

'In Touch'

**The magazine of
Forest Gate Baptist Church, Blackpool.**



Summer 2017

Tuesday Luncheon Club

Our T.L.C. is held every 3rd Tuesday in the month where we share fellowship with between 20 and 28 folk from various communities. We meet at 11:30 and finish around 14:00. Everyone shares in a quiz, a cuppa and a good natter before having a simple lunch of soup, sweet and tea/coffee for which we request a donation of £2.

We have been entertained by various speakers from very different walks of life and have been able to support charities such as MAF, the Faith Mission, Aid for the Starving and Christian Aid when people have been very generous in their giving. Any remaining donations are given to the church and used for future fellowship and evangelism.

For the past 2 years we have held a Holiday at Home that has proved to be very successful, opening the church for two full days where we hold various activities, demonstrations, music and, of course, food! On day 3 we have a meal and a trip out to the Lakes and we plan to do the same again this year.

Steve always encouraged our evangelism and we know that he would be pleased at all the support given knowing that we do it all in the Lord's name and for His glory.

***How good and pleasant it is when God's
People live together in unity! Psalm 33:1***

From “Talking with Hedgehogs”

By Eddie Askew

John 1:9

The true light that gives light to every man was coming into the world.

They were two rather ordinary vases of flowers. They sat at opposite ends of the table in church. They showed no flower-arranging skills – they were just simple bunches of single mauve chrysanthemums standing there modestly and quietly.

Then the clouds outside parted and the sun shone in through a window high in the church wall. It picked out just one vase. The dull mauve flowers were transformed, suddenly blazing with colour, the edges of the petals bright with light. They looked glorious, standing out from the shadowed wall behind. The other flowers at the far end of the table were still half hidden in the gloom.

It’s amazing what a little sudden sunlight can do. I sat and thanked God for light and the unexpected beauty it can bring. My eyes kept moving from one bunch of flowers to the other, “Which was I?” I wondered. The dull, almost colourless flowers in the shade or was my life etched in light? A touch of light can bring new colour, new life, even new meaning to things.

So often in the Gospels Jesus talks about truth as light. about bringing light into dark places. And Jesus himself is described as “the true light that gives light to everyone.” Let him light up your life today.

**And another thing – plants can't live without light.
Can we?**

*Lord of all beauty, shine your light on me today,
That I may brighten up the lives of those I meet.*

Fresh Air

**The finest tonic in the world,
The cheapest and the best,
Put the pills and drugs aside
And put this to the test.
Take a walk and fill your lungs
With air that's fresh and clean.
Even in a city you can find a patch of green.**

**When you feel run down
And out of tune with everyone,
Get out in the open
In the rain or in the sun.
Breathe the air that blows from heaven
Deeply, thankfully.
It is Nature's medicine
It's wonderful and it's free.**

**From Thoughts for Every Day
Patience Strong**

The SATNAV

I have a little Satnav, it sits there in my car
A Satnav is a driver's friend, it tells you where you are.
I have a little Satnav, I've had it all my life
It does more than the normal ones,
My Satnav is my wife.

It gives me full instructions, on exactly how to drive
"It's thirty miles an hour" it says,
And you're doing thirty five"
It tells me when to stop and start,
And when to use the brake
And tells me that it's never ever, safe to overtake.
It tells me when a light is red,
And when it goes to green.
It seems to know instinctively just when to intervene.

It lists the vehicles just in front, it lists those to the rear
And taking this into account, it specifies my gear.
I'm sure no other driver has so helpful advice
For when we leave and lock the car,
It still gives me advice.
It fills me up with counselling,
Each journey's pretty fraught.
So why don't I exchange it and get a quieter sort?

Ah well, you see, it cleans the house,
Makes sure that I'm fed,
It washes all my shirts and things,
And keeps me warm in bed!

A.B.C. (Adults, Babies and Children) **Toddler Group**

The A.B.C. Toddler Group is thriving at the moment. We have lots of children attending Mondays and Fridays, Not all are the same ones coming to both. They bring with them Mums, Dads, Grandparents, or child minders.

A lot of the parents and children are making friendships during their time here and the parents are very kind, helping us to clear away after the morning sessions.

The children play on bikes, cars and push prams. We have a home corner where they play in the pretend kitchen making imaginary meals. We have a cot for their dolls and prams for them to play with. For babies there are babywalkers, a ball pool and lots of baby toys.

For the quieter moments there are jigsaws, books and Lego. The children then have a drink and toast and the adults have tea/coffee and toast.

