

contact

CHICHESTER BAPTIST CHURCH

OCT/NOV 2018

Community

Over the last year I have been trying, and failing, to keep up with the kids, from the dab, to the floss, to the Dele Ali goal celebration (if you don't have a clue what I am on about then ask a young person). Crazes come and crazes go – pogs, slime, fidget spinners, top trumps, the rubik's cube, clackers and marbles (how many do you recognise?). One of the things I loved about the World Cup was hearing young people sing 'Football is coming home' again, a song that first came out during my own childhood. Whether it's songs we sing, or moves we (try to) pull off, it is a sign – a sign that we all want to be part of community, part of something bigger.

Here at Chichester Baptist Church we want to play a part in both building community and contributing to community. We want to build community by welcoming Parklands residents from every age and stage to the church, from toddler groups and youth clubs, to lunch clubs and Sunday services, from walking groups to sports events. Here at Chichester Baptist Church everyone is welcome. We also want to contribute to community – you may have seen some of our church out and about gardening on Saturday mornings, or visiting those unable to get out and about on Sunday mornings.

In the Bible, the prophet Zechariah paints the

picture of a restored community, where old men and women sit along the streets, and boys and girls are out playing (Zechariah 8:4-5). A picture of a safe, inclusive and fun neighbourhood. We want to continue to pray for and contribute to the Parklands we know and love being a community like this.

Deep inside all of us is a desire to feel part of something bigger, even bigger than our neighbourhood. Our 'Who is Jesus?' series in this magazine has helped to explore how we

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can all be part of God's family. This Contact edition also introduces our new Worship Ministry Leader, Calvin; one of our local church members, John;

and includes an article about Remembrance Sunday, something that is important to many of us. As a church we want to play our part in contributing to community life here in Parklands and we want to help you feel part of something bigger, God's family. We would love for you to come along to any of regular services or activities.



Andy Morgan

The Real Jesus

In this last of our mini-series we turn from looking at who Jesus really was to our beliefs about ourselves ...



*I'm not religious. Jesus is not for me. I don't believe in God.
I would not fit in at church. It's just not for me.
Can you relate to any or all of the above?*

In three mini articles over recent months we have sought to challenge our beliefs and assumptions about Jesus. We've argued that the truth matters. We have argued that Jesus really lived, really died, and really rose again, and that unless we accept the unlikely premise that he was either mad or bad, that he must have been God.

But what of our beliefs about ourselves? At CBC we know that the traditional church model (standing-sit-repeat) isn't everyone's cup of tea. That's why we're continuing to develop new models and variations for what Church looks like: mountain biking, needlecraft,

a walking group, a visit in your own home, multi-activity sports mornings and others. These are different ways to enjoy mixing with people, doing something together that the group enjoys and exploring some questions of faith and life. Different groups meet each Sunday morning and it turns out that most Christians are a lot like normal people once you take them outside a church!

People rarely regret the things they do – we regret the things we put off, the things we never get around to, the opportunities we miss, the things we leave un-said and the invitations we fail to respond to...

Jesus said, "Whoever believes

in me..." and John's introduction to his gospel says, "To all who receive Jesus, he gave the right to become children of God." There is a big, wide, open invitation to everyone, which means me and you, to encounter Jesus and to be transformed for the better.

So, what solid evidence do you have that it's not for you? If, like me, the evidence looks thin, why not come along and meet some normal people at one of our outside church alternative gatherings or on an



Alpha course? Find out more at www.chichesterbaptist.org.uk and follow the links to Alternative Gatherings or Alpha.

James Wilson

Beauty from Ugliness

Traditionally held on the second Sunday in November, the Sunday nearest to 11th November, it marks the anniversary of the end of the First World War.

This year, the 11th November actually falls on a Sunday. Not only that, it will be the 100th anniversary of the end of that war. At 11 am on 11th November, "We will remember them."

Other than the social media #ThankYou100 tag, I don't know what special plans are being made by The Royal British Legion and others, but the poppy will be prominent.

The poppy is an interesting flower. Its seeds sit patiently on the soil waiting for someone or something to churn things up one way or another. They love soil that has been turned over. The countless shells that tore up the land and claimed so many lives violently turned over the mud of the trenches, enabling the poppies to cover the scarred land.

We don't often welcome churn in our lives. We would rather have peace than pain. It would be strange if we didn't. But it is comforting to think that out of that churn something beautiful may grow. That is the reality behind the grim and gruesome crucifixion of Jesus. Out of the most horrible of circumstances, something beautiful came – the offer of eternal life to all who believe in him.

Join us for our
**Remembrance Sunday Service,
11th November, 10am.**

Introducing...

This month we welcome a new member of staff as Calvin Hollingworth joins us to become our Worship Ministry Leader. We caught up with him to check out what we were letting ourselves in for!

Calvin, tell us a bit about yourself ...

