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SEPTEMBER 2018



CHRIST CHURCH WOODBURY

worshipping God, serving others and introducing people to Jesus

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WELCOME...TO OUR AUTUMN CHURCH MAGAZINE

How time seems to fly! Summer is almost done and dusted - with the lack of rain there has been plenty of dust - and the nights are drawing in. Schools will soon be back in full flow and for many of us it's time to take stock as we return to normal after holidays and breaks away.

So in this edition of **Cc: news | views | events** we're looking at reasons to be thankful - and there are plenty of reasons to express our gratitude - as well as looking ahead to the new season.

As always we value your feedback on **Cc: news | views | events** so please speak to anyone on the Editorial Team and let us know your thoughts.

Enjoy!!

CC: NEWS | VIEWS | EVENTS EDITORIAL TEAM

Stephen Derges

stephenderges@gmail.com
01395 568645 | 07929 835796

Richard Workman

richardworkman@hotmail.co.uk
01395 276906

Mick Cox

mailmic@btinternet.com
01395 270292

Helen Workman

helen-workman@hotmail.com
01395 276906

Sarah Candlin

sarahrosecandlin1@gmail.com
01395 239077

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For more details about the Church, visit our website
www.christchurchwoodbury.org.uk

LEADERSHIP TEAM UPDATE

Paul Friend

As the summer holidays come to a close (or starts for those without children at school!) we have much to look forward to.

This September we say goodbye and thank you to **Liz Swan** as our children and families worker and welcome **Livi Ju** to take over this exciting role – let's keep praying for them both as they transition into their new activities.

Over the coming term we will be exploring God's heart for the poor and suffering and then Prayer so it should be a challenging time.

We will continue to pray and talk about the future for the church and a possible church worker role in the future and are excited to welcome **Steve Derges** onto the Leadership Team where he will take on the role of Treasurer. Exciting times ahead.

WHO TO CONTACT

LEADERSHIP TEAM

Paul Friend
(Vision & Teaching)
paul@swym.org.uk
01395 232798

Jon Breeze
(Safeguarding)
jbreeze@tiverton.devon.sch.uk
01395 239874

Linda Collins
(Mission/Pastoral)
cc@stundoc.plus.com
01395 232731

Stephen Derges
(Finance)
stephenderges@gmail.com
01395 568645

Mally Fulls
(Worship/Pastoral)
marilynf@moshulu.co.uk
01395 2333526

Tim Moyler
(Outreach)
tim@moyler.org
01395 239130

Clair Wigg
(Youth/Children)
clair@swym.org.uk
01395 239924

If you are a visiting us, please introduce yourself to a member of the Leadership Team.

Children's & Families Worker
Livi Ju

Church Administrator
Sarah Breeze
sarahb@christchurchwoodbury.org
01395 233425

Elder Emeritus:
Henry Fulls

PASTORAL TEAM

Are available to pray after the service or at any time and provide pastoral care and support as well as welcoming people to our services

Mally Fulls
marilynf@moshulu.co.uk
01395 2333526

Linda Collins
cc@stundoc.plus.com
01395 232731

Jennie and Mick Cox
jaycee36@btinternet.com
mailmic@btinternet.com
01395 270292

Pat Holland
01395 232372

Graham and Val Thomson
gvthomson@sky.com
01392 204768

Thinking of joining a **Homegroup/Missional Community**?
We have new groups starting in September - speak to the Leadership Team

WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT?...**GIVING THANKS**

***"Give thanks in all circumstances;
for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus"***

(1 Thessalonians 5:18)

It's a question many people have asked, **"What's God's will for my life?"**. The answer of course depends entirely on the individual - our circumstances, experiences, life history, personality as well as our talents and abilities, all need to be considered.

But I believe our Heavenly Father is much more interested in our personal values, attitudes and character development than the direction our lives are taking - where we work or live for example.



There are many Bible verses that describe His will being about us doing good to others, becoming more righteous, overcoming temptation and even suffering. Romans 12:1-2 tells us we will know His good, pleasing and perfect will by having our minds transformed and not being conformed to the world's standards.

And the verse above is another example - it's God's will that we should **give thanks in all circumstances**. I can hear the gasps of incredulity - what, be thankful when we face difficulties and heartache?