After the tea break Liz usually has a craft session when they either play with playdough, do paintings, crayoning, and on special occasions such as we have had during the last six months, Valentine's Day, Mother's Day, Easter and Father's Day, they usually make a card and a gift.

After that session, it is singing time in the quiet corner when each child can take it in turn to choose a favourite nursery rhyme or song for everyone to sing together. Only last week we were asked for Jingle Bells! Which of course we sang. Then it is prayer time and home.

We close on Monday 17th July for the holidays with a party and we present the children who start school in September with a Children's Bible. We will be open again on Monday 11th September.

If you know of any parents with children from birth to school age who you think would be interested in coming they can ring Janet on 01253 300141 for more details.

We have found that a lot of new mums have found it useful talking to other new mums for advice and enjoy the company.

**Liz, Olive, Janet, Lindsay,
Maggie, Gemma & Margaret.**

BLACKPOOL SCHOOLS AND YOUTH

Are holding a Beach Mission from 30th July to 1st August 2017.

They are also holding a FUN DAY at Forest Gate Baptist Church on Saturday 28th October 2017

More details to follow.

Holiday at Home

Monday & Tuesday
14th/15th August 2017

Come and join with us!
EVERYONE WELCOME
Forest Gate Baptist Church

JOIN US FOR 2 FULL DAYS
OF: Activities, Crafts, Guest
Singers, Pampering, Games,
Quizzes and Refreshments

FUN, FOOD & FELLOWSHIP

Coach Outing on Wednesday 16th

Five Finger Prayers

Prayer is a conversation with God, not a formula. Yet sometimes we might need to use a method to freshen up our prayer time. We can pray the Psalms or other Scriptures (such as The Lord's Prayer) or use the ACTS method (Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving and Supplication). I recently came across this "Five-Finger Prayer" to use as a guide when praying for others:

When you fold your hands the thumb is nearest you. So begin by praying for those closest to you – your loved ones. (Phil. 1:3-5)

The index finger is the pointer. Pray for those who teach – Bible teachers and preachers, and those who teach children (1 Thess. 5:25)

The index finger is the tallest. It reminds you to pray for those in authority over you – national and local, and your supervisor at work (1 Tim. 2:1-2)

The fourth finger is usually the weakest. Pray for those who are in trouble or who are suffering (James 5:13-16)

Then comes your little finger. It reminds you of your smallness in relation to God's greatness. Ask Him to supply your needs. (Phil.4:6, 19)

Whatever method you use, just talk with your Father. He wants to hear what's in your heart.

Anne Cetas

Love Russia Charity

We support the Love Russia Charity and this is the story of one of the people Love Russia has helped.

Meet Vadim

As a young child, Vadim was abandoned by his parents and left in an orphanage. We don't know why, he may not know either. He was later adopted. Sadly, the people who offered him the chance of a new family decided they also didn't want him. Abandoned for a second time, he was returned to an orphanage in Ryazan. These experiences will have damaged him leaving him with complex psychological and emotional baggage and instilling feelings of "I am not important and I am not of value."

At age 18 there was no longer provision for his care at either an orphanage or college institution and like so many orphanage leavers, he headed for the "glamour" of Moscow. With nowhere to live, the little money he had soon vanished and he was homeless. Still in touch with friends from back in Ryazan, he heard through one of them about someone who could help. A Love Russia Mentor called Slava. Vadim gave him a call.

They arranged to meet and Slava was shocked at the boy who stood before him. Describing him as `wild` he literally had nothing other than a phone with no credit and the clothes in which he stood.

Within 2 months, Vadim had a place to sleep and was receiving a small wage through helping out at the Joy

Club under the supervision of another adult called Gera. He was taken for a haircut, taken shopping for a new set of clothes and introduced to showers! Slava took a 6 hour drive to make contact with Vadim's old orphanage to try and sort out his identity documents. Without them, he didn't exist. Because Slava reached out to the orphanage they discovered that a flat, although remote, was available and Vadim could use it!

The flat is in a terrible state and a long way from anywhere familiar, but he is grateful and keen to make it home once it is liveable.

Until then, Vadim has the safety and security of a Transition Home. Under the supervision of Slava, Gera and Karen who is helping him repair his flat, Vadim is making amazing progress.

It was humbling getting to know Vadim on our recent visit, seeing his confidence increase by the day. From an abandoned orphan boy living on the streets of Moscow, he now has 3 or more role models in his life. He looks up to them and because of this, he has aspirations about his future.

