

# Autumn News Sheet 2009



## WHAT DO PEOPLE THINK?



One of the questions you find yourself asking as a church leader is, 'what do people think of us?' At W.C.F., especially over the summer months, we seem to have had a number of people who have come along for a couple of Sundays apparently 'testing the water'.

Some then vanish, never to be seen again while others stick around and become part of the church over time. However thick-skinned you are, it's hard not to wonder about the ones who didn't stay. Was it the worship? Weren't we friendly enough? Perhaps it was the preaching or even (surely not), the pastor!

The thing is a lot of the time we'll never know. And even if we did, it might not help.

There's an interesting picture at the beginning of Revelation of Jesus himself among the lamp-stands, (i.e. the churches). He then writes a letter to seven of them, telling them just what He thinks. Now that would be useful feedback. And it begs the question what does Jesus make of our worship? Of our welcome? Of our preaching? Frankly it's probably far more important to address those questions than trying to impress every visitor that comes to one of our meetings, and more costly too ...

P.S. Of course it's especially encouraging when visitors come along who aren't yet Christians and are keen to find out more. Let's pray that this will happen more and more!  
Mark Leveson

## TEA WITH THE ARCHBISHOP



Which Archbishop and why you? I hear you ask. The Most Reverend Dr John Sentamu, wrote inviting me to come to the House of Lords on 23rd September so that "we can have tea together and have a chat." It is not every day that you receive a letter like that !So how did it come about?

In 1965 he was a student at Kitante Hill Secondary School, Kampala and in the same class as my younger brother Peter. I had six months to spare before coming back to England and decided do some supply teaching and that is where our paths crossed.

He went on to do a law degree and had to escape Uganda during the Idi Amin years. He has been here ever since and risen up the ranks in the Church of England to his current high office.

I met him briefly on Ascension Day when he was preaching at St Martins in the Fields. And so came the invitation for tea. I went prepared with a "goody bag" of Ugandan memorabilia. I had some old photographs which we discussed and, while we were eating our splendid meal, he was onto his press agent via his blackberry talking about the topic of the day, (assisted suicide). If you want to download it you can Google it on [telegraph.co.uk/comment](http://telegraph.co.uk/comment). It makes interesting reading.

Then our brief meeting was all over and he went off to his next engagement and I disappeared down into the underground system from whence I came.

Do pray for this charismatic man of great influence.  
Andrew Morgan

## EVENING SERVICES AT W.C.F.

October 11 <sup>th</sup>	Worship group Practice (WCF)
October 18 <sup>th</sup>	Alan Murphy Update
November 1st	Prayer Meeting
November 8th	Worship group Practice
November 15th	India Update with Doug and Jeanette
November 29th	Walking on Water – Launch celebration for Del and Carol's CD
December 6th	Prayer Meeting

## FIND US ON THE WEB:

Wilmington Christian Fellowship  
[www.wilmingtonchristianfellowship.org.uk](http://www.wilmingtonchristianfellowship.org.uk)

New Barn Christian Fellowship  
[www.nbcf.co.uk](http://www.nbcf.co.uk)

Darent Valley Community Church  
[www.dvcc.moonfruit.com](http://www.dvcc.moonfruit.com)

Kings Christian Fellowship  
[www.kcfbeacon.moonfruit.com](http://www.kcfbeacon.moonfruit.com)

The Well Counselling Centre  
[www.wellcounsellingcentre.org](http://www.wellcounsellingcentre.org)

## UPDATE FROM KING'S WEST KINGSDOWN

During the period that we were not in our building, we were strongly drawn to the vision of Ezekiel 47:1-12. Ezekiel's vision of the river of God flowing out of the House of God is a powerful metaphor of the work of the Holy Spirit through us today. This was confirmed as being prophetic for us by several people in the Church.

We believe that God is wanting us out into our communities and "Make a Difference" as we see that 'River of God' bringing life into the barren places; We have several new small groups happening, (with help from others in our community), as a result of this. A Model Railway Group and a Basic Cooking Course so far, an Indoor Bowls Group is also planned, and soon a Money Management Course. Other existing groups are 'Keep Fit' and 'Tiddlers' at Wrotham.

We believe that under the Holy Spirit we will bring a new and attractive dimension to these kinds of activities.. We want to be involved with people in normal activities yet bringing different values. Please pray that people will respond to this and be drawn to seek to learn more and possibly join a 'Christianity Explored' or home 'Core' group."

Norman Cailles

## TO DARENT VALLEY AND BEYOND...

We are grateful to both Chris Doe and Helen Jones for their work as elders at DVCC – both have now stepped down from this role. We have three new elders in Steve Boddington, Angela Giannoni and Chris Old; please pray for them as they begin serving in this way. A small group from DVCC and New Barn will be travelling to Turkey on Saturday October 24<sup>th</sup> for 9 days to work with the church in Izmir. The group will also visit Istanbul for some sightseeing. Please remember this trip in your prayers.

Kevin Colwell



## NEW BARN NEWS

It is now just over a year since Mark left New Barn and we have used the time to settle as we all get used to new roles and responsibilities! However we have always had evangelism high on our agenda and have been thinking of ways in which we can spread the Gospel to those round about us. Having just had an evening discussing how we all came to be at New Barn we see that God can use many diverse ways to bring people in and he will work out his purposes!

Several months ago it was decided that we should hold a concert with Del and Carol Barefoot and as everything began to take shape we could clearly see that God's hand was in all the arrangements. Invitations were issued, articles appeared in a local magazine and posters were hoisted. Then came the ticket sales and last minute food shopping – a ploughman's supper was included in the evenings entertainment!

Saturday 3 October dawned amidst much prayer and excitement and that evening around 90 people arrived full of anticipation! We enjoyed the meal but hastily cleared up in order to get to the main event. What a treat! Wonderful singing and piano playing interwoven with a very clear testimony. The evening was thoroughly enjoyed by all and 3 people committed their lives to Jesus. Certainly other people were touched by the testimony and were hopefully encouraged in their own circumstances.

As we praise God for answering our prayers we continue to pray for all those who attended. We also look forward to having new ideas and planning other activities which will meet the needs of those within the church whilst never losing sight of our commission – to take the Gospel to the whole world! Well to the New Barn area anyway! Watch this space!

Lesley Thurman

## CHARITY NEWS

We want to record a big vote of thanks to those who serve as Trustees of the Harbour Ministries charity. In particular, David Mann who stepped down earlier in the year who has served as Chair of Trustees for the last few years, and Chris Doe who has also stepped down recently. And also Hugh Lamont from New Barn Christian Fellowship, who will be joining Mark Leveson and Andrew Burgess as a Trustee. Pray that the trustees will know God's guidance as they oversee the legal and financial affairs of Harbour Ministries.