I'm married to Cecily, and we have two children: Alfred (aka Freddie), who's seven, and Laurie, who's five. I'm Birmingham born and bred, but I'm looking forward to coming down to the soft south!

I guess you must like music a little?

Absolutely. I've been very privileged to enjoy music all my life. It has been my hobby and my job as long as I can remember, and has connected with my faith and shaped my career.

What does a Worship Ministry Leader do? Will you spend all your day singing?

I hope not! I'll be joining a big church, and at its heart my role is to help, encourage, and oversee a large and lovely team of musicians and worship leaders. Music plays an important part when people gather together for church, and my job is to help us make the most of that.

What is worship about?

That's a big question but in the context of the Christian faith worship is about wonder and thanksgiving to an amazing God and recognising our place before Him. This can be done in many ways but music and singing together is one of the most powerful and unifying ways of achieving this.

What do you like listening to?

I have quite eclectic tastes, but essentially it's contemporary music. I like well-written songs which bear repeated listening, songs that have content that you can come back to again and again. Some artists and bands I really like include Peter Gabriel, The Killers, Sting, Coldplay, John Mayer and many more.

Will our church services sound like your favourite bands?

Here's hoping! No, seriously, one of my roles is to support the church in finding musical expressions that people can relate to. CBC is a big, broad church, so music must embrace styles that the church and wider community can connect to.

Why Chichester?

Cecily and I believe in prayer, that God speaks to us and guides us, and that's always been a real thing for our major decisions. We felt very strongly that one chapter of our lives was closing and a new one opening. We know and love this area, and on a journey down one day after a lengthy discussion about our future

we joked, "Maybe there's something down here!" On that very day we saw an advert for the role in a magazine, and it all unfolded from there.

You'll be working part-time for the church. What will you be doing when you are not leading the worship ministry?

When I'm not sharing the responsibility for our two boys, I'll be doing a range of freelance work, including playing with my band Treasure Field, doing recording sessions, playing with other bands and worship leaders at their events.

And when you're not working?

Being in a nice pub with friends, getting friends round to eat with lots of laughter, board games, going to the cinema, being out in the open – these are the kinds of things I like to do to relax. We're both looking forward to the South Downs, and have provisionally set ourselves the target of walking its length in manageable sections in 2 years!

Can we expect to hear the sound of music down our street?

If you live in Bosham, maybe! We had to make a decision quite quickly and checked out a number of houses and schools in and around Chichester in a couple of days visiting. For a variety of reasons (but principally managing to successfully get school places for our boys) Bosham really fits for us, and it just felt right.



ONE thing



If there's one thing I've learnt, it's that God cares for us.

Eight years ago my wife, Angela, was diagnosed with lung cancer. I had only recently come through prostate cancer treatment, and we were dumbstruck. What followed was a two-year period of caring for my lovely wife while God cared for us.



I often felt helpless while Angela was ill. She would lie in bed and there was nothing I could do except administer her morphine. But all through the lengthy period of her chemotherapy and medication I never heard her complain. In fact, her words were usually, "My Lord has it all in control."

God cared for us through the support of the church, who provided a hot meal every day while she was sick, and particularly through the support of "Angela's Angels", four friends who were always there for her.

God cared for us through one of the members of the hospice team, a lovely Christian lady who would sit with Angela and read the Bible to her.

And God has cared for me since Angela has passed away. To see how Angela carried herself during her illness has been an inspiration to me and has boosted my faith. I have been more willing to speak about my faith.

People forget that we're only in transit! There's more to this life than our few years on earth, but I know that without the constant love, care and support of others I would have found things even harder to handle during my time here.

John Sandes

sunday services

10am Morning service with children's and youth groups and crèche.

Please join us for tea or coffee and a chat after this service.

6.30pm Evening service

Communion: 1st Sunday of the month during the 6.30pm service and the 3rd Sunday of the month during the 10am service.

The Bible – a lifesaver

The Bible is a powerful book, and if we take its words to heart we will reap the benefits in this life and in the life to come. But for one young man it was an actual, physical lifesaver.

Private Frank Viner was a British soldier who fought at the Somme in WW1. His father had given him a Bible for his 21st birthday. He kept his Bible in



the right-hand breast pocket of his jacket. Three months later he found himself in the trenches, and for some reason he moved the Bible into his left-hand pocket. A shell hit his trench, and he would have died with those around him, were it not for his Bible. A huge piece of shrapnel was embedded in it ripping it open from cover-to-cover.

The Bible is a lifesaver, in more ways than you might think!



Join us for our
**Remembrance Sunday
Service, 11th November,
10am.**

QUIZ EVENING WITH FISH AND CHIP SUPPER

6pm,
Saturday
27th October,
St Wilfrid's
Church

Contact the CBC Office (details below)
for tickets (£10, supper included).

Organised by the Bible
Society Action Group.



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