

Newsletter

Autumn 2017



21 Days of Prayer

Theme: Being a Welcoming Church



Leadership Log

At the beginning of 2017 the leadership team rewrote the statement of our vision at BMC which was endorsed by the whole church at our January vision meeting. This isn't a new vision as such, but a rewording:

**BMC's vision is to be a Bible centred church
where people are welcomed and loved
and encouraged to grow in faith
and use their gifts to the glory of God.**

Our particular emphasis for 2017 has been to 'work on the welcome' and through this year it has been encouraging to see new people amongst us at BMC. In the gospels we read again and again how Jesus was willing to spend time with people, talking about their circumstances and needs, offering healing, wholeness and salvation. Today we can be His voice to friends, neighbours and anyone we meet in our day-to-day lives.

To emphasise 'work on the welcome' our focus for the 21 Days of Prayer which run from Sunday 10th to Saturday 30th September is 'Being a Welcoming Church'. There is a separate leaflet to guide our prayers each day and everyone is encouraged to come to the prayer room for 7.30pm each evening to pray together (every evening except Sunday 10th and Sunday 24th when there are evening services).

Since our last leadership log we have welcomed Ruth Hawkey and Bob Aldren to the Lay Leaders' team. When we next meet we plan to look at all areas of church life and ensure that one of the leadership team is overseeing each area, acting as a point of contact for the church. Details of this will be displayed on the notice board beside the door to the prayer room in due course.

We said goodbye to Peter, Carole and family at the end of July and this month we welcome our new Minister, Rev Roy Burley, and his wife Gladys amongst us. Please continue to pray for both these families as they settle in to new homes and new churches.

The leadership team next meets on Tuesday 3rd October, Tuesday 7th November and Saturday 9th December.

Sarah Porter

LIV, Kwazulu-Natal, South Africa

Rebekah Preece and Georgie Buchanan from BMC have gone to Lungisisa Indlela Village (LIV) near Durban, South Africa, where they will be working for a few weeks. Here's some information about the village, so you can picture what they might experience.

In 1997, God gave Tich Smith, founder of LIV, a vision to build a village for orphaned and vulnerable children to have a safe home, a mother to love them, food to eat, a school to educate them, and where they will come to know God as their father in heaven. It was seen as a solution to the situation in South Africa, where there are over 5.2 million orphan and vulnerable children and 12,000 more are added every month.

LIV is located in rural KwaZulu-Natal, about 30 minutes from Durban. The village has 96 homes, with 36 house mothers and a team of relief mothers, as well as others in training, and more than 160 children in residence. The children are mostly orphans whose parents have died from Aids-related conditions. At full capacity, LIV will be home to 150 mothers and 1000 children.



There is a well-equipped and well-staffed Preparatory school. The Senior School is expanding each year. The village has an Early Childhood Development Centre, a Health Care Centre, a Community Centre and an Administration block. There are vegetable gardens, a Culinary School, and a Welding Training Centre.

LIV aims to provide holistic residential care for vulnerable and orphan children with the core vision to “RESCUE a child, RESTORE a life, RAISE a leader and RELEASE a star”. It is hoped that the children will grow up to be a generation that will influence positive

change within South Africa, Africa and the world.

The village also opens many of its facilities to the surrounding communities, helping to provide healthcare and education to their neighbours.

Rebekah will be helping in the school and Georgie will be helping in the Dental Practice.

BMC Gift Day



We face large bills for repairs to the Church as described below. With a 10% tithe, we need to raise £11,000. The Church Council decided to hold a Gift Day to coincide with our Harvest Festival on September 10th.

The church building is now over 20 years old, and many of the fixtures and fittings are coming to the end of their working life. To a certain extent, the repairs covered by the Gift Day are on things that have simply worn out.

Kitchen Roof

The kitchen roof has been leaking for some time, and although the puddles were small there is quite a lot of electrical wiring in the roof space which does not react well with water. You may have seen the skip outside Church for a few weeks. The work has been done, the roof replaced, and this summer's weather has tested the new roof with no problems reported. Some of the offcuts of the new roofing slates have found good homes as decorative cheese boards, so nothing has been wasted.

