

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT W.C.F?

The short answer is quite a lot. Rather than go through all the details of everything that has gone on over the last few months, here's a quick look ahead at some exciting things that will be taking place in the coming months:

- From September, we are hoping to have an Oasis youth work student with us on a placement, possibly for up to 3 years. This follows an interesting church meeting where God really seemed to lead us in this direction, even though some of us (of "little faith" perhaps), suspected that the outcome would be the opposite of what it was. The student will initially at least be working with Rupert in various different groups. Watch this space to see how this develops.
- Saturday October 16th, Viv Thomas of Formation and St Paul's Hammersmith, will be leading a day called "Living Second Choice", all about living well before God when life hasn't turned out how we would like. This is open to all, and more details will follow soon.
- Saturday October 30th, in the evening, we will be hosting a Gospel Outreach with Helen Shapiro. This is a great opportunity to invite friends, neighbours and family members who don't know Jesus to hear the gospel. Again, this is open to all and there will be more details soon.
- In the new year (scary thought, I know) we will be plugging in to an Evangelical Alliance initiative called "Biblefresh", set up to mark the 400th anniversary of the widespread availability of the Bible in English; so the Bible will be a bit of a focus for us in 2011.

Of course, none of these answers the question at the top in one sense. What's happening at W.C.F is really what is going on in the hearts and lives of all those who are part of the church, and even more significantly, in the relationships between all those people. Our prayer is that the things highlighted in the list above will grow out of a deep reality with God in all of our lives individually, and between us.

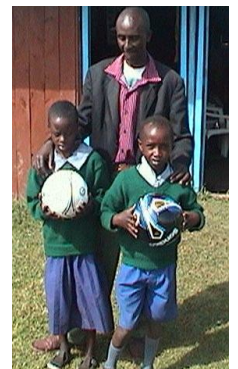
FOUR KENYA TRAVELLERS

In late May and early June Andrew Morgan from D.V.C.C. enjoyed his days teaching in a senior school in Narok and, among many other activities, managed to organise a mini marathon run for them.

Bram Brahmbhatt from W.C.F. worked in a remote clinic in Maasailand, helping the medical staff there and saw some interesting cases that he doesn't often come across in his practice in Eltham!

Margaret Newbold from Eynsford Parish Church was impressed with all that she saw going on in the schools in the Naisoya and Narok areas. She was pleased to help with the distribution of the many tee-shirts that were taken out from Wilmington and area and that were received so gratefully.

I wanted especially to see the effect the Sponsorship Fund is having and was very encouraged to hear that one of the Education Inspectors for the whole area held up what is going on in Naisoya as an example to the rest of the region. One of the points mentioned was the midday meal that is provided for all the children through the Sponsorship money. The church has just opened up a fourth Nursery School at a place called Olorroito which means that an extra 40-50 children will now receive an education. Two footballs proved popular as the children had never had a proper one before.



We all attended a four hour Sunday morning service. It was inspirational to see the enthusiasm with which the Africans worship and praise the Lord and we were privileged to share that service with our brothers and sisters in Jesus. Many thanks to those who contributed tee-shirts.
Alan Greenbank

Come and hear reports from those
who went on
SUNDAY, 25th July at 6.30 p.m.
at Wilmington Christian Fellowship.

DARENT VALLEY COMMUNITY CHURCH REPORTING:-

Much has happened at D.V.C.C. since the last edition of Harbour News. Our regular walk up Shoreham Hill on Easter Sunday morning was a stirring occasion, with praise and worship ringing out over the valley on that special day.

June 12th saw D.V.C.C. and New Barn Christian Fellowship join together for an AWAY DAY at the home of Jennifer Rees Larcombe. An excellent time has had all round. There was worship, teaching, food, seminars, a kids' programme, food, prophetic art, football and more food!

There were also stories from David and Anne Pharaoh, recently returned from work in Afghanistan, and from Andrew Morgan after his trip to Naisoya in Kenya. Andrew gave a lucid description of his time away and, I'm sure, encouraged many of us present to consider making the trip sometime in the future.

As I write, we are preparing for a gospel Cabaret with Del and Carol Bearfoot and we pray that God will greatly bless this outreach. So all in all, there's plenty going on and much for which to give the Lord thanks!
Kevin Colwell

THE WELL COUNSELLING CENTRE

This year has seen lots of good things happen at the centre for which I am very grateful, including more clients being helped with issues such as relationship struggles, depression, bereavement and school related stresses. We do have a small waiting list of potential clients and we are in need of another counsellor to join us in the near future. Our prayer request would be that God will fill the gap with someone of his choosing and we look forward to seeing who this will be.

Our Thursday coffee mornings have been really good times this year, in no small measure because of Gill Britton's cooking ability and steadfast commitment. We have seen three clients starting to attend and enjoying being part of things. We end our term with a summer special of homemade pizza and salad on the 15th July at 11.30 a.m. Please speak to Gill Britton to reserve your place at a cost of £4.50 per head for two courses.

Our Training evenings on Mondays have been such good times for the counsellors. These evenings have included such topics as the use of poetry in counselling, Bereavement Counselling, Transactional Analysis and self harm.

Our last meeting for this term will be on the 12th of July where we invite anyone who can come and help us give the Centre a much needed spring clean. Starting at 7 p.m., we will break for a short period for take-away pizza.

A big thank you for all the support, financial, prayer and physically at the centre. Without you we wouldn't be able to continue in our service to God in this way. Have a wonderful summer!

Wendy Burgess

UPDATE FROM NEW BARN CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

In Numbers 13 we read how Moses sent out 12 spies who came back to report about the land of Canaan. Although the land was fertile and full of good things the people were afraid to go in and take possession. At New Barn we feel a bit like this – looking forward to new things but not quite there yet. At a recent church meeting we decided we must put the past behind us and ask God what he wants for the future of the church. We have met three possible candidates for the role of Pastor but for various reasons decided that none of was right for New Barn. However we look forward with optimism and recently had several pictures and words from God which encouraged us all immensely.

One was the idea that we are walking through a deep valley but the end is in sight and God is there with us. Another was of a huge bunch of grapes – not unlike those in Numbers 13. Grapes and indeed wine we may have good or bad years and though we may be in a "lean" year at the moment good years will come.

All of this was borne out by Mark who said that he felt we are a bit like those in the children's story of The Bear Hunt – as we come to each obstacle we can't go round it so we have to go on through it! One of our forays into new things is the distribution of the Good News newspapers. A few of us take these out each month with a view to possibly knocking at doors and chatting to local people. The response has been very positive and hopefully the content of these excellent papers will start to speak to the readers about God.

"Then Caleb silenced the people before Moses and said "We should go up and take possession of the land for we can certainly do it!" Numbers 13:30.

Lesley Thurman