**This story was taken from
"Love Russia News"**

If you would like to know more of the work of the charity "Love Russia" you can look at their website www.loverussia.org or have a chat with Edna Rawding who will tell you how they need your help.

EMERGENCY

BIBLE NUMBERS

- UPSET - JOHN 14**
- WEAK - PSALM 18: 1-29**
- LONELY - PSALM 23**
- SINNED - PSALM 51**
- WORRIED - MATTHEW 8:19-31**
- ANXIOUS - PHILIPPIANS 4:4-9**
- IN DANGER - PSALM 91**
- DEPRESSED - PSALM 27**
- LACK OF FAITH - EXODUS 14**
- NEED COURAGE - JOSHUA 1**
- SEEKING PEACE - MATTHEW 11:25-30**
- STRUGGLING WITH LOSS - LUKE 15**
- STRUGGLING FINANCIALLY - PSALM 37**

B.M.S. World Mission

BMS World Mission works in fragile states and unevangelised communities, serving some of our world's most marginalized people. We have a vision to transform one million lives in God's strength by 2020. The following is a letter from a Pastor working in Albania.

My name is Endri Tabaku and I am the pastor of Light of the World Church in Tirana, Albania. I am married and have 3 wonderful children. I have been leading the church here since 2010, and for me it has been a real privilege to be part of this wonderful group of people. The church here is located in a poor area and most people are Muslim or Catholic.

The area is very big and we are the only church for this community. The church was founded in 2001 and in 2005 Graham McBain, a missionary from BMS World Mission took the leadership of the church. Since then we have had a good relationship with BMS. When Graham was here we used to have a lot of teams from BMS, and last year we had an Action Team of four girls who really helped our church in many things, but especially with children's work and with English courses.

BMS has been the main support for my wife and I as a leading couple here and have helped us with the rent of the building for the church. We don't have our own building and it has been difficult to provide enough income to pay the rent. People here are mostly very poor and don't have jobs. Many people don't have their own houses so it has been difficult for the church to cover our costs. BMS has helped us for the last five years by paying 35% of our rent.

We really appreciate all BMS support for the church, which has been very timely but also very practical. What

has been even more important has been the teams that BMS has brought to our church during the year working with us and also the connection with some churches in the U.K.

BMS has supported me since 2010, and we are now almost at the end of our contract. Their support has been a really big help because it has made my work here easier. We hope we still have teams and churches who want to work with us for the glory of Jesus in Albania in the future. I want to thank again all the people who have supported us through BMS with prayer and money. You should be very proud and pleased because the church here is growing in number and in faith.

Of course the glory is all to Jesus, but BMS has worked with us and has its part in Light of the World Church.

Thank you and God bless you,

Endri.

Endri Tabaku is a BMS supported church leader in Tirana, Albania. This is taken from the “Engage” BMS World Mission magazine.

Why Worry?

Cares like storm-clouds pass away,
If you wait and trust and pray,
God will send another day,
Why worry?
Patience Strong.

HOLIDAY MEMORIES

A morning swim, a warm blue sea. A stroll along the cobbled quay. A drive by cornfields brown and gold. A cottage tearoom snug and old. A hazy, lazy afternoon. The Pier the band, a catchy tune. A crimson sail against the sky and clouds of white wings whirling by ... The little cake shop on the square. The smell of seaweed in the air. The sound of waves, the taste of spray. A full moon lighting up the bay. A conversation at a dance. A lovely friendship made by chance. The happy memories remain. And you can live it all again.

MY HOLIDAY

Free to spend the precious days exactly as I choose. Lying on the golden sand or gazing at the views. Roaming round the little town or sailing in the bay. Free to do just as I please each moment of the day... No trains or buses to be caught, no strict routine to keep – from the minute I awake until I fall asleep. Free to live my life, to read, to dream, to swim, or walk. To steal away in solitude or find a friend and talk ...That's my mood so please don't make a single plan for me. Let me taste the sheer delight of feeling really free. Next week I'll be back at work and have no time to play – but till then I'll make the most of this my holiday!

Both poems by Patience Strong

Whatever you plan to do over the summer
Enjoy it.

ROOTED

**A FREE YOUTH EVENT IN
BLACKPOOL**

FEATURING:

**MUSIC, WORSHIP, GAMES
DISCUSSION, A CAFÉ,
FUN ACTIVITIES.**

WITH SPECIAL GUESTS

WHERE?

**BISPHAM ALL HALLOWS
IN THE BARN**

ON

Friday 21st July 19:30 – 21:30

SNACKS

CRAFTS