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Introducing the newsletter

In response to our growing numbers and our increasing number of ministries we are introducing a bi-monthly Newsletter in order to improve our communication. We hope that this will not only keep everyone up to

date but give you enough information to help you to pray for the many areas we are involved in.

In this first edition we will be focussing on our plans for 2009; in future editions will

be giving a more in depth look at the different ministries of the church, their successes, the issues they face and how you can get involved.

Plans for 2009

It is almost two and a half years since we opened the Coffee Shop and almost 4 years since we bought the building. Time goes fast!

As a church we are doing more than ever before, are known in the town more and are in touch with more people. Our next challenge is to be planning, praying and working towards being a church of 200. At present we are just over 100 adults and just under 30 children. We are looking to grow by 25% next year bringing us up to 130 adults.

How are we going to do this? Only God gives the increase ultimately - so prayer is our first and most vital activity. In September we had a week of prayer that saw up to 26 of us in the Source at 6.30 am praying. We have decided to do another in December (8th-14th) so that we can be praying for the Carol services, for those who have been on Alpha and for the New Year ahead.

Secondly, because we long to grow not just by people joining us but by people becoming Christians and having lives transformed, we need to share the gospel. Our family, neighbours, friends, work colleagues all need to hear, from us, the good news

Only God gives the increase - so prayer is our first and vital activity

about Jesus or be invited somewhere where they can. We are looking to run Alpha throughout the year including a day-time course.

Thirdly, there are things we can do that will help people find us. Andy Woodward has been working on website, signs, logo, and leaflets to make sure people who want to be with us - can be.

Chas brought a word to us at the church weekend away about us needing to start acting like the 'big' church God had called us to be. This would affect how

we did things, our staffing, and our planning. This has prompted us to take on Andy Woodward to work on our communication, management and smooth 'running' of the church. We are now going to take on Andrew Astle in a training position - initially for a year. Andrew became a Christian here in CitP and we sent him on the Newfrontiers leadership training course 3 years ago.

Chas' word prompted us to push forward our testing of Andrew's call and gifting. We are looking for Andrew to make more time for Tim to pick up on new people and meet up with existing leaders. Andrew can help us make our Freedom in Christ Course a major discipling tool in the church and He will also continue leading the children's work and carrying more responsibility for the youth club and Kids Club. He and Becky are open to possibly planting out a new church into another town at some point in the future.

The Clarens-Buxton Hybrid



This year sees more coming and going between our churches than ever before

“Transforming lives, changing a town, reaching the nations”

Next year sees a new level of interaction between Dihlabeng church in Clarens and Church in the Peak Buxton. In line with our prophetic word of being a unique hybrid plant displaying something of Africa in the Peak District, we have lots of comings and goings between the two churches.

In January Jonny Hayes goes out for the year. He will be living with Fusi in Khubatswana (the township) and serving the church. He will be traveling out with Amanda and Annie who are taking the

Mayor - Robin Bawldry and his wife Linda - to see the work that Dihlabeng Church are doing. This is an exciting development which will take us who knows where!

March sees a larger group of us going out (possibly 20) to the ‘Master Builder’s’ conference. We will be accompanying Gus, Becky and Gideon as they go out. They are planning to be out for two years working with the church and the school where needed.

The Mayor’s visit came out of

discussions about the Summer Ball (to be called Buxton’s Gift Ball) that Karen Corran is organizing. She had a vision of putting on a high quality event in the Pavilion Gardens that would raise the profile of the work in Clarens, be an outreach event, and allow others to join us in our giving. We are planning for a group from Clarens to be over with us for the Ball in June, to have special evenings with them in the Source and to get them in to schools telling their stories and singing.

New logo, signs and website

As part of our plans to make it easier for people to find us we have begun work on several new projects.

Website

A new look for our website (www.churchinthepeak.org) is planned 2009, it will still be shared with the rest of Church in the Peak but with much clearer and separate areas for the three churches.

Signs

In response to people having difficulty finding our Sunday meeting we are planning to produce some much clearer signs.

Information leaflets

We are planning a series of leaflets covering the activities

of the church. These will be available on Sunday mornings, in the Source and for you to give to anyone asking for more information about us.

New Logo

Before producing the website, signs and leaflets we have taken the opportunity to update our church logo to a more contemporary design that would sit comfortably alongside the Source logo.



The Source Update

Becky is now managing the Source with Charlie, Jane and Julia supervising, and James in a paid supporting role. Charlie goes to travel the world in January which leaves a gap so we will be looking for a new supervisor.

