

River of Life

LifeNews

Issue number 11 2015







River of Life CHURCH

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LifeNews

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River of Life Church meets at **10.30am every Sunday** at the Christian Life Centre, Carr Road, Felixstowe – everyone is welcome to come along and join the meeting for worship and fellowship together.

Some of our regular activities:

Come to the River - usually on the second and fourth **Sunday** evenings each month at 7pm at the Christian Life Centre.

Word of Life Bible School - modules are usually run two or three times a year at the Christian Life Centre.

Prayer Meetings:

Sunday mornings: an opportunity to pray together at 10am before the start of the meeting at Church.

Friday mornings: 7am to 8am at the River of Life Coffee Shop.

The Church also has a number of **Life Groups** meeting weekly for fellowship, fun, Bible study, discussions and other activities in each other's homes, with all groups getting together once a month for a special evening. Please contact the Church Office or see the noticeboard at the back of the Auditorium for more information.

Younger Church, Creche, Toddler Group, Stargazers Youth Club, and other meetings and events take place regularly. Please see our website for further details: www.riveroflifechurch.net

Do you know Jesus?

As you are reading this copy of **LifeNews**, if you do not know Jesus as your Saviour and Lord, simply pray the following prayer in faith and Jesus will be your Lord!

“Heavenly Father, I come to you in the name of Jesus. Your Word says, ‘Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved’ (Acts 2:21) and ‘If you confess with your mouth Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead you will be saved’ (Romans 10:9). You said my salvation would be the result of your Holy Spirit giving me new birth by coming to live in me as I repent and turn from the past. I take you at your word and I confess Jesus is Lord and I believe in my heart that you raised Him from the dead. Forgive me my sins and come into my heart by your Holy Spirit. Amen.”

If you have prayed this prayer, please contact one of the Pastors or the Church Office and let us know of your decision. We would love to give you a Bible and literature to help you as you start upon your Christian walk.



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River of Life CHURCH

Statement of Doctrine

1. The Unity of the Godhead and the divine co-equality of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit; the Sovereignty of God in creation, providence and redemption.
2. The true and proper Deity of our Lord Jesus Christ; His Virgin Birth: His real and perfect manhood; the authority of His teaching and the infallibility of all His utterances; His work of atonement for sinners of mankind by His vicarious sufferings, His death, His bodily resurrection and His ascension into Heaven; His present priestly intercession for His people.
3. The full inspiration of the Holy Scriptures; their authority and sufficiency as not only containing but being in themselves the Word of God; the reliability of the New Testament in its testimony to the character and authorship of the Old Testament; and the need of the teaching of the Holy Spirit to a true and spiritual understanding of the whole.
4. The reality of original sin in consequence of the fall and the necessity of regeneration.
5. The justification of the sinner solely by faith through the atoning merits of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.
6. The necessity of the work of the Holy Spirit in conversion and sanctification; also in ministry in worship and in the exercising of spiritual gifts through the body of believers.

Embrace the Lord and

Our instinct is often to live “safe”, comfortable lives - but Jesus wants to stretch and challenge each one of us into new things, new areas of our spiritual walk with Him. River of Life Pastors Terry and Juanita Baker explain how the Lord’s life-giving water can impact our lives.

The front cover on **LifeNews** this year depicts water. It is a scene of peace, beauty and tranquillity, with tree roots obviously going down deep and thriving on life giving fresh water, so that the trees send out branches laden with life and new growth. It is a scene showing a ladder, made out of an old tree in the water, where one can imagine young people climbing, jumping from and splashing enthusiastically into the water below. The green on the trees is reflected on and in the water and a shadow can be seen darting forward into the life-giving water of the lake.

Water is a basic and vital necessity for our everyday life. It is the right of every human being to be able to have fresh water and enough food to eat. Sadly we know this is not the case throughout the world. Year after year we see on our televisions the plight and devastation of people throughout the world who lack these basic necessities of life, as a result of famine or war. As a fellowship, we endeavour to help financially in whatever way we can in these areas. We support Christian ministries that help in war torn areas and in areas affected by famine. Annually we help provide water filters via Samaritan’s Purse and we have also helped finance wells for



“Have we got debris in our hearts that needs to be dealt with and fished out? This must make us think: Have I totally surrendered every area of my life to the Lord?”

Above: Pastors Terry and Juanita Baker. Below: Younger Church on Mother’s Day.



step out boldly for Him

water to be dug in various countries. Look on the Ministries noticeboard at the back of the main auditorium to see how we help various ministries.

In our own fellowship, we have the blessing of the Emergency Store, which helps a number of people in our own Church plus many others outside in the community. However, even if people are in need of food, we all have water flowing through our taps and into our toilet cisterns whenever we need it. We are a blessed people.

H₂O - Water.

Let's look for a few moments at what the Word of God says about water.