Actually, no! Notice it says **"in"** not **"for"** all circumstances - there's a huge difference. We don't have to be grateful for illness, relational breakdowns, unemployment, financial hardship, bereavement or the host of other 'not so great' things that happen in our lives. But if we retain our peace and our poise whenever they happen to us, it will testify to our faith - that when we love God and are called according to His purposes, all things work together for our good (Romans 8:28). **God often uses adversity for accomplish His will and He redeems situations that negatively affect us or seem out of control.**

Yes it's much easier to verbalise our thanks for the occasions when we experience joy and happiness, but let's be honest, whilst expressing our appreciation is always beneficial, those good times rarely build our faith and dependence on our Father. We are called to be *'overcomers'* and we do so by

placing our trust completely in a God who knows ultimately what's best for us - even when we can see it ourselves. That's called faith - and without it we can't please God (Hebrews 11:6).

So let me encourage you - take a few moment each day to '*count your blessings*' and make a commitment that, even if everything is seemingly going '*pear-shaped*', you are still going to be thankful as you wait and see what God will accomplish in and through those difficulties.

Stephen Derges

GRACE & FESTO'S COMMISSIONING

On the 15th July Festo and Grace were commissioned at Grace's home church of Holy Trinity, St Austell. Although Festo and Grace have been working together at St John's Seminary, Kilimatinde, Tanzania, since 2012 they have now become link missionaries with the Church Mission Society. The commissioning is the final step following their intense training with CMS. It was led by the vicar the Rev Howard Flint and Stephen Burgess representing CMS, and was in English and in the local dialect of Kilimatinde.

Five of us from Christ Church attended the service which was a very relaxed (Zephaniah and William made sure of that) and joyful. The service started with a song written by the leader of the music group when he was in Tanzania, which we sang in both English and Swahili. There was plenty of singing and the vicar gave us a great, thought-provoking sermon. We were treated to a very generous buffet lunch; almost as good as Christ Church!



Grace and Festo and the children flew back to Tanzania on the 17th July. They were very keen to get back home and Festo was particularly eager to get back to the farm. He had left his nephews and nieces in charge and had heard that some crops had been lost because they had gone to seed. The money from the farm goes to pay school/college fees of his extended family so not good news. Hopefully things weren't too disastrous.

Please pray for the family as they settle back to work in Tanzania. Pray for the various projects they have; for the money to come into CMS to support them; for the success of the farm; and for the children back at school.

Mike Wheeler; Photo: David Lowrie

LIVING & TELLING UPDATE

SIX MONTHS ON

Six months ago, we completed our series of **Living & Telling** training sessions and I've been asked to write a few words about how I felt it had gone.

That's always a difficult question to answer! The measure has to be, of course, in changed lives. Has my life changed? Have I seen other lives changed?



We will only know the answers to those questions as we share stories together of how we are beginning to put it all into practice. Certainly, initial feedback has been encouraging. One person told me, *"It was like a light came on in my life"*. Another was *"... challenged and encouraged"* that it didn't have to rely on their ability, but on their availability. *"You are giving us the tool kit..."* said another, *"... we need to share how we use it."* So let's all keep telling those stories!



Meanwhile, what God has been doing through Living & Telling in Devon is creating considerable interest both nationally and in parts of Europe. Over the next 12 months we will be **filming 10 training sessions** to complete a range of resources that will be free to download and used by any church, house group, CU or youth group.

A lot of work still needs to be done and I would appreciate your prayers. Thank you!

Tim Moyler



Technically, Moses was the first person with a tablet downloading data from the cloud



WOODBURY COMMUNITY FUN DAY 2018

Breezy weather brought lots of people to the village green on Saturday 16th June to be entertained by toe-tapping music from **Good Traditions**, the **Woodbury Whalers**, and **Rob & Abi Seymour**, using the stage constructed again by **CML Scaffolding**. Many thanks to all of them for providing an excellent atmosphere.



Around **55 volunteers** manned the variety of free activities on offer including skittles, hand massage, face painting, nail painting, Gems play area, jungle inflatables, crockery smash, and a golf game and splat-the-rat constructed by **Men's Shed** for **Hospiscare**. Thank you all for your help.

