

Issue 34

All Saints' Church, Thorpe Acre with Dishley

December 2008

The article below was written by Rev Keith Elliott as an open letter to all Church members

The mission statement: **“God’s love to all: Experiencing, Sharing, Demonstrating!”**

**Sunday November 23<sup>rd</sup> 2008**

## To All at All Saints Church

Dear friends

Now that I have been here two months I want to share with you some of the thinking behind some of the changes you are beginning to see.

The new look for all our literature:

Is simple and the logo is more about catching your eye than the fact that its about God’s love for all demonstrated in the cross. Romans 5:8 tells us: ‘God demonstrated His love for us that while we were of no use whatever to him (we were separated, alienated from Him) Jesus died for us.’ The new look is bright and eye-catching but like all images will no doubt date and eventually need revisiting. We need to constantly review the way we present ourselves to the community.

This has been discussed and accepted by the PCC. It gives a shape to all our activities corporately and individually. Everything we do is about sharing, demonstrating and experiencing God’s love. Our desire is to know Him better, to experience Him in our lives. We live in an experiential world. People want to feel God close to them, they want to experience His touch In their lives, His healing, His love. We are about sharing our experience of Him with others by telling our story of faith, giving our testimony. Each of us can demonstrate the love of God in word and deed in the power of the Holy Spirit (1Th 1:5 For when we brought you the Good News, it was not only with words but also with power...). We can use our mission statement like a plumb line to check the things we do. Does this activity fit our values - if it doesn’t should we be doing it? It’s a way of helping us remain focused.

- 3. We value knowing God and making Him known:

This means we need to be an open and welcoming church. Our entire ministry, all the events and things we do, is

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*Next issue will be for February 2009*

*Please send any articles to [admin@astad.org](mailto:admin@astad.org)*

**“God’s love to all: Experiencing, Sharing, Demonstrating!”**



at drawing others to Jesus. Therefore we cannot expect to ask visitors to fund this, and its great that we don't send a offertory plate round. In the same light we cannot ask people to pay for coffee; if you were invited round to a friend's house for coffee and they put a plate or bowl out for a donation would you think it strange? We worship and serve a gracious and generous God and we are to express his nature therefore our expectations shouldn't be limited by our experience.

#### 4. Cell Groups:

Jo and I met with the cell group leaders. It was great time, really helpful to be able to put

names to faces. It was also useful to be able to re-emphasise the values of Cell Church. I place a great value upon the cell leaders as we work together both pastorally and in mission. I would stress that as a church we believe that Cell Groups are an integral part of our church mission and our life together. It's our desire to see everyone, young and older alike, become a member of a Cell Group. They are an important way of growing together, sharing our lives and worshipping Jesus who we desire to demonstrate as we reach out to others in the community and to our neighbourhood. We run a number of Cell Groups that meet at a variety of times and venues. In the New Year we will be starting a new Cell Group for the sixteen's to twenties. Cell hangs on the '4 W's' - Welcome, Worship, Word and Witness, these form a structure, not a law. They are something that I pray becomes a developing part of our DNA. Our very nature will become increasingly welcoming as we meet people and invite them into our homes and lives. All we do and say in our lives is worship to, and for, Jesus. We will spend time with Jesus each day, talking to Him and reading His word, the bible. As we become more confident at sharing our story with others we will witness to the goodness of God in our lives. I'd like to ask, have *you* joined a Cell Group yet? Or do you have anxieties about cell? Jo and I would be happy to

chat to you. Feel free get hold of us and we can make a time to chat.

Following this mornings (30/11/08) talk about spiritual gifts I would like to spend some time in the New Year looking at our gifts and our giftings. As a starting point have a read of the three main lists of spiritual gifts that God gives to His church to build us up and equip us for the work of ministry. (Rom 12: 6- 8, 1 Cor 12: 8 – 10, Eph 4: 11).

At the end of Jan 2009 the PCC will be going away to spend sometime praying and sharing and then towards the end of February or the beginning of March we will have a half a day together as a church. I would like to do it on a Sunday so that we worship together, have coffee, a time for input, share lunch, more input and aim to end by 3pm. However you might prefer a Saturday 10am - 3pm or 3pm – 8pm with lunch or tea? Please give your feedback on your preference to one of the staff team.

On a separate note - if you are interested in helping with an open youth event one evening a week for 2 ½ hours a week please let me know. The first church and community police meeting will be on Wed 10<sup>th</sup> Dec 2008 7.30pm in the church lounge.

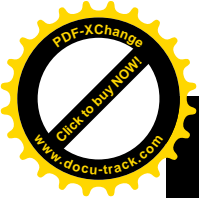
Thank you so much for your welcome to All Saints. We look forward to getting to know you better as we work hand in hand with each other in the power of the Spirit.

Yours in Jesus



## COFFEE MORNINGS AT ALL SAINTS', THORPE ACRE 2008

Date	Organiser	Type of Event	Beneficiary	Profit
January	Jill Green	Table Top sale	Haven Counselling Centre	£195.00
February	Mintoe	Bric a brac and light lunches	Minibus Fund	£440.00
March	Heather Elliman	Coffee and Home Made cakes	Cruse Counselling Service	£75.00
April	CYFA	Car wash and Coffee	Abigail and Alex's Trip to Bulgaria	£275.00
May	CYFA	Strawberry teas etc	Keith & Emma trip to Bulgaria	£260.00
June	Colin Wood/Keith Munro	Table Top Sale & Treasure Hunt	CMA/Bulgaria Trip	£123.72
July	The Fellowship	Coffee Morning	Minibus Fund	£8.00
August	Mintoe	Coffee Morning and Wheelchair push from Thorpe House	Thorpe House Christmas Presents	£16.70
September	Isabel Smith	The Big tea Party	Christian Aid	£70.00
October	Mary Drake et al	Samaritans Purse Shoe Boxes	Samaritan's Purse	£780.00
November	Elizabeth Steven et al	Christmas Bazaar	Get a Life Green Pastures Hosptial, Nepal	£589.39
			<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£2,832.81</b>



At the end of September I had the privilege of attending the International Nepal Fellowship Conference at Swanwick. One could choose from a variety of seminars taken by recent returnees or those waiting to go. Having prayed for some years for most of them – by name and photograph, it was great actually to meet them. I came away with renewed admiration for those who raise the necessary finance and put their careers on hold in this country to spend periods varying from months to years working in Nepal. The conditions would put all but the most determined off – one speaker showed slides of the 2-hour walk from the airstrip to the village which was their destination – rough paths along a mountainside with horrendous drop-offs on one side and jutting rocks on the other. Having arrived, there was no electricity, very basic (if any) sanitary arrangements, no hospital or doctor and if one had to make the long and arduous trip to a hospital, a friend or relative must be prepared to accompany one to feed and generally care for the patient as nurses are in very short supply. Very recently parts of the country were devastated by horrific floods. There were all ages at the Conference; families with babies, toddlers, teenagers and quite a sprinkling of my age group (and even older!) all enjoying the welcome sunshine and shared interest. I was so impressed by the love which all returnees obviously have for this remote country and those who live there, with countless tales of the friendliness of the Nepali people. I was particularly impressed to meet a young married couple (in their twenties) who are training and will fly out shortly for two years. Many countries are represented in the INF work force and their Christian faith and way of life influence many Nepalis who turn to Christ and in turn take their new found faith to their own communities.

The single fact which, I think, gave most satisfaction to all Christians interested in this country was the fact that FOR THE FIRST TIME EVER, CHRISTMAS DAY 2008 WILL BE A PUBLIC HOLIDAY IN NEPAL. On the INF website is the short request: Pray, Give, Go – not many can do the third, many of us could do the second and we can all do the first – will YOU add your prayers to those who want to see Nepal move forward?

Elizabeth Steven

**No, not yet Dear Lord ...**

This was written in a Christmas Card by elderly person to a neighbour:

Today, Dear Lord I'm 90 ... and there is so much I haven't done, I hope, Dear Lord, you will let me live until I'm 91.

By then, if I have not finished with all I want to do, would you be so kind as to let me live until I'm 92.

There are things I want to know about and oh so much to see, do you think you could manage Lord, to make it 93?

The world is changing all too fast and yet there is much in store, so I would surely like to be on hand, when I'm 94.

And if, by then, my heart is sound and I am still alive, I would like to live and be around, when I'm 95.

There are so many problems and so much that needs a 'fix', I would like to live and be around, when I'm 96.

I know, Dear Lord, it is much to ask and it is mighty nice in heaven but, I would like to stick around, until I'm 97.

Perhaps, by then, I may be slow and I know it is getting late but it would be so nice to be your guest, when I'm 98.

I will have seen so much by then and had so grand a time that I would be willing to call it quits and settle for 99.

Sourced and supplied by Chris Milner



## News from M

M starts her letter in thanking everyone for their continued support both in prayer and for her personally. This support means so much to her and just knowing that the people of the church are still praying for her gives her strength in the hard times she experiences.

She has been very busy with the summer outreach. Although the team that came was small, five men, it was good for the outreach for men. God provided the accommodation: some slept at the O D F Centre, while others stayed with the long term team- members. It began with a three day Islamic Course. A wider group of people interested in the Muslim Ministry also joined in We were given a good overview of the Muslim Ministry and the Quran and the life of the prophet Muhammad. We heard some testimonies from believers of the Muslim background. M also this summer had a Holiday Club to attend for three days and she it enjoyed very much. The children are twelve to fourteen and they were learning about the prophet Elijah. The team were encouraged to see some of the mother's stayed and listened to the Bible Stories. At the end of it all they had a neighbourhood party. The weather was good and there were plenty of activities to enjoy. They had a BBQ with lots of different salads and other food. The children then shared what they had learnt in front of everyone, especially how God took care of Elijah.

As I said M is a very busy person and her next venue was witnessing in the parks. She praises the Lord because he kept the rain away for the whole two weeks of outreach. Other Christian groups were there as well distributing Christian literature and CD's of the Jesus film. They found the women were much more responsive and reader to discuss spiritual matters. After the women had read the literature they were the ones asking the questions. Praise the Lord.

We continue to pray for M's home church and the work that she does in the church. The church supports M in so many ways. She is a very multi-tasking person and yet her desire is to pray for the Lord's help first and learn his word so that she will be able to teach it to others. May we all try to seek the Kingdom of God first so that we too will have others blessings added to all we that we do.

She would like us to pray for a lady from Dubai, a girl of sixteen from the UAE her family and nanny. She has leukaemia, another lady from the UAE on holiday in England whom M met in a park and talked with her. All of these people need our prayers.

Finally let us all remember M and all the people she works alongside in our prayers.

Dorothy Barnes.

# H O P E

*in our villages, towns & cities*

## A special message from Hope 08, Loughborough chair, Paul Stevens:

Just over a year ago we launched Hope08 in Loughborough having some idea of what might be accomplished but not really knowing how the year would pan out. We became aware that all across the country God's people were coming together with a real desire to make a difference where they lived. The whole concept had a sense of God's timing and purpose on it and it was no different for us here in Loughborough.

- Do you remember the strap line for Hope08? "Do more, do it together, do it in word and action".
- Do you recall that in addition to the commitment to impact our community and lift the profile of the church, we set our sights on improving the links between us, the church in Loughborough, and the Police and Council?
- We also felt it important that we did not get involved in "hit and run" activities that made us feel good but lacked any longer lasting impact.

What a year we have had. When we presented you with the challenges, you responded with vigour and creativity, many of you sacrificially. We have done more. We have done it together and we have done it in word and action. We take with us a much improved relationship with both the Council and the Police. Street Pastors are now an accepted and appreciated part of Town Centre night life. We have provided an additional point of contact with the homeless on a Friday night at the Salvation Army. Some excellent work has been done on the Louise Moon memorial garden at Garendon School, with some more to come in the spring. A prayer support network for schools is growing month by month. Plus all the other activities that individuals and church fellowships undertook carrying the ethos right through into personal and non-publicised actions. To top it all, we had that amazing explosion of energy and connection with our community through the "Bigger Picture" project which climaxed on Easter Monday. We have much to thank God for. We, the steering group, have much to thank you for. I trust that the experience of working together under the banner of Hope08 will encourage us all to be bold in heart and vision as we enter 2009 and beyond.

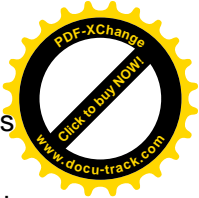
Paul Stevens (Chair of the Hope08 Loughborough Steering Group)

## New Year's Day Prayer Walk ?

As a fitting completion of Hope08, *and in place of the normal monthly day of prayer*, we plan to meet in the Market Place at 12 Noon to repeat our Prayer Walk around Loughborough giving thanks for His favour on our activities during 2008 and praying for God's continued favour on our town and the work done by Christians through our various groupings and fellowships. You will be invited to choose one of 12 routes (so long as each route is covered!) which take us out from the Market Place, like the spokes of a bicycle wheel, to a point at the edge of town, from where you then walk round to the next joining "spoke point" in a clockwise direction - this means that the whole town will be circled with prayer. If folks want to walk further than "one leg", they can then carry on as far round the perimeter of the wheel as they choose! The routes will vary in length, the minimum journey being about 1.25miles. Some "initial legs" - i.e. from the Market Place, out to the first point, then round to the second - are longer than others. The total distance round the whole circle will probably be too far for anyone to cover before dark but it will be interesting to see how far the "super-fit" can get! Everyone taking part will be issued with a clear route map for their leg of the journey, but will have the whole circle route too so that they can go as far round as time/body/daylight allows. The routes provided will take in specific points in our town that you are invited to pray for - but the idea is that you pray as you walk the streets, committing the schools, businesses, churches, public offices, local meeting places, houses and residents to the Lord. The spoke points are as follows:

- **Market Place to:** Midland Station (A) >> Great Central Station (B) >> Sea Cadets Corps (C) >> TA Centre (D) >> Shelthorpe School (E) >> Woodbrook Vale School (F) >> Valley Rd/Kirkstone Rd Crossroads (G) >> Ashby Rd/Schofield Rd junction (via University) (H) >> Burleigh College (I) >> Morrisons (J) >> Dishley Roundabout (K) >> Canal Swingbridge (L) >> Midland Station (A)

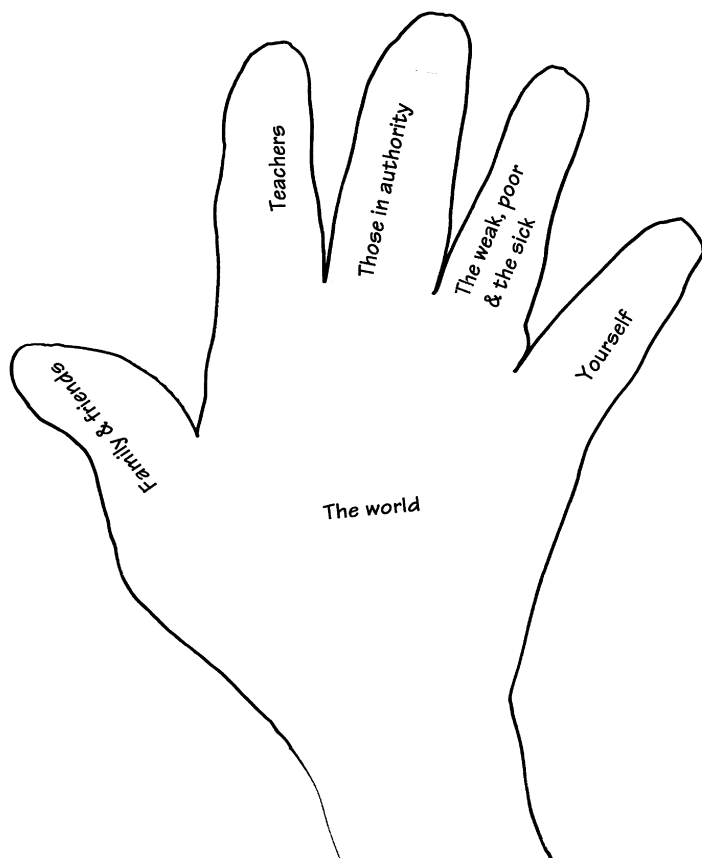
If you look at a map you will see that these points take us right round the edge of town in a huge circle - our town is then completely wrapped in thanksgiving and prayer. Put it in your diary now - it will happen - come rain or shine!"



# PRAYER

In the last edition of "On Track" Roger Stone asked about the ABC of Prayer. Sorry to disappoint but I don't think there is an ABC of prayer. There are a number of models that can help us pray and different ones may be of help at different times:

There is the prayer hand



Then there's JOY

Jesus

Others

Yourself

There are many variations on this idea with different subjects or types of prayer being remembered by each part of the hand. This model is one that I have used.

Then there's the model of: "Sorry, Thank you, Please."

Sorry for the things we fail to do.

Thank you for the good things He gives.

Please: Intercession.

The model Jesus taught us to use is the Lords Prayer.

I've used it a couple of times in intercessions in church.

So why not have a look at the Lords Prayer and see how it may help you pray!

I am sure that there are lots of others models that could also help us in our daily prayer life. Whichever model (or none), that we use the important thing about prayer is that we do it!

It's good to spend 10 or more minutes in prayer each day. C. H. Spurgeon, the great Baptist preacher, was once asked how long he spent in prayer, he replied, "never more than an minute, but I never go more than a minute without praying."

That's a wonderful example I'm sure we could all learn from.

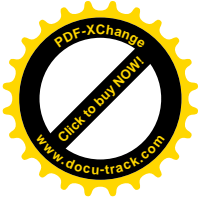
Arrow prayers: John Wimber often said that two good prayers every Christian should know off by heart and use frequently are "O God" and "Help". In fact these are often very useful quick ways of bringing God to mind in everyday situations when we might not have time to sit quietly and pray but we want to affirm our desire to walk with God.

It's my desire that we all spend time with God each day and that as a church we become more prayerful. Someone once said, "When you pray co-incidences happen, when you don't pray they don't". As we grow in our life of prayer together we can expect to see God at work ever more clearly.

From the short time I spent in "Sunday School" as a child I remember the old chorus, "Read your Bible, pray every day if you want to grow". Do you want to grow? Do you want All Saints to grow? Then you know what you need to do!

My prayer this Christmas time is that each of us may experience the Joy and the Peace of Jesus the Christ Child.

Every blessing



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## Funerals



*Our sympathy and prayers go to the families and friends at their time of bereavement. May they find peace through faith in Jesus Christ*

- |             |                          |
|-------------|--------------------------|
| 1 October   | Elizabeth HANCOCK        |
| 3 October   | Janet ADCOCK             |
| 7 October   | Dorothy Angela WHITE     |
| 4 November  | Betty MILES              |
| 5 December  | Gordon BINGHAM           |
| 8 December  | Florence (Winnie) ROSCOE |
| 18 December | Elsie Frewster CONN      |

## Baptisms

*Welcome into the church family*  
 3rd November 2008

- Adaobi Chiamaka Nmesomachukwu AJEAFABI
- Evan Samuel PALMER
- Miles Luke FOORD



**Keith's prayer for the New Year is that each of us may experience the Joy and Power of the risen living Jesus in our prayer lives.**