



Happy New Year!

I hope that 2015 has started well for you and your New Year resolutions are on course!

We are really excited about the new sermon series this term: 'Deep Church', where we will be exploring what it means to be go beyond style and culture and to mine down into the deep richness of our faith; joining in with the centuries old conversations and actions of people earnestly seeking and wrestling with questions of who God is and what God calls us to be? But how should we contribute to this conversation that will last long after we are all gone? Our prayers are to join those voices of the past, while also being relevant for the present and as we anticipate being joined by other voices to come in the future. Here at Barley Hill we are seeking to reach beyond 'deep church' as just a nifty slogan, and instead to develop our lifelong commitment by growing in strength and authenticity through discipleship rooted in prayer. It's going to be exciting to see what God does with us this term. - Rachel

Upcoming Services

10:30 to 11:45 unless otherwise stated

4th January: Communion Service

11th January: Morning Service

18th January: Morning Service

25th January: Morning Service

1st February: Communion Service



Alpha Training takes place on 6th January.

Alpha itself begins on 13th January and finishes on 24th March. It runs every Tuesday evening from 7.30 to 9.30 in the Stables at the back of the James Figg.

Join us in October & November

All are welcome, but note gender or age guidelines

ALPHA PRAYER

4th January @ St Mary's Thame at 8pm

6th January @ 5 Tichborne, Thame 19:45-21:00

14th January @ 22 Stuart Way, Thame 13:45-14:45

21st January @ 22 Stuart Way, Thame 13:45-14:45

26th January @ 67 Ludsdon Grove, Thame 20:15

BHC at Meadowcroft - 18th January from 15.45-16.45

BHC Prayer Meeting - 3rd February @ 5 Tichborne, Thame from 7.45 to 9.00 pm

Lighthouse Prayer Meeting - 5th Jan & 2nd Feb @ 24 Seven Acres, Thame at 10.30

Soul Survivor Saturday Celebration - 7th Feb @ St Albans Abbey

The Gathering (for 14-18 year olds) - 14th January @ Thame Youth Centre 19:30-21:00

Please pray for

PCC meeting on 28th January

PCC Away Day on 31st January

Deanery Synod meets on 29th January

Shoebboxes

Remember the shoebboxes you took to St Mary's at the beginning of November? Did you know that all 132 of them were taken to a warehouse in Long Crendon? Teams of people worked in the warehouse each day checking, repacking, and putting shoebboxes into bigger boxes before sending them by lorry to Serbia. 9,030 shoebboxes were shipped from this warehouse.

Welcome

Please say hello to John & Theresa Scott and Nicholas, Dupe & Iléara Witherick who have recently been joining us at Barley Hill Church. We also welcome Eloise Bowling who was born in September.

Farewell

It's a temporary goodbye to Pete and Sian Stratton who are spending 6 months in Australia.



Also to Chris and Wendy Hill who will soon be off to South Africa for a couple of months.

BHC Women

Women's Breakfast

Saturday 7 February 2015 at the Thame Barns Centre 8.15 for 8.30am. For more details please contact Barbara Thompson or Karen Clark.

Activate weekend away – 24th-26th April, DeVeres Hotel, Staverton Park. Weekend costs from £135. If anyone is interested please see Sarah Hyde or book direct at <http://www.activateyourlife.org.uk/inside-out-2015-activate-your-life-conference>

Men's Breakfast

Saturday 10th January at Thame Barns Centre, 7.30 for 7.45 am. The speaker will be BHC's very own Stephen Harper. For tickets email chris@theracklyefts.co.uk



Base will be running on 4th, 11th, 18th and 25th January. Having upped sticks and upsized, Red, Blue and Green Bases are enjoying luxurious new accommodation (not to mention en-suite facilities!) in a new area of the school. While YB remain put geographically, they have been moving through the book of Exodus apace. The last Base session of the year took place on 7 December. Base restarts again on 4 January 2015.

Jenni Dutton

BHC Youth

Small Groups for boys & girls in Years 7-9 meet every Tuesday evening from 7:30-9pm. If you want to find out more please speak to Nick.

Soul Survivor



Soul Survivor Saturday Celebration on 3rd January
Soul Survivor Saturday Celebration on 7th February
Please let Nick Francis know as soon as possible if you want to attend these events, or if you want to sign up for or know more about Soul Survivor 2015 which takes place in August.

