

NEWSLETTER

October 2009

FLOWERS FOR THE MONTH OF OCTOBER

4 th	Mrs Rollings in memory of Mr and Mrs Underhill
11 th	Mrs Barbara Barnes
18 th	Mrs Val Matthews
25 th	Mrs Olive Grigg Mrs Joyce Davies



Earlier this year a group of celebrities including Gary Barlow from Take That, DJ Chris Moyles and singer Cheryl Cole set out to climb Mt Kilimanjaro in Tanzania to raise money for Comic Relief.

Mt Kilimanjaro is the highest peak in Africa at 5,892 metres tall and so the trip required a lot of preparation. The ‘celebs’ needed to prepare by doing a lot of special training, exercising, walking, learning about the effects of altitude. However, there were also 120 people in their backup team. This included local guides, who had to know the route, camera crews who had to make sure all their equipment worked properly and doctors who had to make sure they took the right things to treat the team if they hurt themselves.

Happily, after all the preparations, all the famous walkers reached the summit of Mt Kilimanjaro safely, and raised over £3 million pounds for malaria relief in the process.

The adventure helps us to remember the importance of good preparation and the importance of laying good foundations. That’s what happened to the two men known in Matthew’s Gospel as the Wise and Foolish Builders. One of the house builders had good solid foundations on the rock – and when troubles came and the storms lashed the house, it stood firm. However, the other man didn’t bother with firm foundations; he built his house on the soft sand. And when the storm came, the house fell down because there was nothing to support it.

It’s a reminder to all of us to step back sometimes and ask questions:
Who were the people who helped me build good foundations in my life?

What or who do I put my trust in now?

What foundations do I have when trouble comes?

What are the foundations of our life together as a church congregation?

No-one is immune to storms in life – they come to all of us – but it is how we cope with them that matters. When storms and challenges

come, the love God has for us and the love and care that we show each other can provide a bedrock which is strong and sure.

With best wishes and prayers

Rev Mandy Stevens



Flower List 2010

In compiling the list of flower donations for Sunday Church services during 2010 I find that there are now several unallocated weeks. This is very much a source of pastoral giving as the flowers are generally distributed after our Sunday services to friends who are in our prayers at that time. Please consider if you would like to donate flowers on one Sunday during the next year and let me know. Thank you. *Aileen Senior (792566 or 854304 Church Office).*

DIARY DATES FOR OCTOBER		
4 th	12 noon to 5.00pm	A day of Prayer for Climate Change
5 th	7.30pm	Friendship Road House Group <i>6 Friendship Road</i>
6 th	6.00pm	Girls' Brigade
6 th	8.00pm	Church Council Meeting
7 th	11.15am	Mid Week Communion
8 th	2.00pm	Bowens' House Group - 6 Dunster Gardens
8 th	8.00pm	Music Group
10 th	7.00pm	Riding Lights Play - Origins and Lemons Worship Hall
11 th	10.00am	Girls' Brigade Service – <i>Let's Celebrate</i>
12 th	8.00pm	Hughes House Group
13 th	2.30pm	Women's Fellowship <i>Rev. Dr Russell Herbert</i>
13 th	6.00pm	Girls' Brigade
13 th	7.45pm	Mission Committee at Brenda Martin's
15 th	8.00pm	Music Group
16 th	7.30pm	Films 4 U – Evan Almighty
17 th	10 to 12.30	Girls' Brigade Taster Morning
18 th	6.00pm	Healing Service with Holy Communion
19 th	7.30pm	Friendship Road House Group <i>6 Friendship Road</i>
20 th	6.00pm	Girls' Brigade
20 th	7.45pm	Stewards' Meeting at The Manse
22 nd	2.00pm	Bowens' House Group
22 nd	8.00pm	Music Group
26 th	8.00pm	Hughes House Group

27 th	2.30pm	Women's Fellowship - <i>Rev. Mandy Stevens</i>
29 th	8.00pm	Music Group
NOVEMBER		
3 rd		Pastoral Meeting
5 th	2.00pm	Bowens' House Group
8 th	10.00am	Remembrance Sunday
8 th	6.00pm	Service of Hope and Thanksgiving <i>Worship Hall</i>
14 th		Annual Craft Fair
27 th	7.30pm	Films 4 U - The Kite Runner

Family News

We send our condolences to Don Gully and the family following the death of Barbara on 25th September. We assure them of our love and prayers and give thanks that she is now at peace.

Our prayers and best wishes go with Esther Mallett as she starts at Queen's College Oxford on 6th October. Because she has obtained a choral scholarship, she will be singing evensong three times a week in the college chapel in exchange for some expert singing tuition. Well done Esther.

Day of Prayer for climate change
Sunday 4th October, 12 noon – 5pm in Room 3

A 'Day of Prayer' is being encouraged across the country on Sunday, October 4th in the run-up to the climate change talks in Copenhagen this December, where bold and science-based agreements must be reached for the continuation of abundant life on earth. Our own President of Conference, Rev David Gamble, and leaders of other denominations are supporting this day.

Climate change is often described as the symptom of a spiritual issue, in that it is caused by humanity chasing after that which does not ultimately fulfill. To solve climate change, therefore, requires a spiritual dimension.

Room 3 will be available from 12 noon until 5pm on Sunday 4th October for you to come in and spend anything from five minutes to the whole five hours sitting quietly. There will be spoken information, quotes and stories to inform and challenge us, interspersed with times of silence to help us to reflect on what we hear, consider the consequences for us and for others, and to pray for wisdom and courage in our leaders and for a change of heart in our generation.

Wherever you are in your understanding of climate change and its relation to our faith in Jesus, please join us at this time and in this space to stop, listen and reflect together and to actively hope and pray an alternative future into being.

Why October the 4th when December is still a way off? Well, it is St Francis day. St Francis you will remember was one of the early saints who gave due recognition to God's gift of creation, saw its importance to human life and spiritual wellbeing, and understood the part we have to play in its care.



From Rev. Roxanne Gibb

Dear Friends,

It is with mixed emotion that I make the following announcement: I have requested to curtail my appointment here in the Gordano Valley Circuit, Portishead and Redcliffe Bay Methodist Church. This means that this will be my last year with you and I will look to move on next August 2010.

This decision has not been an easy one and comes out of many of months of wrestling, listening, praying and talking with a mentor, colleagues, friends and family. For sometime, I have had a growing sense that my ministry might be moving towards a more concentrated focus on schools work. This has undoubtedly come out of some of the opportunities and efforts being made at our Trinity School. I am not sure entirely what this form of ordained ministry will look like but I feel that I need to 'push on the door' and discover and further discern this 'pull' or to use church language 'call'. And so I am requesting a year's study leave to do a PGCE and explore this further.

I am fearful about stepping out and making this move into the unknown so soon into my ministry. It will mean considerable changes for me - including moving back home and returning to university. I am very sad too. Sad that I have to leave you all who have given me so much, who have allowed me into your lives and made me part of this Methodist family. Saying goodbye and letting go will be very hard. This decision does not come out of a sense of unhappiness, or disappointment or frustration - on the contrary- I am extremely happy here and feel this is a good place for me and my ministry - and yet I still feel God calling. I am

excited too about the future - what this could mean and how God can use this. I am deeply regretful about the disruption this will cause to you all, the circuit and my colleagues.

I still have, however, another whole year with you! And there is still much for us to do, at the very least our town has started its building work again! I hope you will not feel discouraged by this announcement but encouraged. God is at work here in our Methodist communities, our school, our town and our circuit. I hope you will still join me in continuing to participate in that work and in growing our vision for how God can use us all and to where He is leading us on.

Please can I ask that you continue pray for this work, for one another, for our circuit and for me as we take the next step! Please do feel that you can chat to me or one of the leadership team or circuit stewards about this too.

Love

Roxanne x

Annual Craft Fair on Saturday 14th November 10am - 4pm

This year our Craft Fair will be bigger and better than ever!!
It will be a great start to your Christmas shopping.

We have over 40 stalls selling a whole range of goods - paintings, jewellery, cards, toys, embroidery, candles, glass ... - the list goes on!
We have 2 Church Stalls which need donations please - a 2nd-hand book stall (stewards) and a bric-a-brac stall (Miriam Rowse).
All donations gratefully received - thanks.

BUT - as you know, this fantastic event needs loads of support!!
If you can help in any way - particularly on the day then please speak to Marjorie Sharp or any of the other stewards.

AND - please come - if only for the bacon butties and fab cakes!!

Thanks
Rose Lancaster



ATTENTION – important reminder

Christmas Puddings NOW is the time to place your order so please sign on the list on the board in the foyer or see Marjorie Sharp (859473 or d-msharp@psaconnect.com)



1st Nailsea Girls' Brigade

Our Autumn programme began with a social "ice-breaker" evening, to resume acquaintances, followed by promotion of girls between Sections. The following Saturday, seven girls and several officers/helpers had a fantastic day out at Puxton Park. The girls were a credit to our Company and to Girls' Brigade, behaved perfectly and had a really fun time looking at, feeding and stroking some of the animals (hand hygiene insisted upon!); watching the birds of prey show, seeing the cows milked, tackling the assault course, jumping on the "Bouncing Bull" and enjoying the Cowshed Playbarn.

We have now begun badgework in all Sections - Seniors have a brand new syllabus - as well as preparing for our annual District Service, to be held this year in this Church, on 11th October, when girls and officers from the Weston-super-Mare companies will share our worship and Young Leaders will be presented with their awards.

Also planned already for this Autumn are a District Sports afternoon at Churchill Leisure Centre, and an RLNI evening, Carol Singing and a Christmas celebration for our own Company.

On **Saturday 17th October**, we at 1st Nailsea Company are holding a "**GB Taster Morning**", in the Worship Hall, from 10am-12.30pm. Many people in and around Nailsea have never heard of the Girls' Brigade, or our Company, so we are wanting to publicize ourselves as much as possible and show girls and their families how much fun we have and what GB is all about. We will be running lots of activities for all ages, serving refreshments and having a Bring-and-Stall.

Please come and join us if you can, for as much of the morning as you are able. Bring anyone who is curious about GB - boys will be welcome too that morning! - or just come to see what we do at 1st Nailsea. GB is for all and any girl aged rising-5 to 18. If you would like a poster, an invitation card, or want to find out more, please ask an officer - Jane (790327), Mary (855152) or Corinne (858371). We are ready and waiting for an influx of new recruits! Come and find out about Girls' Brigade - see you there!

HARVEST FOR THE HUNGRY

Recently we have supported this project as a Church in alternate years, and some individuals have helped every year. But please read the letter below. David Sharp

Mr Chris Faull, 2 Moor Villas, North Street, NAILSEA. BS48 4BP

1 September 2009

Nailsea and Backwell Project

Greetings. Firstly may I say how much we appreciate the support we have received over the years from Nailsea Methodist Church and individuals in our area in filling boxes with food for some of the desperate places in Eastern Europe. We have always been amazed at the continued level of commitment there has been and I know that the recipients in those places have been SO grateful for the provisions they found in the boxes.

Unfortunately, for a number of very valid reasons, Euroangelism, which organises Harvest for the Hungry, has decided not to continue with sending boxes. There has been a move in the receiving countries to prefer to purchase locally according to their local needs rather than receiving standard boxfuls. Cash has always been part of the programme and will now be the only means of assistance. Other factors include the high cost of transportation of the boxes, the environmental impact of the diesel used by the lorries, and the fact that by sending cash we can better support the local economy in the country concerned - they can probably get better value for money than we can!!

Added to this, locally here in Nailsea we have lost the use of the Tithe Barn for our conveyor-belt system of boxing and storing due to the refurbishment of the building following their successful bid for lottery money. We are most grateful to the Trustees for the use of the Barn over the years and wish them well for the future.

All this means that there is no Harvest for the Hungry this year “as we have known it”.

Yours sincerely,

Chris Faull

Harvest for the Hungry, Project Coordinator for Nailsea and Backwell



Films 4U 'Evan Almighty'

**Friday, 16th October 2009 at 7.30pm
Join us for a Film, Discussion and Fellowship**

Evan Baxter is a rising congressman with a bright future and his goal to "change the world". God hears this message and decides to give him a hand. Delivering Evan the material and the animals, he sets Evan the task of building an ark. After trying to ignore God as much as possible, Evan eventually goes ahead with the plan, even if the other Congressmen and his family thinks he's mad.

Battery box

At the end of August there were another 6.5kg of waste batteries in the box bringing the total for the first year to over 75 kg. It is a remarkable amount and thanks to all of you who have used this facility. It will continue but I will no longer report the amount collected. For your information there is now a battery recycling facility just inside the doorway at Somerfield/Coop. Please use this if it is easier and so encourage the town to recycle batteries.

What you buy - where does it come from?

Supermarkets in general label their goods with the country of origin. The label, however, may not tell the whole truth. Sometimes it will say 'England' or the 'UK' but that might only mean that the goods were packed here. What you are buying may well have come from somewhere else. At other times it will say that the place of origin is mixed.

Is this labelling important? I think so because it allows the buyer to make an informed choice depending on what s/he believes. If you are concerned about food miles and climate change, maybe you would not buy blueberries from Chile or French beans from Kenya. In so doing you might have to forgo having blueberries or beans out of season, but that is the choice you can make.

Sometimes, however, the label deceives. Many products labelled from Israel are plain enough to understand and consumers can make their choice. Those labelled from the West Bank are not. They could be Palestinian or they could be goods produced by illegal Israeli settlers in that area. Why illegal, because the West Bank is an occupied territory in which settlements by the occupiers, Israel, are prohibited by international law, denounced by the UN, EU, and our own and other governments.

Why many and not all products? Because some of the illegal settlements are so well integrated with Israeli businesses that the provenance of some goods is uncertain.

There is a campaign by the World Council of Churches seeking supermarkets and other retailers to stop selling goods produced by illegal settlers. Only two supermarkets in the UK have made that choice, the Coop and M&S. At the very least, the campaign argues, retailers should label their goods accurately so that consumers can make their own judgement.

So next time you are buying herbs, fruit and vegetables; Ahava cosmetics; Soda stream drinks; Keter Plastics storage systems, to name but some, look at the label and make your choice. The bottom line is that the presence of Israeli settlements in the occupied territories of the West Bank is one of the main barriers to peace in the Middle East.

Alan Emery
Eco Congregation and Fair Trade Coordinator



NIV to be revised for first time in quarter of a century

International ministry Biblica (formerly the International Bible Society) has announced that it will launch a new edition of the New International Version (NIV) of the Bible in 2011. It will be the first revision of the popular translation in 25 years. Biblica CEO Keith Danby says the NIV has become increasingly dated as language has changed and so an update is necessary. A previous attempt in 2002, called Today's NIV (TNIV), failed to gain popularity because of criticism for its gender-inclusive language, and will cease publication when the new version is available. The translators of the latest revision will reconsider the gender question and are offering the public the chance to make their comments at www.nivbible2011.com.

If you feel gender inclusive language is important, do send in your comments. David Sharp.

Bible Society Update

Angola Back in January last year, we asked support for the Umbundu and Luchazi Bible translations in Angola. The generous response has meant both translations are progressing, with an end-date in sight.

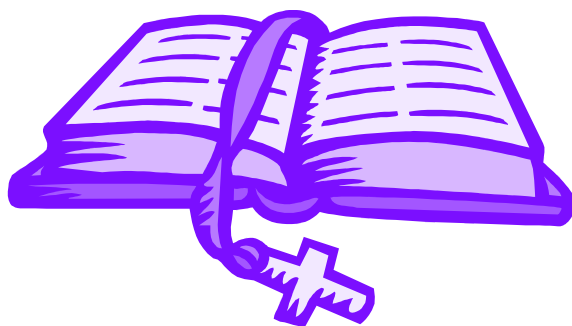
Angola's Translation Consultant, Kitoko, told us:

“The Umbundu project is going well. Three translators are working on it, and have already finalized the New Testament. They are now working to finish the draft of the Old Testament with a view to completion in 2015.”

The Luchazi translation team is making tremendous efforts to finalise the first draft of the revised New Testament. Luchazi is spoken in Angola, but also in Namibia and Zambia – so a large number of speakers will be impacted by this. If all goes well, the project should be finished by 2018.”

Please pray for this work in Angola, and the 40+ other translation projects that Bible Society is currently supporting.

David Sharp



Book Review

“The Child Madonna” by David Maidment

Melrose Books, £13.99 ISBN 978-1-906561-29-1

Have you ever wondered what the life of Mary might have been like before she became the mother of Jesus? Here is a possible answer. It is, of course, fiction, but well researched and grippingly written. Although we know how the story must end, the author maintains the suspense all the way through: how will the well-known ending be achieved? It is a hard road. Mary suffers, as many women and girls did, in the harsh setting of a conservative religious culture. And in a final chapter the author links what Mary went through to what is suffered by many women and girls today. All his royalties from this book are being divided between two charities: his own, the Railway Children, and the Consortium for Street Children. This book would make a good Christmas present and contribute to good causes.

David Sharp



MAF - News for prayer

One busy day - Last Wednesday was a busy day of flying for Steve Richards based in Nabire, Papua, "I picked up an evangelist named Alius in Hitadipa. He had suffered a severe case of cerebral malaria. I was saddened to see the extent of the brain damage that he sustained. We're praying for a miracle in his life. I also passed through Pogapa to pick up a lady and her sick child to bring to Nabire. The church ministry co-ordinator and another pastor needed to go from Pogapa to Bugalaga for meetings, so I was able to bring them over. Then when I was done, I picked up a GIDI [evangelical Church of Indonesia] pastor and a national missionary with news Tribes Mission in Daboto on the way home.

Medical Lifeline - In August we flew two diversions to Khovdiin Bulgan, an isolated place in Mongolia. There we picked up a number of people needing medical treatment in Ulaanbaatar. To travel there by car takes three days on unpaved tracks. Give thanks that we can help isolated communities in that vast country."

Prayer and Healing Ministry

Each week, this church offers a prayer ministry following morning worship. If you would like prayer for yourself or for someone else, just look for someone wearing a red badge.

The church also offers a healing ministry once a month within our worship. At these services there is an opportunity for the laying on of hands and for prayer. The people who will pray with you are members of the healing team. They work individually and in pairs. You do not have to say what you want prayer for, but if you do, this will be kept in confidence, as far as that is allowed – there may be occasions, when, with your permission, we need to share what you tell us with someone else. The healing team do not offer counselling – the time of prayer is simply to lift people to God and ask for his healing and blessing for whatever is troubling them.

It is possible to provide prayer at other times and in other places i.e. at home, in residential care or in hospital.

Members of the healing team are: -

John and Barbara Bees; Don and Shirley Coghill; Marian and Alan Emery; Mary Hale.

For further details contact Marian on 855991.

Healing Services

October 18th – 6pm – Rev. Mandy Stevens with Holy Communion.

November 15th – 10am – Rev. Mandy Stevens with Holy Communion.

December 13th – 6pm - Mr Ken Jones.

Say it slow

On a beautiful late summer's day, two American tourists were driving through Wales. They reached Llanfairpwllgwyngyllgogerychwyrndrobwylllantysiliogogoch (yes, that place in Wales) and stopped for lunch. Still gazing in fascination at the place name on the sign outside, one of the tourists approached the waitress and said: "Before we order, I wonder if you could settle an argument for us. Can you pronounce where we are, very, very, very slowly?"

"Sure," the girl shrugged. She leaned over the counter and said: "Burrurgurr King".

The sound of music

Joe's wife liked to sing. She decided to join the church choir. From time to time she would practice while she was in the kitchen preparing dinner. Soon, whenever she would start in on a song, Joe would head outside to the back garden. His wife, with hurt feelings, said, "What's the matter, Joe? Don't you like my singing?" Joe replied, "Well, put it this way, if I stay outside, the neighbours won't assume that I'm beating you."

Nailsea Methodist Church

**Website: www.nailsea.net/methodist-church
e.mail: methodist-church@nailsea.net**

**Minister – Rev. Mandy Stevens - 852473
Senior Steward - Peter Todd 851372
Pastoral Coordinator - Marian Emery 855991
Church Office: Aileen Senior / Diane Keates 854304
Monday - Friday 10.00 am - 12.00 noon**

**SUNDAY WORSHIP 10.00 am and 6.00 pm
Fun on Sundays (Junior Church) & Crèche 10.00 am**

.....
If you are new to the area or to our Church, we give you a warm welcome. Please complete the section below, and hand it to the Preacher at the door.

Name:.....

Address:.....

Tel. No.

Requests for Prayer / Visit etc.