they don't know where home is, they can find long-term relationships difficult due to the frequency of transitions and they can struggle to reintegrate back into their passport country. KISC provides an understanding international community that accepts, understands and supports these children through all they face. All four of our children, each very different in character, absolutely love being part of KISC.

The second impact KISC has is that it enables the parents to work in Nepal. I could fill a book with the amazing stories of the



work people are involved in—kick-starting businesses, anti-trafficking work, supporting the young Nepali church and so on. If the school wasn't here, most of the parents wouldn't be either. The impact is immeasurable.

I found tears streaming down my face whilst writing this, as I've reflected on all that God has provided for our children, usually against the odds. Sometimes I'm tired of the pace of change and uncertainty we've been through and worry what the long-term effects on our children will be. Will we have regrets about the choices we've made? It's upsetting to see their already small community of friends come and go. It's hard not to be distracted with wondering if we will have enough teachers next year. And I know they miss out on some things by not being in the UK (even though they gain in other areas). And yet I know that God cares

for our children and time and again has provided for them. I am especially encouraged by their outlook on the world - they are truly global citizens that care passionately about war and peace, justice and the environment because they have seen first hand the effects on people. They have learnt that God is with them in the tough times. And don't we all have to trust our children into God's hands whatever our situation?

I (Debbie) am on the KISC board. We are facing two major issues this year. The first is the move to a new school site, which should take place in January. The site we rent currently is cramped and overpriced. The new site has space and a long-term lease. But it is a few miles away (a long bus ride on bumpy roads for the children), we need still to raise some money towards it and it will be a big transition for us all.

The second issue is the recruitment of a new Director. The current Director has been in Nepal for ten years and will move back to the UK next summer. I am chairing the recruitment group looking for a new person to lead us forward. It's such a key position. Please pray for that and share the information on line on the KISC Facebook page or at www.kisc.edu.np/vacancies

Thank you for reading so far; we do appreciate you journeying with us through the ups and downs. You can see more about KISC on Facebook

With love,
Debbie (and the gang)

PS As I joked on Facebook, you won't get many other back-to-school photos featuring giant marijuana plants as the backdrop.



Hospital Transport

A few months ago, we launched an appeal for drivers willing to help with hospital transport, particularly for those of our fellowship who are not so mobile or who don't drive and need to rely on others to get them to clinical appointments.

I'm grateful for the response received from those willing to provide lifts and especially to Pip who has agreed to act as co-ordinator.

If you need transport for a hospital appointment, Pip will be happy to receive your telephone call, (her number is listed in the church year book), and will then contact one of the volunteer drivers who may be available.

If you are a driver and feel you may be able to add your name to our list of volunteers, please let Pip or me know.

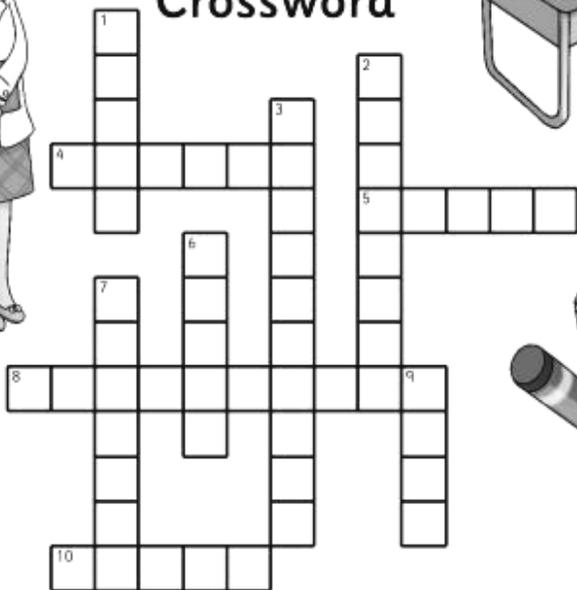
Many thanks,

Chris Penn





Back to School Crossword



Across

4. Do you need to sharpen yours?
5. Write or draw on this.
8. You write on this with chalk.
10. Please _____ your name on your work.