Upper School CU



On Thursday 15th January, the Christian Union will be returning to Lord Williams's Upper School. I am working with Paddy Harris & Grant Spratley, and the school have been really positive about restarting the CU.

We're really excited about this! Watch out around the school for publicity & the website will be live soon.

The Gathering



Starting on January 14th, we are stupendously excited to announce the start of a new event. The Gathering is open to young people in year 10 and above.

We want it to be an enjoyable, safe, creative space where you can hang out with your friends and also find out what God is doing in people's lives.

Thank You! Nick would just like to say a massive thank you to all those who faithfully volunteer & serve in all

areas of the youth work. None of this could happen without you and you are vital to the life of this church. Thank you for all you do, and have a wonderful and blessed 2015.

Nick Francis

News from the Pillingers in South Africa



It was a privilege to have with us the two translators from Ivory Coast in September to start on the typesetting of their Djimini Bible (the entire Bible). Matthieu (centre) had been involved in the translation since 1979 and Moise (left) since 1994. They worked on the translation through ten years of civil war, and now their work is coming to completion. Steve will continue with the typesetting for the next 3-4 months. Meanwhile Steve has started preparations to typeset the Lubwisi New Testament in Uganda and plans to travel to Uganda for the initial phase early in 2015; however there has recently been unrest in the local area where the translation team works, so please pray for the right decision in this.

Johanna has made a modest start as the artist on the Wycliffe SA team. In September the Kuna Bible was dedicated in Panama, the 531st complete Bible in the world: the translation was started and coordinated by a South African couple and Joanna made a quilt to go as a gift from Wycliffe SA.



The Kuna women love colourful needlework, and the Bibles were bound with different coloured covers: black, red, blue and brown. Joanna used those colours for the quilt, working in a lot of symbolism (Zulu beadwork patterns, the Bible open on an ordinary work table, light illuminating God's word, etc.)

After our annual holiday, staying in a cottage high up in the mountains in the south-east of South Africa we made a start again on some urgently needed home improvements: painting our lounge and installing some new lights. The house we bought in Johannesburg is perfect for our needs, but quite run-down.



Johanna was relieved to get another temporary residence visa (also called a spousal visa or relative permit); and is starting on the application for permanent residence now. Our daughter Jen had her residence visa application rejected on a minor detail, and is waiting for the outcome of an appeal. Until then she can't leave South Africa. On the 27th of November our South African daughter-in-law Rosie is coming back from Scotland where she and our son Stephen have been living with her parents (Glasgow). Rosie will be with us for 5–6 months until she has a UK spousal visa and can return to be with our son. Nowadays everywhere visa issues can be a major source of stress, separation and uncertainty.

We give thanks for:

1. The good start Steve's been able to make on typesetting the Djimini Bible (Ivory Coast).
2. That Johanna is now able to enrich the work of Wycliffe SA through her art.
3. Johanna's successful application for a new temporary residence visa.

We pray for:

1. The ongoing typesetting of the Djimini Bible
2. Guidance with regard to Steve's work and the Lubwisi New Testament.
3. Residence (spousal) visas for our daughter Jen (SA) and daughter-in-law Rosie (UK), and permanent residence in SA for Johanna.

Once again, thank you so much for your support and prayers! *Steve and Joanna*

News from the McGoldricks in DRC



Christmas & New Year Greetings

Since arriving back from our travels we have got a 'British' Christmas corner to our living room, with a decorated mango tree branch in a water pot, as our Christmas tree! We're also enjoying listening to Carols from Kings and from York Minster – bringing back

some lovely memories, although many an awful lot colder than we feel at the moment!

Update on the catechism

All but 2 of the lessons for the catechism are now written - we will write these 2 over Christmas. We are now in the process of checking at every level! We will focus on checking and collating in the week beginning 5th January. Please pray for us during this week, that we work well together with a clear sense of God's leading, and also that technology won't let us down!