Church Lighting

If you look up towards the roof in Church, you will notice two things. Firstly, the roof is quite high, and secondly several of the lights are not working. Light bulbs often blow, but when they are as inaccessible as our roof lights, it can be several months before a new bulb is fitted. We have to arrange for some indoor scaffolding so that someone can access the light fitting to change a bulb, and there is no point in doing this when only one bulb has failed, so we have tended to wait until a bunch need doing.

The intention is to install new light fittings which either won't blow quite so often, or will not fail completely even when one part goes – for example an LED cluster of small lights. But finding new fittings that can be installed inside the existing woodwork surrounding the old lights is a challenge, and if the new fittings require the removal of the boxing then this will show in the varnish on the wooden roof paneling.

Wifi Equipment

During The Big Weekend for the last two years, the number of logins to our public wifi account has exceeded our monthly limit. The result is that we lose wifi for the rest of July. To increase the monthly limit, and to take advantage of our new connection to the faster B4RN network, particularly during events like The Big Weekend, we need to spend some money on new Wifi equipment.

How to Support the Gift Day

Firstly, no one should feel guilty or obliged to give to the Gift Day. You may already be giving all that God has prompted you to give, or you may be giving to other areas of God's work. But please pray for the Gift Day.

These three work items have been estimated at £10,000, and our policy is to tithe on such offerings, bringing the total to £11,000. The next Church Council will decide on the process for allocating the tithe.

If you are able to support the Gift Day, special envelopes are available from Tim, with Gift Aid forms for any tax payer who has not already completed one. If you are reading this after the Gift Day, it is still not too late to give: speak to Tim Preece. Thank you.

It's BMC but not as we know it



Standing for the "Bicycle Manufacturing Company", BMC Switzerland designs, builds and sells bikes throughout much of the world for both road and velodrome racing. Cyclists riding BMC's bikes have won the Tour De France (most recently in 2011) and many other high-profile races. You can buy BMC bikes and branded merchandise at Evans Cycles in Kendal and Preston.

One BMC helps you to get physically fit and encourages you to expend a lot of energy in contests with your fellow man, sometimes just going in circles, the other ...

Samaritans purse Christmas Shoebox appeal

It's time once again to start planning our 2017 'campaign' for the Samaritans Purse Christmas Shoebox Appeal and this year it's going to be busy!



As with recent years, we will operate a satellite warehouse here at church for two to three weeks during November. This is preceded by a Samaritans Purse logistics meeting in Carlisle on September 4th where the charity convey any changes to operational matters, to the teams.

Last year the volunteers packed, checked and topped up 2796 boxes here at BMC, 523 of these were produced on our community packing day alone. All these shoeboxes were loaded on the lorry at BMC one windy day Saturday in November and were dispatched to under privileged children in Latvia.

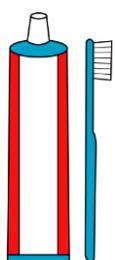
Donation of items last year was amazing and so much was received, I dare not hope for the same this year! However we cannot be complacent, so we will be making an early start as usual and praying for the generosity of people.



Craft sessions have taken place throughout the year and people knitting and making things at home and bringing them in. A children's craft session is planned for Friday 15th September where local primary school children will come to BMC after school and help paint up chalkboards and make bracelets for the shoe boxes.

Two further Saturday craft sessions are planned for September and October.

Last year's packing day produced a staggering 523 boxes which whilst amazing, requires a significant cash donation towards transportation. To help with this we will be holding a Sausage and Bacon Bun Cafe on Saturday October 14th 2017. This will run from 10am to 1pm and all proceeds will go towards the transportation costs of our boxes. Please come along and join us!