Down

1. Draw straight lines with this.
2. It has a keyboard and a screen.
3. Where you go to play at break (recess)
6. Read these at home or school.
7. They help you learn new things.
9. The teacher sits here.

DSBC Autumn Prayer Week

The DSBC autumn prayer week will take place from 2nd – 8th September. There will be several meetings (please especially note one just before the Church members meeting on Tuesday) but a key focus of the week is on praying as individuals - or with family and friends - and you may find it helpful to use the prayer topics guide below. Please pray for the areas listed each day at convenient time and place for you. Don't feel that you have to pray for every topic on the list but just as seems appropriate – it is meant to be flexible rather than a race to the finish! Whilst there are suggested topics for each day you could also use the guide over a longer period. Could you find out more about an area and commit to praying for it regularly? Remember to thank God too for answers to prayer and for His gracious love.

Prayer Meetings

Saturday 2nd September	10.00am- 11.00am	Cross Street Room 5	Monthly Saturday Prayer Meeting
Tuesday 5th September	7.00pm- 8.00pm	Cross Street Room 3	Prayers before Church Meeting
Wednesday 6th September	12.00pm- 1.00pm	Sanctuary	Contemplative Prayer
Friday 8th September	10.30am- 11.30am	Jessie Blair 391 Watford Road	Morning Prayer Informal prayer – with a cup of tea!

There will also be a prayer walk organised by Churches Together during the afternoon on Sunday 10th September. This will visit several churches - including DSBC at about 3.45pm.

Suggested Prayer Topics (Monday onwards)

Monday –Day 1

Worship and teaching

- • Thanks for our Church history and heritage
- • Pray for Sunday services, Pulpit Supply, Bible studies, prayer groups
- • Music – Choir, Organists, Cross Purposes, Music Group Projection and sound system volunteers.

Pastoral

- • For the pastoral team –encouragement, love and wisdom for the work they do
- • Strengthening the team and (more widely) that people will reach out beyond their immediate group of friends to help and encourage others.
- • For the people on the pastoral list (eg - mentioned at Sunday Communion).
For the grieving, lonely or marginalised in the local community.

Tuesday –Day 2

Leadership

- • Thanks for the leadership team and their commitment to service
- • For the Ministers, Deacons, and other leaders and members – for resilience, integrity, wisdom, discernment of God’s will for the Church and our future development.
- • For Jonny, our new associate Minister, and his wife Becky, that their son Josh settles in Nursery and for God’s discernment for how Jonny’s role will develop.
For People serving in particular capacities eg stewards, coffee, flowers, Communion – thanks for people serving and for future volunteers who are willing and able to serve

Children and families

- • For leaders and staffing – people working with children and young people

- • For Young Spectrum, other activities such as Youth Clubs – TFN and TFN Seniors –Who Let The Dads Out, Crèche, Toddlers, Messy Church
- • For strong family relationships - good communication and understanding
- • For growing knowledge of and love for God
- • For work with families and for more diversity of age groups within the Church,
For 'Safe to Grow', child protection and good parenting skills.

Wednesday - Day 3

Cross Street

- • Thanks for faithful service given by staff and volunteers
- • Thanks for the customers who continue to enjoy using the Coffee Shop
- • Thanks for the activities - such as the knitting group - that are sustained and flourish in the Centre

Thanks for the various groups – many of whom are new to us – who use the rooms and for their part in the life of the wider church community

- • Pray for people who come to Cross Street in need, that they might find Good News
 - • Pray for the staff and the volunteers who support the mission of the church through their labour and commitment
 - • Pray for new volunteers to take the place of those who are no longer able to help
 - • Pray for the future development of the centre and new opportunities
 - • Pray for the administration team and personnel who work to keep the Centre running
- Pray for the Directors whose responsibility it is to keep the business in good order

-

Thursday - Day 4

Property

- Thanks for the Property Team - for their dedication to keep the Church in good repair.
 - High standard of work, good relationship with contractors/advisors.
 - The upkeep of the buildings, health and safety and for the caretaking staff.
 - For continued funding to repair and renew the buildings we look after
 - For new ideas that will be sustainable and eco friendly.
- For God's loving Spirit to renew the energy of the Team members and for the use of their skills in the best way.