Having met Edward Buria’s daughter, Mercy, in Clarens we are still hopeful that we

will be able to open a new link with Africa by getting our coffee direct from the church in Kenya.

Last month we trialed having the coffee shop open on Sunday afternoons serving free drinks and cakes to students. It was encouraging to not only reach students but have someone come along to Al-

pha through it. Sunday afternoons are dark now so we will leave it until Spring to do again.

A big thanks to all our volunteers. We’ve had new ones join us - both from the church and without, which is great. But, we do need more. See Becky if you can help.



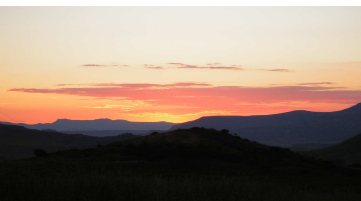
Embracing the Poor Conference in Clarens

Tim and Becky travelled to Clarens South Africa to be part of the New-frontiers conference 'Embracing the Poor'.

Becky and I were among 40 who travelled to the 'Embracing the Poor' Conference in Clarens, South Africa from Russia, Armenia, the UK, Ukraine, Zimbabwe and Kenya where we were joined by a similar number from South Africa and Lesotho. There we were treated to a powerful mix of theological papers (Is God 'biased' to the poor? Do we have a responsibility beyond the church? How is the gospel good news for the poor?), along with practical training (doing all things 'well' – the place of excellence, planning and accountability) and the opportunity to experience the incredibly moving works with the poor that Dihlabeng Church in Clarens is doing.

In addition to a well thought out programme, we had the benefit

Becky writes ...



It is dawn at Kromdraai farm, Clarens and as I sit on a rock, half way up the mountainside, I am in awe once again at God's creative magnificence. The mountains over the border river in Lesotho stretch out across the horizon, clouds shrouding the peaks and I am reminded of the words in Psalm 91 'He will cover you with His feathers and under His wings you will find refuge'.

From this vantage point, I can see the place where Rehebothe church meets, a somewhat dilapidated tent which has served as a meeting place for 5 years now. From here I can trace the pathway across the rugged terrain to the mountain top village of Hapalamente where two

of learning from one another as we spent time getting to know each other's stories and experience, and some wonderful times of being in God's presence together in prayer and worship.

David Adams from Jubilee church, Cape Town took us through a 'Theology of Ministry to the Poor' looking at God's heart, revealed in scripture, for the poor to be drawn into God's community of faith so that they in turn are caught up in God's mission.

Martin Dunsford presented a paper on apostolic ministry with respect to the poor, looking at the apostolic example in the New Testament and the need to include the dimension of ministry to the poor as a significant foundational feature of church life. 95% of the people groups still un-reached by the gospel are among the poor so this is a huge issue for the church as she seeks to obey the command to make disciples of all nations.

days ago we ventured on horse back, carrying tools and seed in order to partner the community there in 'Farming God's Way'.

It is said that Lesotho's greatest export is its soil and as we journeyed across the land passing the gaping wounds and open sores caused by erosion, I could well imagine it. Despite this, Lesotho has an undeniably, photogenic beauty, enhanced by the traditional mud and thatch housing which seem to grow out of the landscape.

The field at Haparamente was already marked with the regimented holes, evidence the teaching Farming God's Way has already begun to positively effect the community here, and as we dismounted, people from the village began to arrive, somewhat amused at our unconventional arrival and appearance!

The Gospel was preached clearly

Steve Oliver called us to remember the importance of keeping the gospel central to our work among the poor with wonderful stories from the church in Clarens of how accepting the gospel has been the most significant thing to affect the lives of so many.

Alongside this teaching and training we joined members from the local church as they visited families affected by HIV/ AIDS, vulnerable children, a sewing project and the church school. Then we had a day travelling to Lesotho (some on horse back!) and other church plants working alongside communities who were 'Farming God's Way'. It was overwhelming to be involved in such a day and all the more so when we heard how over 80 people had responded to the gospel in one village that afternoon. It felt like confirmation of God's presence with us and of his ongoing heart for the poor.

with translation and we begin the task of sowing. It wasn't long before the small crowd joined forces with us, fertilising, planting, covering and mulching, backs bent low, hands stained orange from the soil. As I rubbed shoulders with my Besotho co-worker, I couldn't help but smile openly. Here I was, sowing seeds in Africa! What a privilege! What an inspiration!