A Dental Story

After completing a second course of antibiotics for toothache, we decided that Stephen really needed to get to a dentist if we were going to save his tooth. So began another Congo adventure. As the response to tooth and gum infections here is to remove the offending tooth, we had to look a bit further afield in order to find a dentist who could do root canal treatment and save the tooth. Location – Kampala, Uganda! We decided to travel overland which meant that we could visit another district of the church, Mungbere District, and we could also investigate another way of leaving the country should the need arise in future. The church district of Mungbere covers a large area (it's about 500km wide), with half in the Ituri forest (very isolated, with desperately poor roads) and half in the east (good infrastructure and a lot more money around due to the gold mines in the area). The churches across the district welcomed us warmly, and we were able to share teaching on our identity as individuals created in the image of God, to love and serve Him uniquely. This simple message led to so much joy. Some folk here lack confidence, sometimes even seeing themselves as cursed. It was a privilege to share life with them, and we hope it won't be too long before we can visit them again!

Praise

That nearly all the catechism lessons are written!
For safe travel through Congo and Uganda
For thorough, good treatment of Stephen's tooth
For good responses to the teaching we have given
For a good time with the CECCA16 church in Mungbere district

Prayer

For wisdom and provision as the church plans for the triennial 'General Assembly'
For Stephen as he 'rehabilitates' our computers, following a nasty worm infection
That technology behaves, and that we would have the means to complete and print the catechism in



readiness for the General Assembly

For more chances to develop relationships at a deeper level

Thanks so much for your prayers, thoughts, encouragements and support over the past 12 months. We pray you have a peaceful, blessed Christmas, and that 2015 is an exciting year! With love *Stephen & Cath*

Baurcii Church, Moldova



In April Chris Hill and Mike Buie went to visit Baurcii Church in Southern Moldova. The primary focus was to encourage the pastor, a young man called Dorin who was running a Church of around 20-25 people. The church has been working with a charity called TEN (Transform Europe Now).

Barley Hill Church PCC has decided to fund the church with a monthly donation and Mike is going back to see them over Christmas.

Prayer is requested for

- Strength for Pastor Dorin amid many discouragements
- Monthly outreach meetings
- Newly committed believers becoming established and growing

To find out more, talk to Chris or Mike or go to <http://www.transformeuropenow.org/moldova/>

News from New Life in Nepal

At the start of the month we were very distressed to learn of the sudden death of Gyanu's eldest daughter Pratigya Shrestha. She leaves behind her husband Kiran and son Pratik, as well as her extended family at New Life house including her mother Gyanu and sisters Pratiraksha and Pratiksha. She and all the family are in our thoughts and prayers.

Gyanu's health is also not good, with kidney problems which may soon require dialysis – please pray for her health and that she can manage her diet to prevent her illness from getting worse.

Regarding visa applications for the hoped-for visit to the UK for Gyanu and Raksha, Gyanu has actually been granted a visa but Raksha still has not and, under the

changed circumstances, it seems that they will not be able to come this year. We are planning to arrange a visit by Nick and Alison Armstrong and hopefully by someone from Barley Hill Church too. Please pray for guidance for anyone who might feel led to visit. Raksha is still training as a Healthcare Assistant with exams at the end of November, so please pray for her studies. Gyanu is hoping to teach something to the elder children of NLH and some members of Maya Agyan Church (MAC – the Great Commission Church planted by New Life House). Raksha had one idea of making handmade reusable sanitary pads and there are other opportunities that she plans to share with us soon. She has shown a website of this and shared about this to Gyanu who said that she has done this while she was a nurse in Mission hospital in Pokhara so she can teach it to the girls in NLH and women in MAC. Please pray for this chance to help meet a very basic need in the area.



In the UK the New Life Mission support committee is now registered as a charity, separate from the St. Mary's Alveley PCC who had been handling the finances. We will be in touch with all regular donors and sponsors about the new arrangements for giving as soon as possible. New Life Nepal Support Trust currently isn't covering its monthly costs so if anyone is able to commit to monthly support, no matter how little, please speak to one of us.

Richard Shearwood, James & Janette Dixon

Looking ahead

18th February - 2nd April: Lent

26th March: Barley Hill Church APCM

3rd April: Good Friday

24th - 26th April: Activate weekend away at DeVeres Hotel, Staverton Park

3rd May: Music in the Park

13th June: Thame Carnival

27th - 31st July: Lighthouse

21st - 26th August: Soul Survivor

10th October: Thame Women's Conference

Pray for these events and put them in your diary.