



LifeNews

Issue number 14 2018

New Community Café
Healing Stories
Vibrant Worship



RIVER OF LIFE CHURCH

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LifeNews

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Members of the Evangelical Alliance

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River of Life Church meets at **10.30 am 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.

A **Prayer Meeting** takes place every Sunday morning at 10am before the start of the morning meeting at 10,30 am. This is held in the meeting room – all welcome.

Usually every second and fourth Sunday evening a **Prayer & Praise Meeting** takes place in the coffee area of the Christian Life Centre – all welcome.

Prayer for healing is available every Sunday morning. Additionally three or four times a year in the evening a meeting specifically designed to pray for healing takes place.

Throughout the year Membership Courses take place entitled **Commit and Connect**. The **Word of Life Bible School** is held twice or three times per year.

Marriage Courses are available plus there is a **Finance Course**.

Life Groups function within the Church fellowship and they meet weekly for fellowship in people's homes.

There is a **Younger Church**, a **Crèche**, a **Toddler Group** and **Stargazers Youth Club**.

Regular events take place for Men and for Women.

Large outreach events also take place on a regular basis in the Christian Life Centre and it is anticipated that some new initiatives will soon be launched which will encourage outreach, evangelism and fellowship.

Our **Community Café** is open on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 10.00 am – 3.00 pm.

Please check the **River of Life Church website** for full details – www.riveroflifechurch.net

Alternatively please phone the Church office on 01394 273700.

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 come into your heart and be your Lord!

"Heavenly Father, I come to you in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ. Your Word says: 'If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead you will be saved.' (Romans 10:9) Thank you Lord Jesus for dying on the cross, shedding your blood to set me free from the law of sin and death. I repent of my past life and want to live for you. Please fill me with your Holy Spirit to guide me, lead me and direct me for the rest of my earthly life. I pray this in Jesus name, Amen."

If you have prayed this prayer, please contact the Church Office and let them know you have decided to make the Lord Jesus your Lord and Saviour. Following this one of the Pastors will contact you as we would like to give you a Bible and literature to help you as you start upon your journey as a Christian.

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Welcome to LifeNews



First Steps Course



John Putman: School of Prophecy



Just One: Emirates Stadium

Hello Everyone, and welcome to this Spring 2018 Edition of **LifeNews**. LifeNews is a publication which tells of some of the many wonderful things that have happened at River of Life Church in the previous 12 months. The features are written and presented by ordinary people who are members of our congregation and who have found a real and living faith in Jesus Christ. Real testimonies of real events that have occurred in the everyday lives of real people.

In the following pages you will read of lives transformed by real encounters with God; of present day miracles and healings that have occurred in the life of our church fellowship. Such experiences and transformations were common in the early days of the church, as recorded in the Acts of the Apostles. In like manner, people have experienced the goodness and love of God who delights to give good gifts to his children. River of Life Church is a Bible-believing full Gospel Church affiliated to the Evangelical Alliance. We believe in the miraculous and we expect the miraculous. Why? Because God's Word tells us to.

In the Gospels, the Bible records many instances of people who had dramatic encounters with Jesus. Many were just ordinary people from ordinary backgrounds. What made their lives become extra-ordinary was their encounter with the Son of God. They were affected and changed and revolutionised by their experience of the Saviour. From the blind man whose sight was restored to the woman accused of adultery, people were never the same once they had met Jesus.

Our purpose as a Church in publishing LifeNews is a simple and straightforward one: to share the love of God with you through our own experience and journey of faith.

The Bible says in Psalm 96 verse 3 "Publish His glorious deeds among the nations. Tell everyone about the amazing things He does." I hope that is what we are doing by producing LifeNews for our friends and neighbours.

The Past Year

This year we have seen some real progress and growth at River of Life. A very well attended **First Steps Course** for new Christians was held over seventeen weeks on Monday nights at the beginning of the year and most, if not all, found it to be very beneficial for their new found faith. Last year I conducted a three week Spring **Bible School** series entitled "The Foundations of our Faith", covering some of the foundational aspects of the Christian faith. The sessions were all very well attended. Then, in the Summer, we held a further Bible School Course which we promoted as "**The Summer School of Prophecy**" - teaching and emphasising the role and purpose of prophecy in the modern, present day church. So many said how much they enjoyed and were blessed by the Bible School series this year.

On Saturday 8th July we filled two coaches from Felixstowe to attend the **Just One** evangelistic outreach at the Emirates Stadium in London, organised by The Philo Trust. To join with some 30,000 people at the home of the Arsenal Football Club and witness thousands committing their lives



Alpha Course

to Jesus Christ was truly awesome.

In the Autumn we held another successful **Alpha Course** Programme which ran for 10 weeks and where a number of people came to faith during that time.