The dog show presented by **Margaret Edwards** demonstrated several obedience training techniques ahead of a fun competition, including classes for the dog with the waggiest tail, the best trick, and a ball & spoon race. Thanks to Margaret and everyone who brought their dogs along.

Chris Lear's renowned cream teas, on sale in support of **Force**, were a sell-out. Also available were the BBQ, pancakes, ice creams and soft drinks.

Friends of Woodbury Surgery had a successful fundraising stall. **St. John's Ambulance** staff dealt with one minor incident; their presence was much appreciated.

The organisers from **Christ Church** and **St. Swithun's** thought it went well and hope to do it all again next year.



Ann Wheeler

Photos (also front cover): **Mike Wheeler**

JACK'S UGANDA TRIP

How you doing church? I'm back from Uganda! Thank you so much for your prayers and support. **It was an amazing trip seeing God move in some crazy ways and a bunch of salvations.**

We did loads of different things including street and door to door evangelism and working in a primary school. But I thought, instead of boring you with the details, I'd just share a quick story.

Whilst doing door to door evangelism in a village we ended up in a little community of connected houses. When we arrived, there were two women outside washing clothes. We started to talk to them and as we did four more joined us. They told us that two of them were born-again Christians, two were Muslim



Three of the guys on our trip with the son of a woman who worked in the house where we were staying .



Jack getting denied a hi-five whilst visiting a foster family in a rural village.

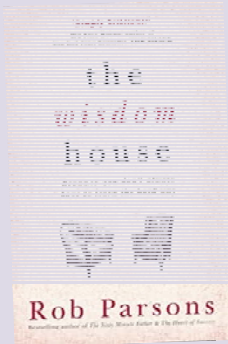
and two were Catholic. We asked if they knew the story of Jesus but it was only the born-again Christians that did.

So we shared the gospel story with them and explained the differences between Islam, Catholicism and Christianity. We then asked if the four who were not born again would like to be. They all said they would, so we prayed with them and **they gave their lives to Jesus.**

In this community there were about 8 houses. So in the space of 10 minutes the Christian women there went from being a minority (two) to a majority (six). God had completely transformed their situation! Jesus wasn't lying when he said the harvest is ripe!

Jack Fulls

Rob Parsons is one of my heroes. Rob founded **Care for the Family**, came from a Christian background similar to mine, writes the "60 Minute..." series of books - and anything he writes, I read. He writes about things that really matter, real things, real life.



And then he became a Grandad! He was puzzled to know how he could best communicate with his grandchild, and then decided, so tiny as it was, to write a letter. Perhaps one day, when life had turned out to be not as they expected, they would talk together in **'The Wisdom House'**.

Would all his grandchildren achieve their aspirations and could they face the disappointment of failure? Would they have the courage to live a life true to themselves and not the life that others expected of them? His prayer was that they would *'live all the days of their lives'*.

Rob recounts many of his own experiences of growing up, of pain and pleasure, pitfalls and dreams, just like the rest of us.

Chapter 23 (they are very short chapters!) could well have had another name attached to it, albeit just a little before 1963!

Thanks, Rob, God changed my life, too, just as he did yours.

'The Wisdom House' by Rob Parsons: Paperback £8.99, Kindle £3.99

For women to reflect on
God and on life

Reflections

On Prayer

Come and join us for
Reflection Refreshing Renewal Relationship

Wednesday 5th September
Wednesday 3rd October
Wednesday 14th November
Wednesday 5th December

7.30pm at Christ Church

Prayer transforms us



INTRODUCING LIVI JU

We're delighted that **Livi Ju** will be joining the team at Christ Church Woodbury in September as our **Children's & Families Worker**.



Here's what Livi says about herself: I grew up in Woodbury, but moved to Chicago to study at Moody Bible Institute graduating with a degree in Theology and with my 'MRS' (it's sometimes known as Moody 'Bridal' Institute rather than 'Bible' because so many students get married!). Sammy and I have been married for three and half years and now have Theo who is 16 months old. Theo has brought so much mischief and joy into our lives.

I'm very much a fan of tea and chocolate; so if you ever fancy a cuppa, just let me know! I look forward to getting to know the CCW family better.