Proverbs 27:19 tells us: "As water reflects a face, so a man's heart reflects the man." So we need to ask ourselves, as we look at the beautiful scene on the front cover of this magazine: "What is my heart truly like?"

At the bottom of every lake there is debris from the leaves of the trees which is rotting and decaying. Sometimes, however tranquil a lake is on the surface, there are things which need to be fished out, such as bottles or cans, which have been carelessly thrown into the lake. Have we got debris in our hearts that needs to be dealt with and fished out? This must make us think "Have I totally surrendered every area of my

Leadership Team Away Day

life to the Lord? Are there things I need to deal with? Do I have unforgiveness, pain or rejection in my heart?" Jesus, by the Power of His Holy Spirit and His Word, wants to help us deal with issues such as these.

In the Gospel of John, chapter 4 and verse 7, Jesus is talking with a Samaritan woman at Jacob's well. It was very unusual at that time for a Jew to converse with a Samaritan woman (Samaritans were of a mixed race). Jesus ignored convention of the day and had quite a conversation with this woman, asking her for a drink of water as He was thirsty. She queried why Jesus would even talk to her and, in verse 10, Jesus says that, if she really understood who He was, she would have ASKED HIM for the life-giving water that only He could give. In verse 13 he tells her that, if she receives life-giving water from Him, she would never spiritually thirst again and indeed it would become a spring of water welling up within her. We commend you to read the Gospel of John chapter 4 and see for yourselves what Jesus says. Not only does the Samaritan woman believe and receive Jesus' words into her heart, but she tells others and they too believe. Jesus then proceeds in verse 43 to move on and minister in Galilee.

The Bible talks a lot about water. In Psalm 1:3 we learn that, if we read, think and meditate on the Word of God, we will become like trees planted beside streams of water and of course Psalm 23:1-2 is well known by people: "The Lord is



my shepherd, I shall not be in want. He makes me lie down in green pastures, He leads me beside quiet water, He restores my soul." What is my soul? My mind, will and emotions. We learn from these two scriptures that the Word of God will nourish us, refresh us, revive us, calm our minds and restore us. It truly is life-giving water.

In Ephesians 5:25b, the Apostle Paul says, "... Christ loved the Church and gave Himself up for her to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the Word and to present her to himself as a radiant Church without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless." The Church is not the building which people worship in, it is the people themselves. We are the Church – the Body of Christ, of which He is the Head. Jesus came to give us new life in and through Him.

Some people struggle to understand the Trinity. A simple way of understanding Father, Son and Holy Spirit is to look at H₂O. Steam, ice and snow – all three come from water and are basically the same, but appear differently. It is the same with the Trinity. Father, Son and Holy Spirit – one God – but all appear differently.

Jesus came to earth to die on a cross for all mankind – for all who will receive Him into their hearts. Jesus paid the price of sin and death for each one of us. Jesus rose from the dead three days after his crucifixion and walked this earth for forty days, appearing to multitudes.

Jesus then ascended into heaven, telling His disciples to stay in Jerusalem and await the promised Holy Spirit. Then, in the book of Acts, the Church was birthed with the coming of the Holy Spirit which we know as Pentecost. When we ask the Lord Jesus to come into our hearts and receive His Holy Spirit, we are empowered, helped and guided, enabling us to be the people the Lord wants us to be and to do the things He wants us to do.

In our photo on the front of this magazine, we can imagine children climbing and jumping enthusiastically from the old tree ladder into the fresh lake below. This is a picture of us. When we receive the Lord Jesus and His Holy Spirit in our hearts, we enthusiastically jump into everything the Lord has for us. We hunger for the presence of the Lord. We enjoy the Word and we get washed by the Word of God, we revel in the love of the Lord. We desire to show the Lord that we enthusiastically worship and praise Him and appreciate all He has done in our lives and will do.

1 John 3:1: "How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!"

The trees in the photo show new growth, which is a lighter green. The Lord wants each person reading this article to have new growth in and through Him. To drink deeply of His



Juanita Baker's Birthday

Word and His Spirit, to be revived, re-energised and to allow His new life to flow in us and through us.

The shadow creeping over the water from the bank in our photo represents those of us who are filled with trepidation and dare not climb the ladder and just jump into everything the Lord has for us. We want to be safe – but the Lord wants to stretch and challenge each one of us into new things, new areas of our spiritual walk with Him.

Can we commend you to embrace and jump into everything the Lord has for you?

Don't just live "safe", knowing you are a Christian, but embrace the Lord and step out boldly for Him. The Lord wants to use each one of us, He wants to bless us, to give us hope and to give us a good future. Isaiah 43:18-19: "Forget the former things, do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up, do you not perceive it?"

We want to sincerely thank all who serve in any way at River of Life. You are a blessing. May you know the touch of the Lord upon your lives.

Shalom

Terry and Juanita

Free healing offered in town

Team is taking the Gospel onto the streets

David Cope reports on the ministry of SHOT - the River of Life Street Healing and Outreach Team.