Back on the farm at dawn, my prayer is that those seeds would bear much fruit. Let



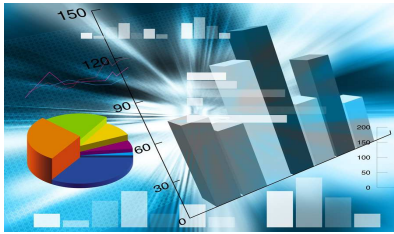
there be a harvest of both maize and souls that will glorify Your Name here and carry Your fame across the mountains!

As we rode away that day, gifts of handmade brushes and hats in hand, I was absolutely certain that I was leaving the richer for my experience there.



All you need to be the best farmer in the world

"95% of those unreached yet by the gospel are among the poor. If we are to obey Jesus and go to every nation ... we must remember the poor"



Budget for 2009

Each year we have set a budget for the coming year –trying to anticipate our expenditure and so the income we need. Surprisingly(!) we have normally been pretty close to what actually happens. Year on year this has increased. In 2009 our budget increases from £93k (our budget for 2008) to £126K. This is an increase of 35%. However, we will be carrying in to the year savings of about £10k and so if our income went up by 30% that should mean we break even!

So what is the money being spent on? A significant amount (59%) will be spent on salaries. But at 59% of

our outgoings this is still below what many churches do. Taking on Andy Woodward for 2 days and Andrew Astle full time is obviously the main reason for the increase. However, we are also increasing our giving to Newfrontiers (we give 10% of our previous years income) and are looking to move towards giving a further 10% away to overseas support. In 2009 it will be 5%. This is in addition to any special gift days we may have and to the money that is given by individuals and in the coffee shop.

As you can see below we are involved in a huge amount as a church. We do much more than a church of 100 and a budget of £126k would be expected to do!

A 30% increase in our giving is a significant rise. But we remember how God provided wonderfully for The Source and we don't want to be like the disciples who when faced with the 4000 hungry had forgotten how Jesus had previously provided for the 5000.

Please consider your own giving. God promises to provide as we give faithfully, regularly, in proportion to our income and with great joy. What a privilege to be able to give to see lives transformed here and across the world.

Giving by direct debit helps our budgeting. Filling out a gift aid form increases a gift of £100 by £28.

Remember all we do ...



The present Alpha Course has had new people joining each week it has run; a first for us. It works brilliantly in the Coffee shop and has 3 more weeks to run. The last Alpha talk takes place at our Sunday morning meeting on Nov. 30th and we're praying we have a big crowd along that morning!

Alpha

are from Kid's Club and seem to enjoying our 'proper' Youth Group at New Life every Friday complete with pool table, table tennis and tuck shop!

The band continue to play schools and pubs around the town. Christmas is a busy time for them and is a great time to be sharing the gospel. If you didn't hear John Hewitt's story of joining the band in school for an assembly have a word with him and consider tagging along sometime and see what they do.

years of junior school - 9,10 and 11 year olds). We are hoping that this will allow us to build across from Kid's Club to Youth group all the more.

We are still praying for **students** to join us. It's great having Evelyn and Libby with us and the student teas gave us contact with others.

Our **small groups** continue to meet in the week and we have plans to start a new one this next year. At present they are following on from the Sunday talk with questions and discussion as well as opportunities to get to know one another.

Tim is involved in the **regional team** overseeing churches in the Northwest. Dave Harper leads this team which includes Colin Barron (East Manchester) and Howard Kellett (Hope Church, Manchester).

This year we are once again doing a **Carol Service** with other Buxton Churches in the Pavilion Gardens. This is on Wednesday 10th December. Our own Carol Service is at the school on December 21st at 5pm. Invite everyone along!!



caring support for pregnancy miscarriage & post-abortion concerns

Choices has now been up and running for over a

year. At present Heather and Angela (Hay) are running a new training programme with 18 people. Alongside this Heather is helping churches work together to set up a centre in Derby. This is part of the original regional vision.

Friday Night Youth Club continues to grow with the numbers of non-church young people. Many of these



Jubilee Debt Advice Jubilee continue to gather new clients and in the present financial

climate find their services being called on all the more. They also have a number of clients that they hope to see come along to a daytime Alpha.

Kid's Club is now going to be held at New Life on a Saturday morning once a month for years 5 and 6 (the top 2

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Church in the Peak is part of Newfrontiers - a family of churches together on a mission