Finance team

- For the Finance Team and their commitment to this important task
 - • Thanks for our current healthy financial position, and that this continues
- For wisdom, integrity, good stewardship/right choices on spending, saving etc

Friday - Day 5

Wider mission/outreach

- Weekday activities (for organisers and attendees) eg- Daycare, Baptist Fellowship, Monday Club, Scrabble club.
- Mission links – Drews in Nepal, AWEC, Christian Aid in Ethiopia, BMS.
- Home Mission
- For future events –Harvest, Remembrance, Christmas programme
- For following up afterwards and drawing in people on the fringes
- Publicity –internal and external, for effective communication, good welcome.
- DSBC magazine and contributors
- Stronger links and friendship with other groups/building users eg- Toddlers, AA.
- For Inter-Church relations eg Ministers, Churches Together.
- Work with Centre 33 and other charities
- Cold Weather Beds project for people sleeping rough

ON THIS DAY

Now where did I leave those drugs?

Next time someone nags you to tidy up, tell them you're actually saving the world. Slobbish scientist Alexander Fleming once went on holiday without bothering to clean up his lab. When he got back on 3rd September, 1928, all his Petri dishes had gone mouldy. But in one of them the rampant mould had killed the bacteria around it. Fleming had just discovered penicillin. Cures for syphilis, gangrene and tuberculosis were just around the corner and Fleming's untidiness would save millions of lives.

The curtain falls....for 18 years

As soon as the Puritans got the chance in the English Civil War, they closed the country's theatres on 6th September 1642. So for 18 years the playhouses were empty—or, worse, torn down. However, when the restored monarchy reopened theatres in 1660, it ushered in a glorious age of English drama. Shakespeare and other Elizabethan classics were revived, Restoration comedy took off and, for the first time ever, women were accepted as actors.

Debugging

The 5 ton Harvard Mark 1 was the first programmable digital computer in the US. Unfortunately, no sooner was the behemoth up and running that it broke down on 9th September, 1945. Fortunately, while the boffins scratched their heads, a programmer with common sense called Grace Hopper did a bit of poking and realised that there was a bug in the system—a dead moth was jamming a sprocket hole. She removed it and the computer ran perfectly for the next 15 years.

PASTORAL CARE MATTERS



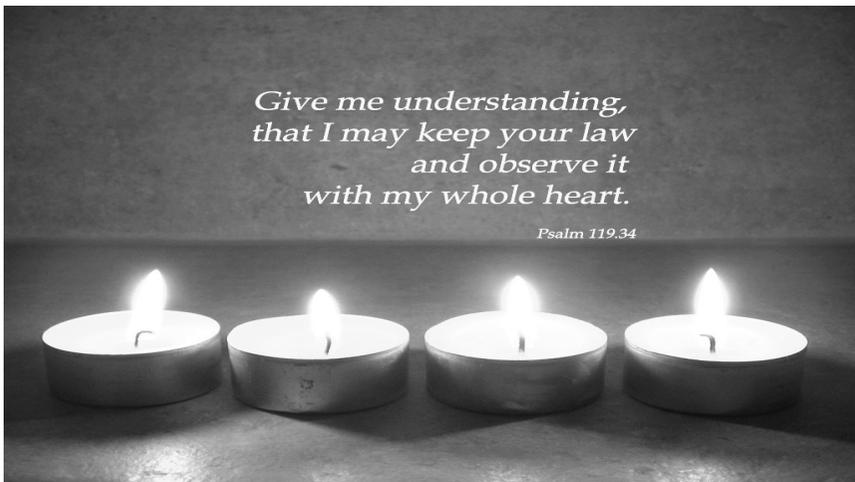
The Minister, Simon and members of the Pastoral Team are always happy to make appointments to visit, talk or pray with you. This can take place in your home, at Cross Street or at our homes at your convenience and at mutually convenient times.

Our Minister, Simon (01727 854041) can be contacted direct.

Brian Branch (01727 852738), Marjorie and Leslie Jones (01727 841845) Jessie Blair (01727 768887) and Ray Saunders (01727 830260) are also active members of the Pastoral Team.

Simon and the team hope you will notify them of anybody who you think may be ill, lonely or who needs help.

Pastoral Team



SWEET PEAS for 2018?



Several people asked me about the sweet peas I brought in to the Cross Steet Centre during June and asked how to grow their own like them. Here are hints, but don't blame me if

you don't succeed!!

TIMING

To give your plants a long growing season plant seeds in September and leave them outside all through the winter. You also need to prepare the ground in the autumn, and think about supports. Your wonderful plants are going to grow to 2.5 metres (8 feet) and get heavy, so sturdy support is needed.

SEEDS

Use deep pots, 20 plus cms (8 ins) such as you buy roses or clematis in. Buy good quality seed of the colours you want (not cheap mixtures). A pack of 20 seeds will cost about £2. To get a blend of colours you need more than one named, Spencer-type variety, so why not share packets with a friend? You want to end up with say three good plants of each colour so 20 seeds is too many.

Put about five seeds in one pot and cover with grit to put off squirrels or birds from helping themselves. General compost is OK, but a little sand or grit is useful to give an open texture. Seedlings will appear in early winter. When they are 15 cms tall (6 inches) nip out the growing point and give them support to stop them flopping. (It may be necessary to stop them again in the new year).

PLANTING OUT

I planted seeds at the end of September and planted them out in mid-March, but be guided by the weather. Watch out for pigeons! First picking at end May, through to July.

John Peters

F E E D P R O J E C T

*A very big **thank you** for your generous contributions to the **FEED Project** last month.*

As ever, they are much appreciated by the Vineyard Church and it has been good to continue our support for their work in this area of need in St Albans.

We are planning another donation early in 2018 and will give you advance notice in the December magazine of the Sundays when we will be collecting.

Thank you again for your continuing support.

Linda Williams and Pat Rowley

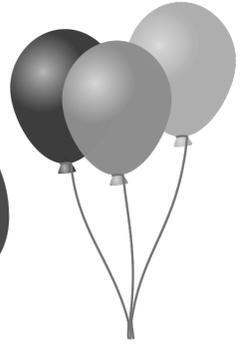


September 2017



COME ON IN

OPEN HOUSE



Jessie Blair would like to invite anyone who would like to come to a weekly get together on Fridays from 10.30am.

Coffee and tea will be served (and maybe a biscuit or two). Come along and meet some new friends and old friends and have sometime to get to know each other better and exchange good ideas, skills and knowledge.

**Come along to: 391 Watford Road, Chiswell Green,
AL2 3DF**

Telephone: 01727 768887

email: jessieblair37@gmail.com

HARVEST FESTIVAL

On Sunday 24 September we will be celebrating Harvest Festival. As in previous years we plan a token display of flowers and produce.

On Saturday 23 we will decorate the Church and would be pleased to receive offers of help and also gifts of flowers for the arrangements, small packets, fancy biscuits and cakes and bags of soft sweets which can be distributed to friends of the Church on Monday morning.

We would also be pleased to hear from those who could assist on Monday morning to assemble the gift boxes and distribute them.

Thank you

Sandra



Telling Our Story - a Short Course in Telling & Writing Stories



As part of a potential series of activities relevant to our fellowship, we are running a four-week story-telling course in September. Whilst we think that this course is ideally suited for older people, it is open to anyone interested in learning how to tell your story. No previous writing experience is necessary.

The course will comprise four sessions, each of two hours, on the following dates:

2-4pm Thursday 14, 21, 28 September & 12 October meeting in Room 3 of the Cross Street Centre.

Each of us has a story to tell, this course will help us to tell it better.

- How do we set the scene to get people listening?
- How do we select the right details to awaken their interest?
- How do we build the tension to set them on the edge of their seats?

Come along prepared to share and to listen, as we sharpen our skills together in these interactive sessions.

Our tutor, Clare F. Hobba, a local author & Christian, has been teaching Creative Writing to Adults for eight years and has over forty publications. She was fiction reviewer for Third Way Magazine and also has a successful blog – My Moon-Shot.

Places are limited and will be allocated on a first-come-first-served basis. If demand is sufficient, we can consider running the same course at another time. The cost will be £40 per person and this fee covers all four weeks and refreshments. A concessionary rate is available on request.

For more information or to book a place on what promises to be an interesting and stimulating course, please email bookings@dsbc.org.uk or call 01727 568162.

Danny Smith

DSBC Road Trip to Binley Woods



On Sunday 13th August, four intrepid explorers (Jessie Blair, Trevor Oakley, Chris Penn & Danny Smith) embarked on a mission to deepest, darkest Coventry to participate in the ordination of our new associate minister designate.

Like many great expeditions, we started off by ensuring we had adequate fuel for our journey – courtesy of a local hostelry – before Chris drove us 76 miles to our destination. Thankfully, four deacons having lunch in St Albans town centre didn't cause any eventful delays and we arrived in good time.

The first thing I noticed about the church is that it's actually a village hall! It was interesting to see evidence of the different ways this building is used, besides being a place of worship on a Sunday. The second thing I noticed was the warm and sincere welcome we received from the congregation.

The place was full for the 4pm ordination service, with an assembled panel of the great and the good seated on the stage before us, including our own Church Secretary Chris.

Time and again throughout the service, as well as whilst speaking to others afterwards, it was most apparent that Jonny and family have made

a tremendous difference to Binley Woods and will be sorely missed.



After the service, we enjoyed a sumptuous buffet, lovingly provided by the church. Whilst devouring sandwiches, sausage rolls and an assortment of mouth-watering cakes, we were able to chat with our hosts. This gave us a further appreciation for the love felt for Jonny, Bex and Josh, along with the void their departure

will leave. We were specifically asked to pray for Binley Woods as they search for a new Minister.

We knew it was time to depart when Jessie and Trevor couldn't fit another sausage roll in their mouths! We said our farewells to our local hosts, wished The Rev'd Jonathan Fillis all the best for his imminent move to St Albans, and returned to the car for our 90 minute journey home.

Danny Smith
August 2017



Christian Aid Community Partnership Project

“Healthier futures for women and girls in Ethiopia”

Well, we've reached the target! The cheque has been sent, and Christian Aid have acknowledged our efforts as follows:

“Many thanks for your letter of 1 August enclosing your cheque for £5,000 and paying in slip for the work we are doing through our partners in Ethiopia – ‘Women Support Association’ and the ‘Ethiopian Interfaith Forum for Development Dialogue and Action’.

These partners are both working hard to improve women and girls' wellbeing by enabling better access to reproductive health services and the information necessary to make informed family planning choices. Your £5,000 will be matched 5:1 so is multiplied to £30,000.

Your list of fundraising activities is very imaginative and I guess that you will all be wanting a good break over the Summer? I hope that you achieve that as well.

Thank you so very much for your ongoing support in our Christian Mission. It's great to have you along.

*Yours sincerely
Adrian Whalley
Regional Coordinator - Hertfordshire”*

However, just because we've reached the target we set ourselves, shouldn't mean we stop our efforts; we already have a small surplus in our 'Christian Aid' fund, and Trevor continues with his fundraising at car boot sales. We have another fundraising activity already planned, a **Quiz Night**, which will take place on **Friday 29th September** starting at 8.00pm at the conservative club in Hatfield Road. These events are always good fun, food is included, and as I mentioned last month, the win

ning team is not necessarily the one with all the right answers! So book the date and make the event another success.

Although the Ethiopia Partnership Project is now closed to further matched funding, there are other new and exciting CA partnership projects coming on line and the mission team will be considering how best to move forward with our fundraising objectives at their next meeting on September 19th. If you have any suggestions please let me know so that we can consider all options.

Finally, the latest, 'Summer 2017', update sheet about the Ethiopia Project is available, and copies are on the carousel in Cross Street. The update explains how the adult literacy programmes are giving women the skills they need to control their lives, and includes details about the fantastic successes the project is making, in spite of the food crisis in Ethiopia.

We are also encouraged to join in prayer for the project, and for the whole of Ethiopia:

- *Pray for the teenagers supported by the guidance and counselling services run by the project; that they have the strength and courage to stand up for their rights, and become healthier, safer, and more productive members of society as a result.*
- *Strengthen the marriages of those who have participated in these self help groups – that the new power dynamics and different responsibilities deepen their bond, making them a shining example to others in their villages.*
- *Pray for the religious leaders heading out into their communities with a message of change; that it will not fall on deaf ears, and that the respect and dignity they command will be the catalyst for a fairer, more just society.*

- *Pray that those who have lost their livelihoods because of severe drought are able to rebuild their resources and do not suffer from hunger for too long; that their communities are able to rally round in support and fellowship to care for each other.*

Chris Penn



THINKING LUNCH

**12.30pm to 1.30pm on Thursday 7th September
2017**

**At Marlborough Road Methodist Church, St Albans AL1
3XQ**

Ruth Dearnley

Stop the Traffik CEO

STOP THE TRAFFIK – fantasy, fiction or fact?

**Is it possible to put an end to the fastest growing
crime in the world today?**

Tea / Coffee / Squash provided, but bring your own sandwiches.

Half an hour talk and then discussion.

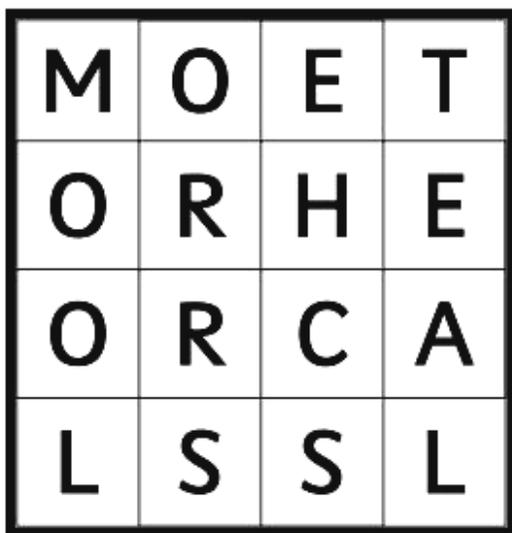
Donations to cover expenses and any profits will be given to the speaker for a charity of their choice.

STOP THE TRAFFIK
PEOPLE SHOULDN'T BE BOUGHT & SOLD



Back to School Boggler Puzzle

How many words of 3 letters or more can you find using the letters below? Words are formed from adjoining letters. Letters must join in the proper sequence to spell a word and may join horizontally, vertically, or diagonally, to the left, right, or up-and-down. No letter square, however, may be used more than once within a single word. You may use plurals if available. Score 1 point for each 3 letter word, 2 points for 4 letter words, 3 points for 5 letter words and so on. Score an extra 2 points for every school themed word that you make!



My points _____

CHURCH MAGAZINES

Our Church magazines are a good record of our Church History. They talk about our activities, membership, Mission, our Ministers and all that takes place as part of our Church life.

I have been continuing the practice of having our a copy of our magazines bound for our archives.

I seem to be missing the following copies, and would appreciate it if anyone has a copy they could pass on to me for binding.

2002.....October
2003.....December
2004.....May and December
2006.....Jan, July, Aug, Sept and Dec.
2007.....Jan and December.
2011.....Oct and December
2015.....Nov and Dec.

Please contact me if you have any of these copies, as I only need one of each.

Many Thanks

Brian Branch
Church Archivist



COPY DATE FOR THE OCTOBER ISSUE 21st SEPTEMBER

I can't believe that I am advertising the date for the October issue of the magazine!! Shall I depress you even more and tell you how many shopping days there are until Christmas!! Well, at writing this there are 122 days left!! And you can go to any supermarket and Selfridges and buy your Christmas essentials, even order the turkey!! I like being organised but this is ridiculous. I think I am being organised when I make the Christmas cakes and puddings in the October half-term!

All the children will be thinking about going back to school and the trepidation of going to new schools. Hope everyone has a good start. The roads, once again, will be busy and I will spend a lot of time listening to the radio in slow moving traffic! They really do have some very interesting programmes on Radio 4, thank goodness.

The weather this summer has been a bit hit and miss. It looked full of promise in June and sadly went downhill in July and August, with just the occasional lovely days. My garden at the moment looks like an explosion of plants as they have all grown so big this year. I'll have to get the pruning shears out soon and get it back in order.

Let's hope that the September weather will be kind to us and we can still cherish some time in the garden and perhaps some nice days out.

If you have done something interesting this summer and would like to write about it don't forget to send it in. Perhaps you have taken a photograph you are pleased with please consider it for the front cover of the magazine.

It's always nice to have input from the readers of the magazine.

Well, let's hope it's a good September and happy holidays to anyone who is taking a break this month.

Glynis

glynis.griffiths1@gmail.com

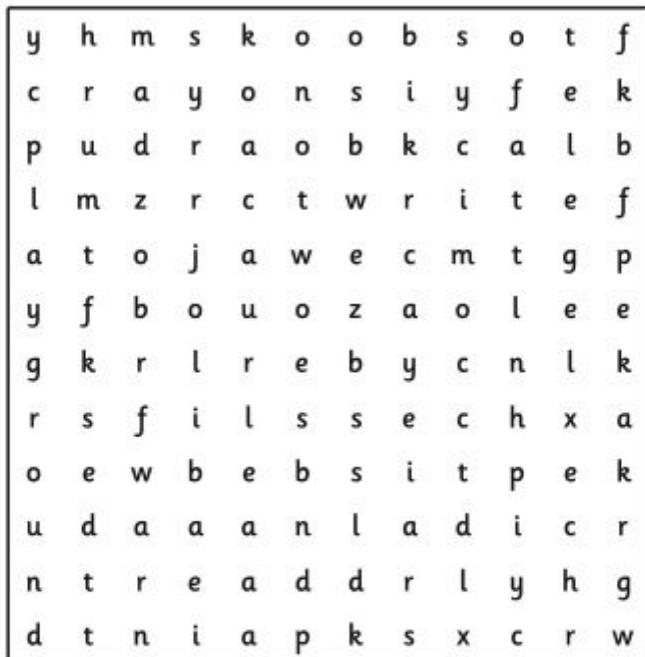
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07709 618571

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			7		5		9	
	3	1	9		8	5	6	
	8						1	
	7	6	3				5	
2	4							



Back to School Word Search



blackboard

books

classroom

crayons

desk

friends

paint

pencil

playground

read

table

teacher

tous

whiteboard

write

O Master, let me walk with Thee
In lowly paths of service free;
Tell me Thy secret; help me bear
The strain of toil, the fret of care.

Help me the slow of heart to move
By some clear winning word of love;
Teach me the wayward feet to stay
And guide them in the homeward way.

Teach me Thy patience; still with Thee
In closer, dearer company,
In work that keeps faith sweet and strong,
In trust that triumphs over wrong.

In hope that sends a shining ray
Far down the future's broadening way;
In peace that only Thou canst give,
With Thee, O Master, let me live.







CHURCH & CENTRE ROOM BOOKINGS

To contact Danny Smith regarding Church and Centre room booking enquiries:

Tel: 01727 568162 (new number)
email: bookings@dsbc.org.uk



Monday Table Tennis/ Games Club

We recommence on;
Monday 4th September
through to Monday; **18th December 2017**

We meet every Monday from 10.30am till 1pm in the main Hall

Table Tennis – Snooker – Pool – Carpet Bowls – Chess
– Draughts and
other table games. Refreshments available in Cross Street Centre Cafe

All are welcomed for a time of fun and fellowship

Trevor Oakley



DAYCARE

Daycare meets every Tuesday during school term time, at the Age Concern Centre, St Peters Street. If you know of anyone who would like to come along for lunch and companionship please contact **Jessie Blair on email: jessieblair37@gmail.com**.

FELLOWSHIP LUNCH

The Fellowship Lunch this month will be held on Thursday, 14th September at 12.30pm in the Cross Street Café.

Everyone is welcome.

Diane Graham

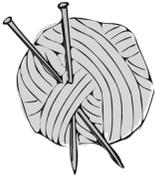


WHO LET THE DAD'S OUT!!



The meeting this month will be on **Saturday, 9th September, 10am to 12pm in the Lower Hall.**

Come along and have some fun! Dads, Granddads, Uncles—all welcome.



KNITTING GROUP

The knitting group will meet on Tuesday, 19th September in Cross Street from 11am—12.30pm and welcomes anyone who would like to join with us. Some bring their own knitting or crochet projects whilst other knit and crochet for the charity 'Knit for Peace'.

Judy Pandal



SCRABBLE CLUB

Scrabble Club will be held on Tuesday 12th and Tuesday 26th September at 2.30pm in the Cross Street Centre.

What, When and Where September 2017

Saturday	2	Prayer Hour 10.00am Cross Street Room 5
Tuesday	5	Church Members meeting & Prayer Room 3 Cross Street Centre - 7.00pm prayer followed by meeting start at 8.00pm
Wednesday	6	Contemplative Prayer 12.00pm – 1.00pm in Church
Thursday	7	Morning Prayer and tea 10.30am – 11.30am 391 Watford Road
Thursday	7	Heritage Open Day 10.00am – 6.00pm Church
Wednesday	8	Heritage Open Day 10.00am – 6.00pm Church
Saturday	9	Heritage Open Day 10.00am – 6.00pm Church
Saturday	9	Who Let the Dads Out? 10.00am – 12.00pm Lower Hall
Sunday	10	Heritage Open Day 1.00pm – 5.00pm Church
Tuesday	12	Bible Study 10.30am – 12.00pm Cross Street Centre 8.00pm at the Manse
Tuesday	12	Scrabble Club 2.30pm Cross Street Centre
Thursday	14	Baptist Fellowship Lunch 12.30pm Cross Street Centre
Tuesday	19	Knitting Group 11.00am – 12.30pm Cross Street Centre
Thursday	21	Deacons' Meeting 7.45pm Room 5 Cross Street Centre
Tuesday	26	Scrabble Club 2.30pm Cross Street Centre

Regular Events

Mondays: Table tennis & Games Club 10.30am – 1.30pm Lower Hall

Tuesdays: (term time) **Daycare** 10am – 2pm Age Concern St Peters Street

Wednesdays: (term time - starts 13th) **Toddlers** 09.45am – 11.15am Lower Hall

Fridays: (term time) **TFN** 6.30pm – 8.30pm Lower Hall

Fridays: (term time) **TFN Seniors** 7.00pm – 8.30pm Cross Street Centre

Sunday Services

10.30am and 6.30pm, with groups for children at the 10.30am service.