The Street Healing and Outreach Team (SHOT) was formed by a group from the Church who were keen to take the good news of the Gospel onto the streets of Felixstowe, a Gospel which as Paul said is “not simply with words, but also with power, with the Holy Spirit and with deep conviction” (1 Thessalonians 1: 5).

Jesus also commanded his disciples “when you enter a town ... heal the sick who are there and tell them ‘The kingdom of God is near you’” (Luke 10: 9). In view of these commands and the way in which Jesus reached out to people, we offer healing as a way of drawing the people to us and as a demonstration of God’s love for them. Ultimately we want to communicate and demonstrate the Gospel.

We set up a banner which displays “Free Healing”. Two or three of the group stay at the banner to talk and pray with people and the rest of the group go in pairs to hand out tracts and talk/pray with people in other areas. The tracts give details of our base so those who aren’t ready to talk or be prayed with straight away can have a think about it and hopefully return later. A more detailed leaflet is given to those who we pray with, explaining why we pray and giving the Gospel.

We base ourselves at the crossroads of Orwell Road and Hamilton Road in Felixstowe, at the side of TSB Bank. This

location has a wide pave-

ment and two benches where we can sit to talk and pray with people. At the moment we go out once a month, for two hours on a Saturday morning.

We have seen some great things happen as we pray and minister to people. Every time we meet, we see people healed and we have had many conversations with people about the Gospel and God’s love for them.

We recently had a local man who asked for prayer as he was due to have surgery for an artery problem and was in constant pain and could only walk with the aid of a stick. As he was prayed for, he felt the power of the Holy Spirit. He got up and was able to walk, pain free. We then shared the Gospel with him and he gave his life to Jesus!

There are so many other testimonies that we could share. If you would like to come along and see what we do and maybe join the team, you would be very welcome. The team coordinator is Rachel Cornwell.



Street Healing and Outreach Team



More believers are Baptised and give their lives to Jesus



Top left: Ian McKenna. Bottom left: Dee Le Roux; right: Cassandra Griffiths.

Coffee and cakes raises £100 for vital charity work

On 11 May, 2014, Emma from Release International was invited to River of Life Church to talk about her work. This was in response to our Life Group praying for a lady in Afghanistan who was expecting twins and subsequently crocheting a blanket which was sent to her. We eventually received a photo of the twins wrapped in the blanket.

Following this event, our Life Group decided to hold a Coffee Morning on 17 May to raise funds for Release International.



Margaret Alexander very kindly offered to hold it in her beautiful garden. The morning was a complete success, the weather was fine and we collected over a £100. With effect from 12 August, 2014, Margaret Alexander became the River of Life Church Representative for Release International.



Above: Coffee Morning in aid of Release International.

Left: Margaret Alexander. Right: One of the twins in the Life Group blanket.



Looking forward to working with the Christian Union

By Byron Melton



As I write this, it is the first day of October – not only does this make me realise how quickly this year has flown by, but this also means that I have now been at Portsmouth University for the best part of three weeks. Thus, I am writing this short update.

I love it here! By the grace of God, I can safely say that I am wholly enjoying my journalism course, and I am already making some very good friends. Thankfully, my housemates are all as lovely as I'd hoped, and we all get on extremely well.

I have recently begun learning shorthand, which I am finding an exciting challenge. As I'm sure Richard Cornwell would tell you, there are innumerable 'short forms', and sound rules which come intertwined within shorthand, and it is just like learning a new language – only it's one which you are expected to use at a rate of 100 words per minute!

I have joined the Christian Union Society at Portsmouth, and they are soon to hold social events, prayer meetings, and general worship sessions. Whilst I have not yet found a Church, the CU take pride in their links with local Churches, and I trust God, and the Union to tip me in the direction of a Church which will be right for me.

I certainly hope to come back to River of Life during my breaks from University. This Church is where many in my family and I found God and it holds an undeniably special place in my heart.

UNIVERSITY LIFE

By Aneetta John

How wonderful it is to tell you what God has done for me in year one of my university life. For the first year I was staying in halls of residence with other fellow university and college students. It was a great opportunity for me to spend time sharing the Gospel with them. Through the trials and tribulations that came my way, I am so glad I was in a place where God could mould me into a stronger person and into the woman He wants me to be.

'I know God is moulding me into a stronger person and the woman He wants me to be'

Academically there were times when I struggled, but I can guarantee you that God never leaves or forsakes any of His children who diligently look to him. As Jeremiah 29:11 says: "For I know the plans I have for you, plans to prosper you and not to harm you." There were many occasions when I had to keep seeking His face, regardless of what I was seeing around me but, with prayers, I had many situations answered from God. All I can say is, "Thank you Jesus for taking me into a place where I could plant a seed in people's lives." It gives me great joy to know I am in God's master plan for spreading the Gospel.