Each year our congregation and that of Caton St Pauls give generously by collecting items for the packing day. You can help by adding a packet of soaps or a tube of toothpaste or two to your weekly supermarket shop or just by picking up an item or two in town or the local shops. Wilko, Home Bargains and the Pound Shops all sell inexpensive toothbrushes, toothpaste, soap, flannels, sponges etc. and our local shops often have offers on sweets (but please remember, no chocolate!)

We are always in need of small cuddly toys, so if you need to make some space at home, or know someone who might be getting rid of some good quality cuddly toys, then send some our way for another child to love.



Older boys and girls are often overlooked for these boxes as there is more choice for smaller children, so hats, scarves and gloves for this age group are always very much appreciated as well as retractable tape measures and windup torches. During our craft sessions we have been making up sewing kits for the older girls and can always use sewing needles, safety pins, buttons, press studs, and cotton reels.

I will be taking our appeal into Caton St Paul's school and doing an assembly in October as well as helping them shop for items for their own packing day which we will host here at BMC on 15th November. This was a huge success last year and one that we want to replicate this year.

This year's **Packing Day is Saturday 11th November** and collection and checking of boxes from other locations will be Monday to Friday in the following two weeks. I will be putting a volunteers sheet up for you to sign up to if you feel you would like to help.



As always we are happy to take cash donations which I can use to get items on your behalf or put to transportation. Please put donations in an envelope marked 'Shoebboxes' in the offering box, or pass envelopes directly to Sara Tyrer or Tim Preece.

We have a great team but we really need your help to continue making this outreach a success, so please support it in any way you can and make the best year yet by helping even more children receive a gift and an opportunity to hear about God.

Sara Tyrer

(for more information about the work of the Samaritans Purse please see www.samaritans-purse.org.uk)

ROTAS

		Preacher	Welcome	Flowers	Steward
03 Sep	am	Ian Brons	Meg	Ruth W	Mark
	pm	Maurice Longton	Amelia		Steve
10 Sep	am	Roy Burley	June	Julie	Graham
	pm	Roy Burley	Sue		Mark
17 Sep	am	Ruth Hawkey	Amelia	Janet	Pete
	pm	Messy Church			Francis
24 Sep	am	Jim Hutchinson	Sue	Brigitte	Steve
	pm	Youth Service	Meg		Graham
01 Oct	am	Roy Burley	Ruth	Sally	Janet
	pm	Mark Ellershaw	Ruth		Pete
08 Oct	am	Janet Widdess	Meg	Tricia	Francis
	pm	Ken Clapham	June		Steve
15 Oct	am	Tim Widdess	June	Barbera	Graham
	pm	Messy Church	Amelia		Francis
22 Oct	am	Janet Widdess	Amelia	Mary	Pete
	pm	Youth Service	Meg		Mark
29 Oct	am	Roy Burley	Sue	Roy	Mark
	pm	Jim Hutchinson	Sue		Janet
05 Nov	am	Jillian Graham	Ruth	Elaine	Steve
	pm	Alan Wadsworth	Ruth		Francis
12 Nov	am	Roy Burley	Meg	Doris	Pete
	pm	Steve Charman	June		Graham
19 Nov	am	Julie Kates	June	Annette	Francis
	pm	Roy Burley	Amelia		Janet
26 Nov	am	David Midwinter	Amelia	Ruth M	Janet
	pm	Youth Service	Meg		Pete

September - November 2017

Refreshments	Sound	AV	Prayer Ministry
Bill & Alison	Tom	Sarah	Graham & Sue
	Paul	Pete	
Bob & June, John	Ed		Jim & Elaine
	Tom	Pete	
Sue, Sophie, Hannah	John	Cameron	Kelly & June
		Tim / Joseph	
Bill & Alison	Tom	Brigitte	Bill & Alison
	John	Tim / Joseph	
Bob, Pete, Pat	Ed	Sarah	Bob & Jo
	Ed	Pete	
Tim & Amelia, Ruth	Paul		Graham & Sue
	Tom	Pete	
Bob & June, John	John	Cameron	Jim & Elaine
		Tim / Joseph	
Sue, Sophie, Hannah	Tom	Brigitte	Kelly & Ruth
	Paul	Tim / Joseph	
Bob, Pete, Pat	Ed		Bill & Alison
	Ed	Ruth	
Tim & Amelia, Ruth	John	Sarah	
	Tom		
Sue, Sophie, Hannah	Tom		
	John	Pete	
Tim & Amelia, Ruth	Ed	Cameron	
		Tim / Joseph	
Bob, Pete, Pat	John	Brigitte	
	John	Tim / Joseph	