Although we're very glad to have Livi on board, we also want to say a huge 'thank you' to **Liz Swan** as she steps down. As she moves onto 'pastures new' we want to express our sincere appreciation to Liz for her untiring work in heading up the range of activities children enjoy here at church, as well as the amazing contribution she has made in developing relationships with so many families in the Woodbury area.



SPREE 2018 & 2019

SPREE SW (an event run by SWYM and Urban Saints) was run for the last time at Shobrooke Park near Crediton after 8 years on this site.

Around **1,300 people** were on site for the weekend and there were approximately 150 first time commitments plus lots of children and young people taking steps closer to Jesus. The weekend was action-packed with more activities than you could imagine including kayaking, mountain biking, climbing, bouncies, craft and workshops.



A huge thank you to our children's and youth team for taking a group from Christ Church and for all those from the church who volunteered to help make it such a great event.

New plans for 2019

We are excited to be moving next year to **Westpoint!!** This will be a big jump up in every sense and we hope to grow the event to 1,800 people next year. We will of course still be keen to have any volunteers to help run the event and with it being so close we might be looking for hosts for speakers over the weekend as well – so keep the dates free: **28th – 30th June 2019**. Please be praying as we seek to grow this event for the finance to help with the transition and for new groups to come next year.



Paul Friend



MISSION PRAYER WATCH

A Glimpse at...Somalia

Somalia has been ravaged by conflict since 1991 when rival warlords began fighting for control. The militant group, Al Shabaab, is active in much of the country and aims to establish an Islamic caliphate. **It has stated it wants the country free of all Christians** and indeed last year some 23 suspected Christians were murdered.



Society itself expects all Somalis to be Muslim and consequently family members and clan leaders can intimidate and even kill converts to Christianity. However, **Somalia is estimated to have a few hundred Christians**. Sometimes God reaches people through dreams and visions. Here is one young man's testimony – his name has been changed to prevent identification:

Hassan's father was an illiterate herdsman. Whilst out with his herd he had visions of Jesus who identified Himself to him and told him not to be afraid, for He was with him. Hassan's father decided to follow Jesus and was beaten and slashed for this. He still bears the scars. Although offered money to reconvert, he stood firm and remained faithful, even though his family and community rejected him and he was thrown out. Hassan (24 years old) is now a Christian too and also faces rejection and insults. He has no friends and is very lonely.

Whilst believers cannot meet up openly, there are some groups meeting secretly for fellowship and teaching but this, of course, is risky. Other help comes through Somali radio programmes produced by Christians abroad.

Praise God that in spite of danger and extreme hardship, Somalis are continuing to encounter Jesus and stand firm in their faith .

Richard & Tricia Critchley

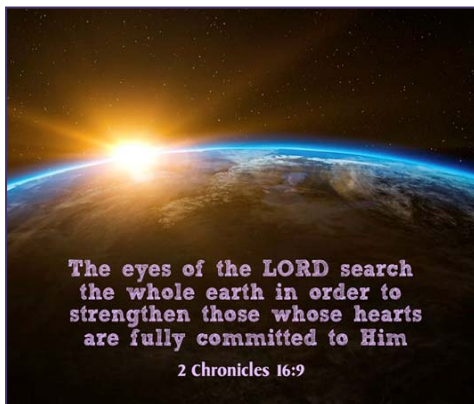
REGULAR ACTIVITIES @ CHRIST CHURCH

WEEKLY	FORTNIGHTLY	MONTHLY
SUNDAY	9.30am 10.30am	Prayer meeting Morning Service Children's Groups
	12.30pm	First Sunday Lunch
TUESDAY	2.30pm 6.30pm	House Group Chalet Group
WEDNESDAY	7.30pm 7.45pm	Reflections (for ladies) House Groups
THURSDAY	8:00 am 9.30am 3.15pm 7.30pm 7.30pm	Prayer Meeting Mum's Group Kid's Cafe House Group Smoothie Bar
FRIDAY	9.30am 6.30pm 8.00pm	Gems Chalet group House Group

For details of other Activities please see the Church website:
www.christchurchwoodbury.org.uk



*"We were told you were taking
creatures that came in pears"*



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Parsonage Way | Woodbury | Devon | EX5 1HZ

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