Please continue to keep me in your prayers. God bless you!

As Aneetta, pictured, is at University at Southend, she has been coming home to Felixstowe on Sundays and continues to sing in the Worship Band, which is such a blessing to us.



Concert gives charities a £900 boost

By Gillian Roberts-Williams

On the evening of Friday, 16 May, a concert was held at the River of Life Christian Life Centre in aid of the John Le Vay Cancer Information Centre at Ipswich Hospital and the “Moving on with HOPE” Course, which supports patients who have completed treatment for cancer and for their carers.

The Community Light Orchestra was conducted by Barry Salmon, their musical director. A varied selection of English Music through the ages was played, ranging from medieval music to the popular ballads of the 20th Century and completing the evening with music from The Beatles. The compere for the evening was Catherine Salmon. This concert proved to be a delightful way in which to relax and spend a warm summer’s evening.

Louise Smith, manager of the John Le Vay Information Centre and a Cancer Nurse Specialist, welcomed the

audience to the evening of entertainment. She spoke about the invaluable work achieved by the professionals to heighten the awareness of cancer and the work done by professionals and volunteers to help patients and carers at the Information Centre within Ipswich Hospital.

The concert was free, but a retiring collection was taken in aid of the John Le Vay Cancer Information Centre and the “Moving on with Hope” Course. This raised the marvellous sum of £900. This was a successful event for all who participated.

In their Summer Quarter report in June, the Cancer Services User Group said: “We were very grateful to the River of Life Church for allowing us to use their lovely Church and for all the help and planning they gave us to organise and run the Concert.”

Power of prayer left me praising God for healing my pain

By Julie Lummis

I had a tooth extracted following weeks of pain on and off through infection. Both myself and the dentist thought I was clear of the infection at the time of the extraction, but this proved not to be the case. I had a prescription for antibiotics, which I took, but they did not kill the infection.

By the time I got to Church I was exhausted from pain and lack of sleep, crying and desperate. I knew I would be going up for prayer after the service, but Juanita came up to me before the service started and prayed over the infection and pain, commanding it to leave.

The worship started and I was determined not to be

prevented from praising, so stood up and sang. A while later, during the worship, I had a bad taste in my mouth and asked Pete for a mint. By the time I sat down, I realised the pressure had lessened and, by the time we went for coffee after the service, I was practically pain free.

Praise God for his goodness.





Family fun at the farm

By David Cope

In August, the Church enjoyed a Family Fun Day at White Cottage Farm near Stowmarket.

The day was organised to allow the Church to have a time of fellowship, fun and relaxation. White Cottage Farm was suggested as the owners, Philip and Christine, have hosted Christian groups for similar events in the past.

On the day of the visit, we had a beautiful warm and sunny day. We left for the farm after the morning service, arriving in time for a picnic lunch in the large garden of the farm.

In the afternoon, the children (and a few adults!) played ball games, swung on a rope swing and bounced on the trampoline. Later in the afternoon we went for a riverside walk within the farm grounds and had rides in a trailer on the farmer's tractor!

At the end of the afternoon, we had a barbeque and finished off the day with a time of worship and fellowship in one of the barns.

We had a really good day, thanks to everyone who helped out and we are very grateful to our hosts Philip and Christine for their kindness to us.

Photos: Fun at the farm



Exciting year of events



Above: Walk from Pin Mill to Clamp House. Left: Marriage Blessing of Matthew and Polly Cornwell, and, below, Marriage Blessing of David and Beth Roberts. Bottom: Dedication of David Osei-Owusu. Opposite page - Top: Younger Church on Easter Sunday and (inset) the Real Easter Egg. Below: Dedication of Lucy Fellingham, and, beneath, Father's Day - honouring our men. Bottom: Quiz and Pudding Evening and (inset) quizmaster Mike Trower.



Exciting year of events



Duggie Dug Dug's



Inspiring concert helps lead children to the Lord

By Jenny Williams

We were blessed to be able to host an event at River of Life on July 5 with Doug Horley, otherwise known as 'Duggie Dug Dug'. Doug brought his Crazy Science Family Concert to us, aimed at families and children.

In the weeks running up to the event, as a Church we had leafleted the local schools, and therefore most primary school children took home an invitation in their school bag.



Before the party in the evening, Doug and his two team members delivered an afternoon training session to all those involved or interested in children's ministry. Thirty-three people attended, and the event drew people from other local Churches, as well as

local Girls' Brigade and youth clubs. Doug shared some of his experiences gained over 20 years of ministry to children and discussed some of the things he finds work well with kids, including using sign language in worship songs.

The session was great fun and Doug's delivery was so energetic and enthusiastic that all those present could not help but get involved, even when he had us all up dancing and doing actions to songs! Doug and his team are so obviously passionate about bringing the Gospel message to children in a fun and simple way and use songs and actions, experiments, puppets and any other way they can think of.

In the evening, more than 300 people attended the Crazy Science Family Concert, where Doug used simple science experiments in a very visual way to engage with the audience. The science was educational and fun and there were opportunities for some children to help on stage. His able assistants, 'Nincom' and 'Poop', provided lots of laughs. After each experiment, Doug explained the science behind them and linked everything back to how amazing our world is and how amazing God the Creator is.

passion for Jesus

Several of our Church folk were asked to help as puppeteers in a song about God's wonderful creation that used lots of animal puppets. They all did a brilliant job and the puppets really captured the children's attention.

At the end of the evening, Doug used an experiment with a handkerchief to show us what Jesus has done for us. He took a new hanky and covered it with iodine to show us how the Bible teaches we have become dirtied and damaged by sin. He demonstrated to the kids that we can't do anything about this for ourselves by trying to clean it in water. This just makes the hanky worse and it looks as though it is completely ruined. But then he spoke on how Jesus came to clean us up and make us new again and introduced the dirty hanky to another bowl. The hanky comes out brilliant white again and is as good as new. The message is how Jesus takes all of our sin away and makes us clean before God. I thought this was a really simple and effective way to communicate to young children and parents alike the message of the Gospel.

There was then the opportunity for the children to pray a prayer of commitment. Afterwards, they were invited to go to the front if they had prayed and seven children went forward to say they had given their lives to the Lord for the first time, with three saying that they had prayed to recommit their lives. Praise God – there was rejoicing in Heaven that evening!

We had a great day with Doug and his team and his passion and enthusiasm were inspiring.



Opposite page: Doug Horley and puppets. This page, top: Crazy Science Family Concert and, below, Children's Workers' Seminar.



Celebrating pastors' five years on the front-line of the night-time economy

Team helps cut crime-rate associated with pubs, clubs and bars

By Town Pastor Sue Harris

Guest speaker Sandy Millar, who is usually associated with Alpha, helped celebrate five years of Town Pastors in Felixstowe at a special celebration event held at the Christian Life Centre on the evening of Sunday 30 March, 2014.

Neil Boast, a retired police officer, who was a key part in setting up Town Pastors in Felixstowe, shared during the evening that he was an atheist when Christians approached him to help with the young people on the streets of Ipswich in the early hours of the morning at weekends. They told him they would have people pray, as well as being out helping. He soon changed his mind when he saw what help it was and the crime rate went down! Neil was therefore eager to see Town Pastors in other towns in the Suffolk area.

I have worked with Town Pastors for the past four-and-a-half years. For anyone who doesn't know what Town Pastors is about ...

We are out on the streets, where the pubs, bars and clubs are. Our aim is to help stop crime and help vulnerable people get home. We have two teams of Town Pastors on the streets from 10pm till 3.30am. There is also a team of three pray-ers at the base, who pray and make refreshments during the night. They are in contact with the Town Pastors and home pray-ers throughout the night. Home pray-ers do exactly what it says – pray at home for one hour shifts. We are always grateful for the one



Sue Harris, Anne Earrey and John Mannuthy

who phones in at 3am to pray for us. The Town Pastors will not go out unless we have a Prayer Team behind us.

We have a good rapport with the bar staff, door persons, police and taxi drivers. Even the young people of the town appreciate what we do, but we think the Freddo chocolate bars we hand out have a lot to do with it!

If this work interests you, please talk to me (Sue Harris) or Anne Earrey (who is a Town Pastor in Ipswich). If you want to be one of our important pray-ers, please talk to John Mannuthy.

Alternatively see the Town Pastors website: www.townpastors.org.uk or Felixstowe Town Pastors website: www.felixstowetownpastors.org.uk



Right: Sandy Millar.
Left: Neil Boast and Peter Livey.



God gave us power over every disease

By Sarah Voller

In the summer, I had an insect bite on my leg. This left a hole which became infected. This then turned to cellulitis and was very painful. I found it particularly painful to walk and drive.

I went to the Out of Hours Clinic on the Friday and was put on antibiotics. I was allowed home but I was advised that, if I didn't respond to the antibiotics and particularly if I started feeling unwell, I should return as I would need to be admitted to hospital for intravenous antibiotics and pain relief, etc.

I rested up on the Saturday, took the antibiotics and elevated my leg as advised, but it was still very painful.

On the Sunday morning, my leg was still inflamed and painful and I should really have gone back to the hospital, via A&E, as advised. However, it was my first shift on the Refreshments Team at

Church and I was determined to be there. I believed that God was my healer and was planning to have some prayer after serving the coffees and teas. I elevated my leg during the service.

While I was in the kitchen helping with the refreshments after the meeting, someone told me to go and get some

“ Although it still felt sore and painful, I felt something happen. She prayed again and it felt a bit easier.

prayer right away.

Although my leg was inflamed and hot, Lynn (a member of the Prayer Ministry Team) put her bare hand on it. She explained to me that Genesis 1: 26 tells



Sarah Voller

us that God gave us dominion over every living thing that creeps on the earth, so we have authority to tell the virus, bacteria, cancer or disease to stop dividing, die and leave or to shrivel and dissipate. So, instead of asking God for healing, she told the cellulitis to shrivel up and die and to leave my body.

Although it still felt sore and painful, I felt something happen. She prayed again and it felt a bit easier.

As a got up and was walking about it progressively became easier and easier and by the next day the pain had completely gone.

Thank you Jesus for my healing.

Prayer team at the heart of church life - for God's people and wider community

By S Varadarajan (known as Raj)

At River of Life Church, we have a committed Prayer Ministry and Intercessors Team, who understand the need for prayer and intercession for the members of the Church, leaders of the Church and for the wider community.

We pray individually, as a group, and have corporate Prayer Evenings to seek wisdom and guidance from the Lord. We meet at 10am every Sunday, before our 10.30am Morning Meeting and are available for prayer with individuals after the service as well.



Raj

Every Friday morning, there is a dedicated prayer time at River of Life Coffee Shop in Felixstowe to pray for the prayer requests that we receive.

The Life Groups in our Church pray for the pressing needs and special/specific requests that are emailed through the week by the Church Office. The Street Healing and Outreach Team reach out to the community in Felixstowe, being available and praying for members of the public who are willing and in need.

In seeking the Lord at River of Life Church, we have been blessed with HIS mercy, deliverance and miracles that have touched and changed lives.

You get off the bus or maybe the train and start to walk down Hamilton Road and you come across possibly the first coffee shop as you travel towards the town centre and the beach. Situated on a corner, with tables and chairs outside for those who like fresh air, you look inside and it seems clean and light, so let's go in.

Inside, gentle music is playing and you find a table and sit down. One of your party grabs the menu and soon you are presented with a wide choice of coffees and teas plus juices, shakes and other cold drinks. A member of the staff approaches and then you see the cakes – a whole counter full of them! “Hello, how can we help you?”, a smiling face asks with notepad in hand.

You have arrived at the River of Life Coffee Shop.

The River of Life Coffee Shop first appeared in Felixstowe soon after the birth of the Church of the same name back in 2002. The purpose of the shop is to serve and bless the community of residents plus visitors to our town in Jesus' name. All the staff are volunteers and members or regular attenders of River of Life Church.

Throughout 2014, we have had some wonderful conversations with our regular customers, holidaymakers and those who just pop in occasionally. It is so encouraging when we have thank you cards sent to us and members of staff have been delighted to learn that their acts of kindness have resulted in many people leaving the coffee shop blessed and having enjoyed their experience with us.

There have been people come in and enjoy the peace and tranquillity that on occasions the coffee shop enjoys. Others have come in and appreciated the music that is playing. We have had people softly sing or hum along to the songs that are playing, causing others to also enjoy the moment. It truly is an enjoyable atmosphere. On many occasions, we have been very busy and staff have been rushing about endeavouring to meet the needs of all the customers both in the shop and the tables on the pavement outside. However, they still try to be polite and communicate graciously and kindly with customers. We always need more volunteer staff.

We have had several people come in who have been suffering with a variety of illnesses and have found comfort and solace in the warmth which exudes from the volunteer staff in the shop. People feel safe in such an environment and return to tell us that we helped them in their recovery.



Top of the page: Coffee shop managers Pam and Ivan Thurlow, and the River of Life Coffee Shop.
Above: Coffee machine.

We have been involved in helping many people throughout the year with a variety of problems, some quite unusual. However, we always try to have an ear to



Coffee shop is at the heart of the community



listen and speak words of comfort and help and on occasions have been able to offer Bibles or other Christian reading material to folk.

Do people find their way into the River of Life Church from the coffee shop? Yes they do and that is very encouraging. Some holidaymakers return to the coffee shop year by year and it is lovely for us to see their smiling faces on Sunday mornings at the Christian Life Centre, worshipping with us.

We would strongly encourage you to visit our coffee shop, and our Church. Maybe at some time in the future you could be that smiling face that says “Hello, how can we help you?”

'Every part of this church is filled with the Holy Spirit'

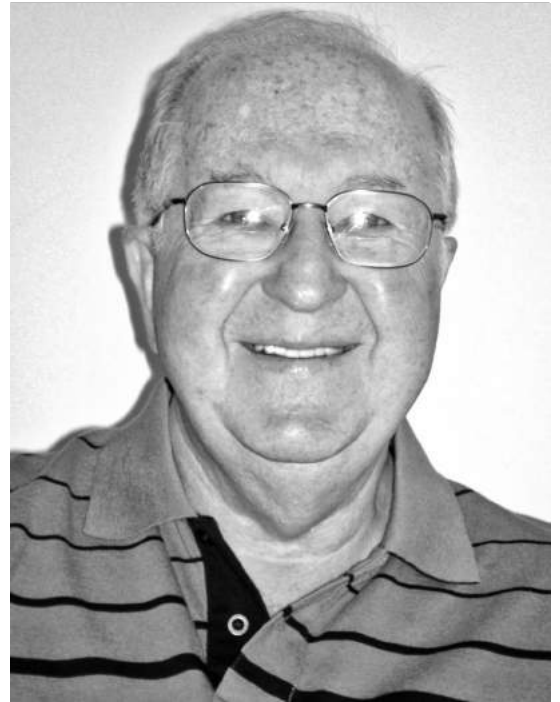
Visitor Denis Mytton brought an encouraging word to the Church on Sunday, September 14

We were visiting whilst on a few days' holiday break and on entering your Church I just felt the presence of the Holy Spirit very strongly and was greeted with a very friendly welcome. During the Sunday service there were a few people who gave testimony and I just felt prompted by the Holy Spirit to give a word of encouragement. I asked the Pastor if that was OK and he gave me liberty.

I believe that every part of this Church is full of the Holy Spirit, although it seems that numbers are few, but don't despair, although many seats are empty, I believe these seats are going to be full to overflowing and I believe a new thing is happening in this Church. Everyone is special in this place, the eye of the Lord is upon you and no-one is discarded. I encourage each and every one of you to step out and you will be amazed.

You have a wonderful building space and a fantastic opportunity where it has been placed for outreach. I believe the Church is going to expand, and where man and God meet, something good will happen. There will be a new time for teaching in the Church for renewal, revival and a big outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

I don't think it is a coincidence that we have come along today as a family. We bumped into one of your members, namely John, with 'Jesus is Lord' on his cap, as we were strolling along the seafront. I immediately put my hands in the air and said, "Praise the Lord". He approached us and thought I was stopping him speaking but, on the contrary, I was very much in tune with what he was doing and I was making that



Denis Mytton

were, "I expect our paths will cross again". Well, the outcome was that we were lead to look up the Church details. We found this out by walking in the High Street and finding your Coffee Shop, so we were able to find out details from there and come along on Sunday.

I am encouraging you to get behind your leaders in prayer and intercession as there is a new day dawning in this place and it is going to be electrifying.

We will continue to pray for River of Life for this prophecy to come to fruition.

Psalm 84: 10-12:

For a day in your courts is better than a thousand. I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God, than dwell in the tents of wickedness. For the Lord God is a sun and shield. The Lord will give grace and glory. No good thing will He withhold from those who walk uprightly. O Lord of hosts, blessed is the man who trusts in You!

Love to you all in Jesus, be blessed to be a blessing.

“ Get behind your leaders in prayer . . . there is a new day dawning in this place and it is going to be electrifying.

statement praising the Lord, by lifting my hands, because it is not an everyday occurrence that you see a person sharing Jesus on the street. After a brief chat and finding a little more about him, we ended up praying together. My last words to him

Hot-shot men on target



"Today has been a really exhilarating experience."

"I have wanted to do this all my life and today this has come to fruition - I am so, so pleased."

"What an amazing morning out - great fun, good company, superb food and clay pigeon shooting! Definitely want to do this again."

"We all gave it our best shot, including our Pastor, who missed everything and has decided not to give up his day job including Sundays - which is good news for us all! Dave Hunt, on the other hand, couldn't miss."

It was nice for the men at Church to get together and grow in confidence in each other's company."

"Andy's excellent instruction made the day."

"A thoroughly enjoyable day spent doing something that I have always wanted to do."





There are boys' toys, must-have gadgets, the peace of fishing on a riverbank, but what do men want even more? . . . It's their own den.

The River of Life Men's Ministry team found just the answer – a Men in Sheds event.

Sheep Drift Farm at Martlesham was the venue with a special “shed” for an evening of bloke stuff, with no women in sight, as the men enjoyed a time of fellowship, sharing and getting to know each other better, and, of course, a fish and chip supper.

Around 25 men attended the event on December 5, with the evening also including a time of worship and a DVD.

Photos: Men in Sheds

Men in Sheds!



Experiencing persecution

River of Life Church Life Group members held a Secret Church event in conjunction with Open Doors to try to experience how the persecuted church meets.

Group member Jackie Hopkins said: “We were trying to relive the atmosphere and fear in which Christians in some countries are forced to meet and so we lit the room with candles and kept our voices low. We had Communion with honeycomb and grapes and then we imagined we were meeting in a shipping container and we had a wonderful time of worship and prayer for the persecuted church.”



Exciting year of events



Top: Marriage Blessing of Rennie and Dorothea Clarke. Below left, Alpha Supper; and right, Pastor Pappy Daniel, Light of Hope Mission, India. Left, part of the Alpha Supper Catering Team, and below, Life Group Leaders' and Life Group Pastor's Supper. Opposite: Top, Catch the Vision. Below, Ladies' Summer Supper, and, right, Marilyn Coates, Samaritan's Purse. Centre left, Ladies' Creative Evening, and right, Aneta Zasadna, Graduation from Charis Bible College. Below, Ladies' Summer Supper.

Exciting year of events



Clean-up time!

... with bacon butties to fuel the workers

Worship isn't just about praying and praising God on a Sunday.

It's about all we do in our daily lives if we do it with the right reason, the right focus and the right heart for the Lord.

So it was that the Church arranged a Clean-up Celebration to give the Christian Life Centre a spring clean in the autumn.

A great time of fun and fellowship was shared by 25 adults and four children as they worked together and enjoyed bacon rolls and mince pies together.

They tackled a wide range of jobs around the Church, including cleaning carpet tiles with a steam cleaner and rolling up their sleeves for some good old fashioned scrubbing.

Others mended chairs, cleaned windows and gave the building a spruce up.



Hard at work . . . Clockwise from top left: Brian Verow, Jim Duell, Linda Trower, Luke Le Roux, Sergio Darznieks and Sue Harris.



When I'm cleaning windows, carpets, floors . . . Clockwise from top left: Dee Le Roux and Ian McKenna; James Edwards and Margaret Alexander; Patrick Sondell and Luke Le Roux; Rachel Cornwell; Juanita Baker; Mary Alexander, Sue Harris and Linda Trower; Sean, Katie and Lucy Fellingham; and (above) Trevor Harris.



CL Ministries' Chris Hill told the Christmas Carol Celebration that the season was not just a time for a hoedown as many people viewed it, but had a vital and far deeper meaning for all of mankind.

RICHARD CORNWELL reports.

It's probably the most often told and celebrated occasion in the world, but speaker Chris Hill shed new light on the Christmas story at River of Life Church's festive gathering.

While the Christmas season focuses on the birth of Jesus, Chris pinpointed the reasons why our Saviour was born in Bethlehem – and how his death to come on a cross was intertwined with his birth.

He was guest speaker at the annual Christmas Carol Celebration at the Christian Life Centre, where people came together to sing traditional carols, including Angels From the Realms of Glory, O Little Town of Bethlehem, and Once in Royal David's City.

The evening also featured presentations on projects the Church has supported in the past year – the Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Appeal and Water Filter Project; Tearfund's work in the Philippines; and support for four homeless schemes in Felixstowe through the Emergency Store and Christmas gifts.

Chris Hill, of CL Ministries, explained that the fields surrounding the stable where Jesus was born were owned by the Temple and the shepherds, who came to see him that night, were tasked with looking after the Passover lambs – just as Jesus is often referred to as the lamb.

It was the shepherds' responsibility to ensure the lambs were safely delivered to be used as sacrifices while Jesus, sacrificed on the cross to reconcile us to God, is the lamb who takes away the sin of the whole world.

It was a key reason as to why Bethlehem had to be the place of his birth.

Chris, who with his wife Lindy has an international ministry and has organised and led many tours to Israel over the past 25 years, said Jesus birth also had symbols of his death.

In those days a manger would not have been made out of wood but would have been constructed from stone, much in the way as the slab on which his body was placed in the tomb after Calvary. The shadow of the shepherd's staff falling across that manger was a symbol of the cross to come.

He said: "Jesus Christ is the precious lamb of God who was sacrificed for our sins so we might be children of God. Jesus is our Healer and our Saviour and the one who makes us all whole."

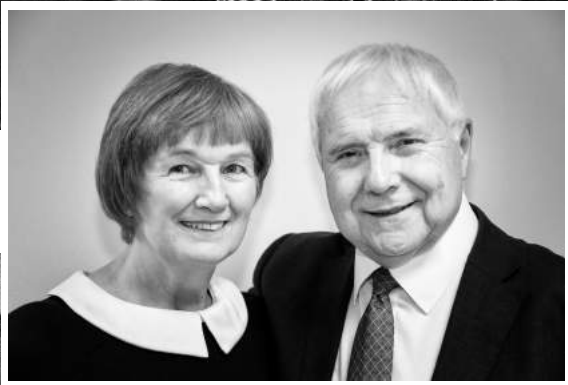
After the Carol Celebration, there was festive refreshments of hot mince pies and non-alcoholic punch.



Remembering the real reason for the season



Nathanael
Collins



Top left: Amber Williams praying for the water filter project. Above, top: Chris Hill speaking during the celebration, and left Chris and Lindy Hill.



Exciting year of events



Top: Emergency Store offering. Above: David and Pauline Pearson, CCPAS "Facing the Unthinkable" and Emma, Release International; Finance Course and Coffee Shop Dinner. Below: Carols by lantern light at Adastral Close, and Christmas gifts for the homeless.



Come to Alpha 2015

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