Psalms of Praise

Eric and Iris's home group have been focussing for the last few weeks on Praise, and have written some Psalms. They are reproduced here for inspiration and meditation.

<p>Thank you Lord that you have always known and loved me. You knew me even before I was born in my mother's womb and had all my life planned out for me.</p> <p>Forgive me Lord for the many times I have and will let you down. In the bad times, you carried me and gave me the promise that no man will snatch me out of your hand.</p> <p>I have so much to thank and praise you for, my Lord and my Saviour.</p>	<p>When the eyes are dimming and the body is creaking and when we look at the state of the world and we look at the "Fat cats" smoking their cigars and driving in their posh cars, we sometimes wonder "What's it all about?"</p> <p>Then we think "Ah, what a Saviour we have, and how good to go to the Sanctuary (BMC) and have fellowship with His people.</p>
<p>Oh joyful Lord, I give thanks to you that you are able to look after me, to keep me safe, fit and well, and able to give me strength to help others.</p> <p>When I was not well a few weeks ago, I felt desperate and at my wits' end. You came to me by way of a dear friend and helped me to pull myself through, and for this I give thanks.</p> <p>There are many days when I feel lonely and alone, but then I know that I can always turn to you for strength and trust.</p>	<p>Thank you Lord to you we pray For the dawning of each day Through each hour till the evening Such joy and happiness you do bring.</p> <p>Bless this house and all around Giving thanks to all around And to you for the countryside To you on high, my Lord abide</p>
<p>Lord you know me You know my fears You know my faults You know my frailties And yet O Lord</p> <p>You still persevere with me You still pardon me You still presence yourself with me.</p> <p>Lord, who is like you? A God who is good, A God who is gracious.</p>	<p>Lord, I offer the day before me to you. May you watch over me with your eye. May you protect and restrain me with your arm. May you direct me by your word.</p> <p>May you fill me with your Spirit.</p> <p>Lord, I offer my thanks. Lord, I offer my praise. Lord, I offer my life.</p>

Even those born of a lustful greedy father, Can be born again of a loving caring father.	Those imprisoned in dysfunction and depravity, God steps into praise, potential and prosperity.
Even a youth dragged up by a violent man, Can still be dressed in righteousness by a redeeming man.	Those rejected by friends, in crowds, parties, meetings, shortlists, God invites to the coronation, celebration, heavenly conversation, ultimate destination.
Though enemies have beaten, bruised and unfairly accused, God will bless, keep and beautifully use.	Those captive, scared, depressed in their own house, God enlarges, promotes, apprentices, gives permanent access to the Father's house.
Children crushingly taught by teachers hopelessly displeased, God will encourage through leaders until gifts unleashed.	Although destined for death, destruction, annihilation, God has chosen for life, love and adoration.

Diary

9-10 SEPT	Harvest
9 SEPT	Ceilidh, 7.00pm
10 SEPT	Jacob's Join lunch
17 SEPT	Messy Church
22 SEPT	Meet to Eat
3 OCT	Leadership Team Meeting
15 OCT	Messy Church
17 OCT	Church Council Meeting
19 OCT	John MacKay – The Creation Guy
27 OCT	Meet to Eat
7 NOV	Leadership Team Meeting
11 NOV	Shoebox Packing Day
24 NOV	Meet to Eat
25 NOV	Big Weekend Worship Night

See Notice Sheet or notice boards in the foyer for more details.