Activity Ministries

The **Toddler Group** on Friday mornings continues to thrive with sometimes up to 60 children and parents attending this fun time. Our **Stargazers Youth Club** on Thursday evenings from 6.30 pm onwards for older children is in need of more staff volunteers at the present time.

Our new "Ladies Coffee, Connect & Chat" Group which has begun meeting every other Tuesday morning has been a real success story. It's a ladies-only informal get-together with coffee served in our new Foyer. It's an opportunity to make new acquaintances and relax for a couple of hours in good company.

We were so pleased this year to be invited into **Cotman House Residential Care Home**, to take a monthly afternoon service for the residents. A lovely opportunity to sing some well known hymns and to share the good news of the Gospel to the residents, many of whom are in their 80's and 90's. It has been a real joy to chat with them afterwards over a cup of tea. At Christmas we held a short Carol Service for them- such a blessing. They love us going there and we love to go too!

New Ministries:

One of the major developments in our church building complex last year was the vision and development of a **Community Café** at RoL. This was effectively Phase Two of the continuing

development of the new Foyer that was refurbished in 2016. By utilising the former Library Room just off the Foyer, a new kitchen and servery lounge has been created with new units and worktop and state-of-the-art coffee machine for visitors to enjoy a freshly brewed "bean-to-cup" of coffee. A grant for this work was obtained from the **Felixstowe Town Council Community Fund** for which we are extremely grateful to the Councillors for supporting this much needed project in our locality.

Special thanks to **Pete Howe, Alan Boldison and Steve Palmer** who carried out the redecoration work with such expertise.

We have a real vision to bless the people in our local community and we will endeavour to do this through the new ministry of the Community Café. We hope it will be a place where light meals and snacks will be served or for people to just come and relax with a nice cup of coffee.

I hope you will enjoy and be blessed by what you read within the following pages. At River of Life Church we thank God for His abundant blessings to us. For my part, it continues to be an immense privilege to serve the church as its senior pastor in such a wonderful place that Felixstowe is. Did you know that the word "Felixstowe" means "blessed place" in Old English? It's an awesome thought.

I pray God's blessings upon you and your family and would remind you of the truth of James 4:8 "Draw near to God and He will draw near to you..." God bless you,

Pastor Trevor



Ladies Coffee Connect & Chat



Cotman House Care Home



Community Café

Fun & Fellowship

Fellowship is a very important part of River of Life and through the year we held many social activities. Here is a brief round-up of some:-

In April we walked round Old Felixstowe. Rain threatened and we had to skirt many puddles but we were blessed and remained dry. We ended up at the Golf Club for a delicious meal and lots of chat and laughter.

In June we were supposed to go on a boat trip from Shotley, followed by a meal at the Bristol Arms. The weather wasn't the best, dull, cool and breezy. For technical reasons the boat trip didn't happen so we went straight to the Bristol Arms and spent a most enjoyable evening there, having our meal at the appointed time. Everyone said how much they had enjoyed the convivial conversation and getting to know other members of River of Life better.

In July we had a picnic on the beach following our Sunday meeting. We were blessed with glorious weather, the more energetic went for a swim while the rest basked in the sunshine enjoying each other's company.

The meal in June was so well received that we decided to organise another one, so in September we met at the Oyster

Reach for a mid-week meal where, once again, the conversation flowed and a good time was had by all.

In October the monthly Singles Lunches, held after the Sunday meeting, moved over to Church Family Lunches and these have been most successful, with many staying to enjoy a time of fellowship and I, as Catering Co-ordinator, would like to take this opportunity to thank the catering team for all their hard work and support.

In December Anita put in a lot of hard work to very successfully organise a "Mr and Mrs Evening" where our Senior Pastor, Trevor, became Derek Matey, complete with wig! (he looked more like President Donald Trump!) He truly was a sight to behold! It was a great fun evening with the contestants really getting into the spirit of the evening. It was amazing how one husband thought he'd bought his wife a brooch for Christmas when he has never bought her one! The worthy winners were Mary and Peter Howe.

We were once again blessed with a great evening of fun and laughter.

By Mary Alexander



Shotley June 2017



Oyster Reach September 2017



Mr and Mrs Evening



Church Family Lunches and Fellowship

Ten Pin Bowling

On Wednesday 22nd February 2017 River of Life Church descended on the newly named "TEN PIN" bowling alley at Martlesham (previously "King Pin")

Pastors Trevor, Terry and Sean led the 3 teams, a wide range of ages and talents previous champions (?) and beginners. A mix of the competitive, the quietly confident and hesitant novices. Despite many admitting to not having bowled for many years -or decades in some cases! we were shown impressive action, several strikes (extra loud cheers) and high scores.

Our leadership team proved that they are definitely a multitalented bunch. It was a really enjoyable fun filled evening for participants and spectators proving again that these evenings are

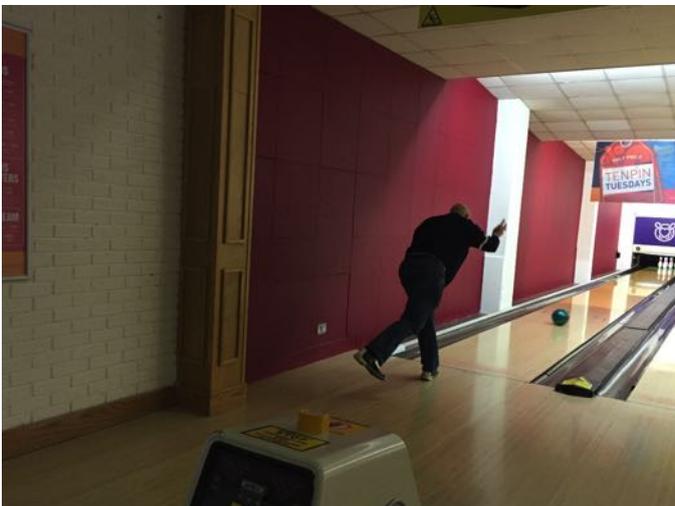
ideal occasions to invite your friends and family to.

Thanks to Pastor Trevor for the initial idea and for his and Anita Chenery's excellent organization.

As you all know it's not about the winning (really !) but the taking part that counts, but a very well done to Pastor Terry's team who won overall – who knew the Pastors were so competitive!!!

PS please note there is no mention of slipping over, bowling against the barrier, the large amount of "gully " action or the admission of aches and pains the following morning!!

Your cheerleading Spectator **Sally Verow.**





Father's Day



Tim Giakward-IMCARE



Janine Stellatos-Metro World Child



Palm Sunday at River of Life Church

Bible Teaching

Word of Life Bible School

River of Life Church places great importance on sound Bible teaching and has a number of Courses in its Church Programme to help fulfil this purpose.

Twice a year, Spring and Autumn, there is our **Word of Life Bible School** which usually takes place over three consecutive Monday evenings. Study Notes and opportunity for questions form integral parts of the Course.

This is a course which is always well attended and attracts people of all ages, being suitable for mature and new Christian believers alike.

The Course is not restricted to those who are church members; everyone is welcome and participants are encouraged to bring friends. Course leaders are usually high profile Christian Pastors or Ministry Leaders; there's a wealth of knowledge to be gleaned from these events and there's lots of opportunity to ask questions without feeling self-conscious or embarrassed.

In summary, the following adult groups would likely appreciate this Word of Life Bible School:

- Mature Christians
- New Christians
- People having a specific interest in the subject matter
- People who enjoy learning the background and detail behind Scripture passages

Commit & Connect Course

Whether you want to become a member of River of Life Church or just want to know us better, our Church Membership course, Commit & Connect, is designed for people to know about River of Life Church, its beliefs, and its practices.

You may be a Christian who has been part of a church for many years or you may be a new Christian with little experience of church- whatever your particular situation Commit & Connect can be of help to you.

Commit & Connect helps people know more about our history, our vision, our core values and beliefs and how, as a local church in Felixstowe, we are part of God's plan for fulfilling His purposes in the world today.

Commit & Connect is held twice a year in an informal setting. It runs on a Saturday 9.30 am to 3.00 pm and includes lunch.

This is a great opportunity to come along, ask any questions, and find out whether River of Life Church is the right church for you.

First Steps

First Steps is a great Bible Study series based upon the best-selling book by John S. Robertshaw of the same name. The course is run over 17 separate sessions, usually on Monday night and covers various foundational topics:

The course is much more than the title suggests; this is one of our best loved teaching sessions which never disappoints and always includes laughter, fellowship,

topical news, prayer and worship. It's just one of those enjoyable church gatherings which people can jump in and out of without losing the plot – each session is self-contained.

First Steps is run throughout the Spring months starting 6.45pm each Monday night with free tea/coffee and biscuits followed by 2 hours of uplifting interchange. The sessions are open to everyone, we especially welcome visitors who may be with us in Felixstowe for holiday, business or just passing through.

Other courses

In autumn of 2017 we ran 'Revelation Course' using teaching material by David Pawson. This was a great course, unpacking the book of Revelation. Our 'Panel of Pastors' were on hand each week to answer any questions which arose from the teaching given and there was plenty of discussion. We may not all have agreed on when the rapture will take place, or whether those born again will go through the tribulation but one thing we did have in common – we were all in the Word, searching the scriptures and seeking the Lord – what a blessing it was!

Look on our Church website for details of upcoming courses or contact the Church Office for information or just turn-up at the Christian Life Centre on the night.

Event Details can also be obtained on YouVersion/Events, the Bible App whenever the course is running.

First Steps Course



First Steps - