

February 2012



Reflections

Reflections

MAGAZINE

sharing faith, hope and love

LOCKS HEATH FREE CHURCH

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PASTOR'S LETTER

It happened again. It wasn't planned, expected or desired but once again it happened. Arguably it could be said that this is simply a coincidence that I am plundering to provide a point to my latest Pastor's letter, however I reckon it is God using our home again as a tangible teaching tool. Regular readers will know that the life and times of Mulberry House seem to have a spiritual symbiosis with the church – with over a dozen of my previous letters demonstrating this link! A simple coincidence perhaps, something that God can use to make me stop and ponder – definitely.

The latest occurrence has to do with fences. After months of pursuing solicitors to finalise contracts, three days before Christmas it happened – an amazing present from God – the field was ours! We immediately appointed a company to erect a fence and as we broke into the New Year the work started to mark out for all to see the land God had given us. It was brilliant to see. Yes we have some serious challenges before us; gaining official planning permission, raising enough funds - some very major challenges indeed. But the fence was a



significant marker, a declaration proclaiming that this land was given by God, belongs to God and will be used by God.



Meanwhile back at Mulberry House, the New Year weather was having a clear case of post-Christmas wind. Seriously. Damage was inflicted on most fence panels around our house and one side of the garden suffered total obliteration – panels disintegrated, posts ripped out,

climbers crushed and perennials pounded into the mud. It was a serious mess.

A quick call to our insurers revealed that fences were not covered by our policy, then a quick chat with our neighbours responsible for maintaining that boundary revealed that they were quite happy with the skeletal branches (ambitiously referred to as a hedge) as being an adequate boundary. So we were faced with an expensive (and annoying) challenge. Happy New Year!

So what does this have to do with the church fence situation I hear you ask! (Go on humour me and say it!)

Cathy shared our New Year challenge with her friends on Facebook and what happened next was remarkable. Loads of people sent comments of encouragement, sympathising with the unwelcomed stress and expense, others sent links to where legal advice might be found, others offered to come over to join a working party, one even offered to “send some boys around to convince our neighbours to reconsider their position” (they were joking – I think!) and another felt God wanted them to financially help us.

We were totally blown away (no pun intended!). We were in no way asking or expecting others to help

restore what was damaged. Why should people help us with fences and finances when other people were facing challenges much greater than ours? But then God made His point. God’s family was doing what God’s family does incredibly well – it loves, it cares, it gives, it brings hope.

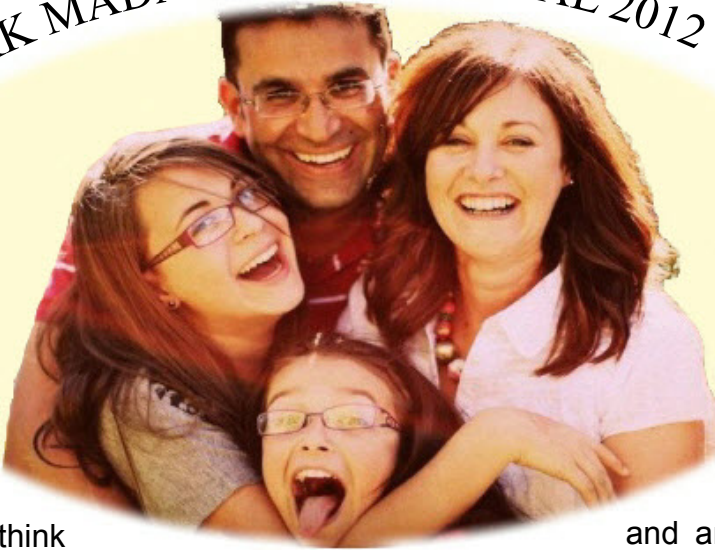
When I stop and think about the mammoth task we face as a church to build a facility on the fenced off land, it is monumentally daunting. The lesson God is highlighting is that the solution is not found in stoically soaking up the stress or simply denying the situation by never stopping to consider the cost, nor is it to sit back and expect someone else to do all the hard work and sort things out. The solution is to keep God first – to purposefully invite God and His family to do what we do best. To love. To care. To give. To bring hope. That is when situations change. Matthew 6:33 “But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.”

Challenges are a part of life. The way through them is to purposefully invite God and His people into the midst of them. Together, with God and His people, we can change the world, our nation, our community, our field and our back fence.

Be a part of God’s solution.

Mark Madavan

MARK MADAVAN'S SABATICAL 2012



It is amazing to think that it has been seven years since our last sabbatical. We are still humbled when we remember the outrageous generosity we received from the church family; the way it released us from church responsibilities in order to pause, reflect and be refreshed as a family and how the church's financial generosity allowed us to accept some "behind the scenes" opportunities with a number of large churches in the States and to attend the Willow Creek Global Leadership Summit in Chicago. There was also the extra blessing that while we were away a mini-army of folks went DIY crazy on our house. It was a truly spectacular sabbatical.

Seven years on and another 'pause' is keenly anticipated. It has been a packed seven years full of celebrations, changes and challenges - new people coming to faith, new people joining the church, new staff joining the team, key friends and leaders moving on, new ministries starting, others ending, new opportunities being opened by God, lots of sermons and teaching, and lots and lots of work trying to obtain a bigger building!

Although a 'pause' is greatly needed, this sabbatical is proving to be a bit more tricky. Our girls are much older; locked firmly into school studies and very much involved in the life of the church – so they don't want to step back and pause at all! We are also very

mindful that before us as a church is a massive financial challenge requiring incredible sacrificial giving to see our new planned building become a reality. Asking people to contribute towards our sabbatical fund as well as this significant building project has been something we have not felt comfortable to do – we are thankful however to those who have still wished to give to the sabbatical fund to enable us to get the most out of this time.

Our sabbatical plans presently come in two parts. Firstly we plan to go as a family to South Africa for

two weeks. Cathy and the girls have never

visited Hands at Work, Belfast and we thought this would be an excellent opportunity for us all to see, encourage and support those our church is partnering with in Belfast. We will also weave in some rest and sightseeing time. Due to South Africa being in the southern hemisphere and thus having their

summers and winters the wrong way round, we will be visiting South Africa this February.

The main part of the sabbatical will happen June to August. During this time we will be home based due to the girl's school and keeping them connected to church. However we do plan to visit a number of larger UK churches – to chat with their leaders, to see how they seek to be church and to learn as much as we can: to become better leaders as our church continues to grow and moves into a new phase of life with our larger facility.

**A time spent recharging physical, spiritual & psychological health.
A time spend listening to God.**

Speaking of the larger facility, incredibly my time away will not clash with any major

technical building demands – we will be in the middle of raising funds which the church can all do in my absence. So... if you could manage to raise the money needed while I'm away, I can then come back refreshed and ready to get this project moving! Now that would be a truly spectacular sabbatical!

Mark Madavan

SUNDAY SERVICES - FEBRUARY

	9am & 11am	pm
5th	Tim Hancock Communion	7pm One Hour of Prayer
12th	Mark Madavan	4pm Songs of Praise
19th	Tim Hancock	No events at LHFC
26th	Tim Hancock	No events at LHFC

**CHURCH MEETING
for CHURCH MEMBERS
Wednesday 8th February at
7.30pm will include a SPECIAL
CHURCH MEETING regarding the
plans for the new building.**

BUILDING WORKING

A new year is here and we have the excitement of a new building to look forward too. What this also means is our present building is a year older and like all of us as we get older things wear out or start to fail or just need a “facelift”.

If you can help with the jobs around the building the dates for this year are:

10th March, 19th May, 14th July, 8th September and 10th November.

If your Small Group would like to attend as a group please let me know and we will ensure there is plenty for you to do whatever your abilities.

Alternatively if the dates are inconvenient we can arrange a task for your group outside of these times.

Look forward to hearing from ALL of you

*Paul Warner
Head of Facilities*



Western Wards
The Gazette

Keep up to date with news and events in the Western Wards with
The Gazette Daily www.wwgazette.co.uk

MISSION



Hands at Work

A F R I C A

It has been some time since the last trip to Belfast in South Africa for various reasons. But we are keen to maintain our link with the people of Belfast and Hands at Work itself. Our heart is to

continue supporting those who care on a daily basis for the widowed, orphaned and those in need as a result of the AIDS pandemic.

'Hands at Work in Africa' envisions the local church in Africa effectively caring for the dying, widowed and orphaned and unified in this mission with the church outside Africa.

The next team trip is in February. We leave the UK on Wednesday 8 February and arrive back on Sunday 19 February.

Fiona Banes and I are really excited to lead this next trip. The team we are taking are Adrian Allen, Judy Meads, Claire Lloyd, Ian Beattie, Sharon Brackstone,

Al Stewart and his two daughters McKenna and Maleah.

Catherine Clarkson will be working with us while we are there.



**Please pray -
for the trip;
for the community of Belfast
for health and safety of
the team &
that God will use us for
His glory.**

Sarah Sawyers

THE PERSECUTED CHURCH

Please **REMEMBER NEPAL**
in your **PRAYERS**

- As Nepal struggles to complete its peace process, CSW continues to campaign within Nepal and internationally for full religious freedom to be guaranteed in the new constitution and penal code.
- Pray that CSW staff's recent meetings with leaders will bring protection for Nepal's freedom to choose their faith.
- Ask God to ensure that by the end of May a constitution which fully embodies U.N. Human Rights principles is agreed.
- Pray for former Maoist soldiers to be peacefully integrated into the new National Army or generously compensated.
- Following land seizures, pray for people squatting on unused land to be given sufficient plots to feed their families.
- Praise God that 95% of Christians are co-operating in the United Christian Alliance of Nepal.
- Pray that rights to burial land will be legally established.

MISSION



Be a voice for the voiceless
www.csw.org.uk



**CHRISTIAN
SOLIDARITY
WORLDWIDE**
VOICE FOR THE VOICELESS

MISSION

TWO MAD PENSIONERS

Aka First week in Nepal

John and Maureen Richards
volunteering with Baptist
Missionary Society at
Kathmandu International
Study Centre, Nepal (KISC)
from January to June 2012.

John is working as Site
Manager
john.richards1950@btinternet.com

Maureen is working as
Special Needs Teacher



We arrived in Kathmandu, Nepal on Sunday, 8th January. We have had a great first week and are getting used to new routines, especially as life here is quite different from the West!!

Initially we had to negotiate the chaotic traffic, though we were not driving, fortunately. There seem to be no rules on the roads and if you can get several lanes of traffic going in one direction, then good on you!! Motorbikes seem to be all over the place. Also in lots of places there are no pavements, so pedestrians are walking at the edge of the road, too. Fortunately we have found some back alleys to walk along in order to get to and from school. It is much safer, but not devoid of traffic.

We have a lovely second floor flat which includes the roof garden. We have three bedrooms, two living rooms, a kitchen/dining room and bathroom. We have a number of balconies around as during the day it is warmer to be outside than inside. Our only heating is the sun and a gas fire, which we use in the evenings. It is life back in the 50s and 60s when we were growing up!! Remember those days!! No central heating and sometimes no running hot water. We get some hot water on a sunny day through solar panels, but have not found enough for a shower. Morning routine is to boil a saucepan-full of water, tip it into a large bowl with cold water and use a plastic pot for a shower!!! Then you have to get

dressed quickly and get a few cups of tea inside you.

Our first 24 hours were interesting regarding the electricity schedule. There is a load sharing system in place whereby everyone has electricity for up to 12 hours per day. When we arrived in the flat there was no electricity. It came on when we went to bed and was off again by the time we got up on Monday morning!!! Fortunately we cook with bottled gas, but we need power to get filtered water. We are getting into some routine as we need filtered water to drink and also to wash fruit and vegetables safely.

We have had a series of induction meetings and

language sessions with more to come. Last week we were taken for a trip into central Kathmandu to Durbar Square and Thamel, two tourist locations. This week we have to go to Patan Hospital to check that we have had all the vaccinations required. There are more language sessions to come and a few other visits on offer.

On Monday 16th, we had had staff meetings and faculty meetings.

MISSION

John has been round the site inspecting the painting which has recently been completed. He was also able to identify some issues with evacuation routes. Children have arrived back to school after their Christmas holiday. So begins a new chapter....

God has been challenging us about these early years of retirement and has guided us to KISC. We have been conscious of His hand on us as we have settled into life here in Nepal. He is faithful and will supply all our needs. It

was very special today as parents and staff joined for prayers at the start of term. There are 11 or so new

volunteers joining a team of about 50 staff. Individual parents prayed for us all individually. We then shared lunch together. Staff, parents and church members have made us feel so welcome and we are not the oldest new recruits!!!

More information about KISC is available on the school website and our contact address is the school address as we there is no street name for our back alley!!!

Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him and He shall direct your paths. Proverbs 3: 5 & 6

NEW BUILDING FUND

Directory of Services

WEEDING
?

Teach a
skill ?

HOW CAN YOU HELP ??

WRAP
PRESENTS
?

WALK A
DOG
?

IRONING
?

Get involved !

- Sign up to be included in the Directory of Services - use your skills and help raise funds for the New Building !
- The sign-up sheet is on the Fund Raising Notice Board.
- contact Norma Shepherd the.shepherds@btinternet.com or LHFC office for further information.



BUILDING BLOG

JANUARY 2012

At 12:01pm on 22nd December 2011 the church became the proud owners of a field! Praise God!

On Wednesday 4th January 2012 the fence began to be erected and a week later the field is ours to use at will – provided you don't mind getting your feet rather muddy!

To mark this incredible step along our journey we have attached a huge “1st” sign on the fence. This is a marker to acknowledge God's mighty first act along our journey towards a larger church community centre. It is also a reminder that it is only when we put ‘God first’ that mighty things happen. (It is also something that will provoke people to ask “Why is there a huge 1st sign on the fence?” – giving us all an opportunity to tell them what God has done!)

Owning the field now allows us to invite the wider church community and then the neighbours to view the plans. Once this has happened we will then submit an official planning application – and then we wait and pray! This is a crucial and essential step along the journey which much work and money has already been invested in, please keep praying.

We also need to more intentional and seriously begin fund raising. Once planning is agreed the only thing that will be stopping us is money. We have a large amount to raise – please pray, give, speak to any funding contacts you may have connections with: grants, trusts, legacies, etc. For this mighty step of faith to be taken it will require us all to use what we have – little or large – for the glory of God. Please identify what you can give or do and offer them to God today.

LHFC Cookbook – the Cookbook was a great success, and we have sold 330 cookbooks so far. This has made us over £1,200 profit to add to the Church Building Fund. Thanks to everyone that supported this activity by either contributing a recipe, or by buying a copy. Also a massive thank you to Lisa Rowland and her Cookbook team for making it happen!



eBay follow on activity – over the next few months, we will be holding a number of coffee mornings that will

allow people to meet and sell items on eBay in order to raise funds for the church building. This is a fun and sociable way of making money, and we can even provide the items to sell. The coffee mornings will typically be held on weekdays, so if you can spare any time to support this, please speak to either Rachel Munn or Rachel Keen who can give you further details and dates. Even if you haven't used eBay before, you can still get involved either by helping us to photograph the items, or by assisting us with packaging them up and posting them.

Your turn.....

in each edition of the Church Magazine, we will be suggesting a fundraising idea that you can execute as an individual in order to support the Building Fund.

Here is our suggestion for this month!

To all of you that use Facebook, Mark Sawyers has set up a group called 'Indian Night'. Mark has decided to put his curry making ability to great use in order to raise funds for the church building by selling fantastic freshly made curry. Please support Mark by using him as your primary curry supplier! If you want to 'Spice up your life' just ask Mark to add you as a member of the 'Indian Night' group on Facebook where you can find further information.

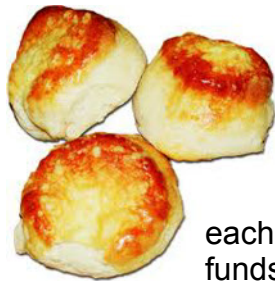
The aim of the fundraising team is to facilitate, support and promote fundraising ideas. If you have any fundraising suggestions that you think we should consider, please e-mail them to fundraising@lhfc.org.uk

For further information on any of our fundraising events, do speak to any member of the fundraising team – Rachel Keen, Rachel Munn, Lisa Rowland, Lisa Robinson, Norma Shepherd, and Linda Snook.

JEAN'S JOTTINGS

Firstly Dave and I would like to say a huge thank you to those of you who have supported us with our work with I.C.C. We have appreciated your prayers, encouragement and gifts. We have been able to send £110.00 to the medical fund which is very dear to our hearts.

Secondly we plan to put our house on the market in March but if anyone in church would be interested in buying it we would be happy to put the equivalent of estate agent fees in the Building Fund. Just give us a call on 01489 573693 to discuss the issue further.



Thirdly I will be starting to "bake" on the 1st and 3rd Fridays of each month to raise funds for the building. I will take orders up to the Tuesday evening and will be happy to make any of the following. Minimum order 12 cakes / scones etc.



NEW BUILDING

Item	Cost
Cheese scones	£2/ doz
Fruit or plain scones	£1.80/ doz
Cup cakes in 2 sizes	
Chocolate, coffee, vanilla lemon or orange	£4.50 med
	£6.00 large
Flapjack	£2.50/ tray
Welsh Tea Loaves	£1.75/ loaf
Chocolate fudge cake	£2.50/cake
Chocolate chip cookies	£2.00/doz

Again, contact me if you are interested. I will use Fair Trade ingredients where possible, and if you have a special request I am willing to consider it!!



Jean Newman

SECOND HAND (pre read) CHRISTIAN BOOK STALL



at LHFC
12th February

buy a 'recycled' book and all proceeds will go to the **LHFC Building Fund**. Donations of Christian books in good condition to Jim Schofield on the day of the sale or in the box in the foyer.

BMS GLOBES & BOXES

All monies collected goes to support the Baptist Missionary Society (BMS)

For the time being David Grubb has taken over the BMS globes and boxes from John Richards. If you would like a BMS money box, or need a globe or box emptied, please contact David.



Andy Abbs has commenced work at LHFC as the new Caretaker.

If you visit the premises on a week day morning you will see him busy setting up for activities, doing DIY and mending the latest thing that has broken. He will appreciate you taking the time to introduce yourself to him.

Andy is taking over this role from Peter Tratt who has worked hard and tirelessly as our Caretaker for the past 8 years. Peter is retiring and later this year hopes to travel to the USA (to start with ! ...)



Reflections
Reflections

A full colour edition of the The LHFC Church Magazine is available to view or download from the LHFC website (hits December & January = **259** to date) Visit www.lhfc.org.uk

The complex block features a photograph of a woman with dark curly hair wearing a light blue top, looking at a laptop. To the right of the photo, the word 'Reflections' is written twice in a stylized font: once in black and once in pink. Below this, there is a paragraph of text and a URL.

THANK YOU LHFC from

October 2011 saw LHFC hold the Harvest service and receive gifts for the Medaille Trust. In December we held our Toy service and gifts of toys and presents for children and teenagers were distributed to families in need in our community by Fareham Locality Team and St John's School in time for Christmas. The LHFC family were incredibly generous on both occasions and thank you's are here for you to read along with a personal story.

Pauline Griffiths

It was with great appreciation that we received the gifts from your Harvest collection. These gifts were sent to our safe house in the London area where we support women and their babies. These gifts, along with the sentiments in which they were given, make a significant contribution to the healing process. It is heartening to know that we are not alone in this work. With renewed thanks for your support.

*Father Des Connolly
Medaille Trust*

*Dear Congregation at LHFC
Thank you so much for the generous donation of toys and gifts for some of our families. Christmas for these families has been made all the better for your kindness. I would also like to thank the church staff for their support and guidance over the past year, the links we have with the Free Church have been invaluable to us in so many ways. May I wish you a wonderful Christmas and New Year on behalf of the staff and families at St John the Baptist Primary School.*

*Honor Hodges
Home School Link Worker*

I would like to say what a great pleasure it was to come to your services on 27th November to briefly explain what our team does and give a small insight into the many different families we work with. We were all so amazed and delighted with the generosity and compassion shown by your church members. The presents you all provided for our families in need were absolutely fantastic. I can say with all sincerity that they were gratefully received by the many families that benefited from your

kindness. I have managed to see some of the families after Christmas and have spoken with some young children and teenagers who have been absolutely delighted with their presents. Parents were very grateful as it helped to ease some of the burden of having to buy for their children particularly those with large families. On behalf of all of the team I would like to say thank you again, words just don't seem enough sometimes when trying to express our gratitude but I hope you will know the sincerity that comes with the words. Thank you. Many Thanks

*Pete McFadden
Parenting Specialist
Neville Lovett Community School*

*To the Congregation of LHFC
My wife and I and our two children wanted to thank you all for making our Christmas extra special by giving us the food parcel and the gifts for our children. We are very grateful for your kindness.*

X

A few weeks before the Toy Service I logged onto Amazon and ordered two baby Annabelle dolls. They duly arrived but I felt something was missing. Margaret Fluck provided the solution by kindly knitting each doll an outfit and a set of spare clothes and dressing them. They looked

beautiful and made a lovely Christmas present for two little girls.

Meanwhile, a little girl in Titchfield Common asked her Mum and Dad for a baby Annabelle for Christmas. Unfortunately, due to their circumstances, they knew they would be unable to provide this for her.

LHFC held our Toy Service and both Pete McFadden and Honor Hodges were overwhelmed by the love of the LHFC family and their generosity. Honor had names and ages of some children so this helped her when choosing some of the toys and gifts. She chose one of the baby Annabelle dolls for a little girl. It turned out to be the same little girl who had asked for one of these dolls for Christmas, and Honor had no prior knowledge of this.

Praise God! I am sure there are many more stories that can be told of the toys and gifts that you provided.

PG

YOUTH

2011 was a fantastic year and there were loads of highlights, from some of the youth committing their lives to Christ, a few young people (yp) getting baptised, Soul Survivor, Connect Group retreat and of course the week in week out programmes like Edge that still attracts around 150+ yp a week.

Another highlight for me was seeing all the volunteers at the Volunteer Christmas dinner, initially over 150 invites went out to all those who serve in Children's and Youth in the Church with a fantastic 90+ volunteers turning up on the night to share a fantastic meal together and also share some awesome (and sometimes borderline dodgy – Viv Foot!) stories over the last year.

It was a superb ending to a great year, and I continue to pray that God will pour out more of his love and blessing on the youth ministry in 2012. JP



FOOTBALL

The New Year's Day Annual Football Match was a real success with 26 'players' turning up (some late!) and donning 'The shirt' once more in a bid to burn off some Christmas calories and all in the name of fun....apparently!

The supporters this year were fantastic, around 40 turned up to watch/chat/drink hot drinks and 'support' the two teams in their valiant effort on the pitch.

Some highlights were: Graham Griffiths breaking out into a trot down the left wing, Phil Andrews attempting and missing an overhead kick, Pete McNulty managed to stop whinging for nearly 5 minutes, Tim Hancock's flawless referee display and Mike Rail shouting his obligatory 'Booooooootiful' as he belted the ball 100 yards over the Cross bar.

All in all it was a fantastic match played in the right spirit (i.e slowly and without much effort!) and was enjoyed by the youngest (aged 10) to the oldest (ask Graham!)

P.S – The score was.....3-1 to 'us'....whoever 'us' were?! JP

Starting next month, one Small Group is going to be contributing a short piece for the Church Magazine each month to update readers on an aspect of how they 'do life together' in their group. Sometimes this will be a news item, perhaps a celebration of how God has blessed the group, it may be a look into what the group get up to, or it may be a report on what the group has been reading and discussing as a group, for example some feedback from groups on how they are building on the 'Essentials Re-visited' series in their discussions

There are currently 20 Small Groups that meet at different times, on different days and in a range of locations. As Hebrews 10 v 24 reminds us, it is important for us

SMALL GROUPS DOING LIFE TOGETHER

each one to meet together so that we can 'spur another on toward love and good deeds'. Being part of a Small Group is about enjoying fellowship, building relationships and 'doing life together'. For many of us, it provides important contact with other Christians throughout the week and is very important in helping us to avoid 'Faith drift'. It provides an opportunity to strengthen and deepen our relationships with each other and with God.

If you are currently not involved in a Small Group please contact Diane Salter (diane_salter@hotmail.com) or Geoff Walls (giwalls@hotmail.com) if you would like to know more.

*Geoff Walls
Team Leader (Small Group Ministry)*

..... with **Shirley MacKenzie**

Shirley and husband David have been married for over 11 years, with four children between them, with eight grandchildren and one on the way. Born in Cardiff, Shirley left home at 16 to do a 2 year ophthalmic nursing diploma in Bristol, followed by state registered training in Bath and Salisbury. Shirley started her 40-year career in nursing in hospitals, then moved into occupational health, and since 1992 has worked as a part time General Practice nurse locally, where she specialises in Asthma and finds the work challenging but satisfying. Shirley was brought up from childhood as a Christian (her parents are LHFC members Haddon and Stella Partridge) and baptised at 14. Shirley and David have been members at LHFC for 20 years and were previously members of the 'Marriage Team' for four years. Currently Shirley is a member of a small group, and for the 9 a.m. service is in our 'Welcome group' and a Reader.

Favourite holiday destination

We love the Greek islands especially Cephalonia and Zakynthos (Zante), with their



mountainous scenery, beaches, and flowers. The Tuscan island of Giglio (unfortunately now in the news) is another favourite of ours where we went for my 60th birthday.

Your three top dream dinner guests from anywhere and anytime

Florence Nightingale, as I was a nurse I would love to chat to her about her career and her work during the Crimean war.

Edward Jenner, the father of immunology, who pioneered the smallpox vaccination when discovering that inoculation with cowpox gave immunity against smallpox. His work fascinates me and we could chat about his testing theories.

Ludwig Beethoven, not only do I love his music but I would be interested to learn how he coped with his loss of hearing, but still continued to compose. As I have bilateral tinnitus, which impairs my health, I would like to know how he did it.

Your worst habit

Twiddling my hair into knots whilst watching TV

Your favourite film of all time

A 2003 film 'Under the Tuscan Sun, a great story set in Italy with beautiful scenery and the light of course.

The CD you enjoy the most

I love Mozart and particularly his Piano Concerto No. 23 which is a good way to relax when I'm stressed.

The TV show you try not to miss

I love 'Strictly Come Dancing' with its music and outfits. Also Downton Abbey and all wildlife and nature programmes.

Any phobias

I hate Daddy Longlegs spiders especially when their legs come off. They always seem to fly straight at me.

If you could have an endless supply of any food, what would you get?

I love fresh fish – lobster, crab, prawns especially. I am also partial to chocolate.

Your perfect way to spend a relaxing day

Walking in the country amongst bluebell woods (with my man), followed by a pub lunch beside an open fire, and then home to try some acrylic painting, which I am learning, whilst listening to some classical music.

Favourite Bible verse

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.
Philippians, 4. 6-7

WHERE I HAVE & HAVE NOT BEEN!

I have been in many places, but I've never been in Cahoots. Apparently, you can't go alone. You have to be in Cahoots with someone.

I've also never been in Cognito. I hear no one recognizes you there I have, however, been in Sane. They don't have an airport; you have to be driven there. I have made several trips there, thanks to my friends, family and work.

I would like to go to Conclusions, but you have to jump, and I'm not too much on physical activity anymore.

I have never been in Doubt. That is a sad place to go, and I try not to visit there. I've been in Flexible, but only when it was very important to stand firm.

Sometimes I'm in Capable, and I go there more often as I'm getting older.

One of my favourite places to be is in Suspense!

It really gets the adrenalin flowing and pumps up the old heart! At my age I need all the stimuli I can get! And more and more I think of the Here After . . . Several times a day, in fact, I enter a room and think "What am I here after?"



Church Mice

Karl Zorowski



Please consider our neighbours when you park!

St John's School Car Park



Locks Heath Free Church

St John's School are allowing LHFC use of their Car Park on Sundays. Please consider using this car park instead of parking in Hunts Pond Road and Ascot Close. **St John's School Car Park open from 10.15am on Sundays**

St John's School, Abshot Road – a very short walk to LHFC.



Friday 2nd March at
St John's Church, Locks Heath
Everyone welcome

WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

*Praying for Malaysia
'Let Justice Prevail'*

THE STUBBINGTON ARK

Mike Ward of the Stubbington Animal Shelter wishes to thank Brenda Ridgley and everyone who contributed to the request for food, old towels, blankets etc sent to for the animals last December.



He commented that although the centre is financially viable, they have had to be more prudent with their expenditure during the recession. Financial gifts and other practical gifts therefore allow them to extend their services to the animals.

Mike is confident that the ARK will be able to continue to maintain its reputation for the delivery of quality animal welfare thanks to contributions such as these.

HOPE NOW

ANNUAL WEEKEND 2012

The Hope Now Annual weekend is to be held on

23rd to 25th March '12 at the Wessex Hotel, Bournemouth.

EVENTS



Please book soon as accommodation is limited and the event is becoming ever more popular. Besides hearing more about the work in Ukraine, South Africa and even further afield it will be an opportunity to have fellowship with friends old and new. This year we are inviting international singing star Dasha Mineyeva all the way from Ukraine to entertain us after dinner.

Book your place via Hope Now
02380 780720

www.hopenow.org.uk
info@hopenow.org.uk

BOOMERANG

Come and join us for another fantastic fun-filled week with an Olympics Theme
This years dates are

Mon 30 July – Fri 3 August
Family Fun Night Fri 3 August
Family Service Sun 5 August

Put the dates in your diary now
Watch out for Children's Registration available from mid-February.
Volunteer Application forms are available now



TITCHFIELD FESTIVAL THEATRE



TFT's spring season begins with "Colder than Here" - Laura Wade's funny and moving comedy-drama of a woman's final journey.

Showing from 15th to 25th February, it presents one mother's lifetime passage winding down to its last destination, as Myra, her mild-mannered husband and quirky daughters set off on a whirlwind journey of surprise, exasperation and discovery - a hilarious and powerful story of our human condition.

Performances as usual at St Margaret's Arts, St Margaret's Lane, Titchfield, at 7.30 pm. To book, or for further information, call the Box Office on 01329 556156,

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Friday 3rd February at 8pm

An opportunity for men to meet informally at The Rising Sun in Warsash for discussion & to get to know each other. If you would like to be kept regularly informed of these meetings, please contact Andrew Saunders.





COMMUNITY ACTION TEAM

CAT meetings are held regularly and allow you to discuss any concerns you may have regarding your local communities and suggest ideas for improvements.

The most important people at these meetings will be you. We're sure that with you there, the meetings will be a success and that they will help us ensure a brighter future for everyone in the Fareham borough.

Many organisations and groups are sent information about the CAT meetings. Police, Primary Care Trust, Road Traffic Police, Councillors, Highways, Hampshire

County Council, local user groups, Neighbourhood Watch are just some of the groups who are informed about each round of meetings.

The next Western Wards CAT meeting will be held on **Wednesday 22 February at Locks Heath Free Church from 7.00pm to 8.30pm**

AGENDA

- A police update
- Updates on the Locks Road surgery (including the results of the Hampshire Link consultation)
- An update on the Coldeast site

BUSINESS BREAKFAST



Sat 24th March 2012

8.30am-10.00am

The Solent Hotel, Whiteley

Speaker: Mark Hoban MP

Ticket: £15

CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES DURING TIMES OF UNCERTAINTY.

The fourth Breakfast hosted by Hampshire Christian Business Forum and LHFC gives everyone an opportunity to hear from Mark Hoban (MP for Fareham and Financial Secretary to the Treasury) as we all face the challenges and opportunities of a tough economic climate in our families and in the workplace. Mark is a Christian, attending regularly at St. Margaret Mary's Catholic Church in Park Gate.

A wide variety of people have attended previous Breakfasts, people working in private and public sector, large companies

and smaller partnerships and retired people as well.

The workplace is often a place of discouragement, but we hope and pray that the Forum can provide support, encouragement, practical help and inspiring teaching. We don't want anyone to stand alone.

Please book it in your diary and get talking to a colleague to bring them along as well.

Andy Banes, Andrew Saunders, Rachel Keen, Simon Shillaker, Bruce Stander, Ian Creek, Tim Hancock

www.hantscbf.org

TRADCRAFT BIG BREW 2012

27 February – 11 March

Traidcraft Big Brew is a nationwide initiative helping individuals, churches, schools and workplaces to host a fair trade event during Fairtrade Fortnight 2012.



A Traidcraft Big Brew will help families to flourish. Hope is an important part of flourishing and a Traidcraft Big Brew can highlight the way that the work of Traidcraft can bring hope to many thousands of poor producers.

Traidcraft believes in the power of trade to bring hope to millions of people who are trapped in poverty and they are working to establish greater justice in the way unfair trading systems affect the poor.

Why not run an event at home and invite your neighbours or in the office and serve your colleagues Fairtrade drinks and snacks for a day.

You can order a free Big Brew resource pack or a complete pack which includes tea, coffee, sugar and biscuits for £9.50, by going to www.traidcraft.co.uk/bigbrew

Join the campaign and make a difference.

WARSASH LOCAL HISTORY EXHIBITION



Plans are being drawn up for a comprehensive exhibition of "Warsash through the Ages" in the Spring of 2012.

"Archive days" have been held throughout 2011 for people to contribute photos and memorabilia, and the recently

established Heritage Centre in Shore Road has encouraged input from many local families.

The event will be held at Warsash Victory Hall over the first May Bank Holiday weekend, 5th, 6th and 7th May 2012.

OASIS

Come & enjoy the fellowship

2nd February:

Claire Johnson

16th February:

Liz New

working with Interserve

OASIS, an opportunity for seniors to meet for coffee, cake and conversation.



A WORD FROM THE OTHER ROOM

Is it really 2012? I'm at that stage in the year when I am not sure and can't quite believe that during this year I will be another year older, I'll have been married another year and that the Olympics will finally begin. Time is a strange thing and it seems as if it is getting faster and no one is telling me!

Stephen Hawking, when interviewed for his 70th birthday said this about time; *'Time is defined only with the universe, so it makes no sense to talk about time before the universe began.'* Which is fine, but we certainly speak a lot about time now. The Bible would say that prior to Adam and Eve eating that delicious looking and enticing fruit, time was infinite. There is a sense that time is our punishment for disobedience, for sin. The Book of Genesis tells us that there was night and day and seasons, but they were without an end, until that first bite. Since then, time by its very nature implies an end point. We talk about time 'running out' or 'limited time', we



long to 'turn back time', we count the hours instead of making the hours count, we have so many clocks and watches, calendars and diaries that each tick or each page or each appointment seems to drag us closer to the end of time.

Our obsession with time has major implications for our relationships with God and with each other. We feel increasingly pressed for time and this feeling drives our actions and thinking. We don't have time to do the 'important' things, we feel exhausted because we are trying to cram far too much in to each moment of time and we are trying to catch up with time before it catches up with us. We may well be created for the infinite, but we have become so accustomed to the finite that we assume it is normal.

Despite all we do to control our time the writer of Ecclesiastes observes that there is a time for everything and that God has placed eternity in the hearts of us all (Ecclesiastes 3). This shouldn't lead us to a fatalistic view of life but should help us get our priorities sorted out. If we can learn again to feel the beat of eternity rather than the hammer of the immediate that might just change how we live and what we feel we have to do and achieve.

I get a feeling that many of us are now so disconnected from eternity that we struggle to imagine an alternative to our three score years

and ten. Paul's prescription is clear:

"So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal." (2 Corinthians 4: 18)

I think that means putting God first and then all these other things will be added in.

I got a new watch for Christmas, but I'm determined not to spend time watching it just tick away. I want to have a different understanding of time in 2012 so that I regain the wonder of the infinite, rediscover the glory of the eternal and spend my time doing the sort of things that help reconnect others to the everlasting God we discover in the life of Jesus. For the Christian, time is so yesterday – it's so last year.

Is that the time? Better get this finished to meet the deadline - there I go again!

Resolution - remember that time is not against you, its actually on your side - Happy New Year!

Tim Hancock



**COPY DATE
for the March Magazine
is Sunday 12th February**

All material for the next issue of the Magazine should be given to the Editing Team or, put through the Church Office door or E-mailed to the addresses below:

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LHFC Motto Text 2012

family career sport money friends

parents hobbies holidays shopping

car gadgets birthday pension food

children presents church health

house fashion qualifications work

Matt 6:33 Ex 20:3

music facebook television books

marriage finances school computer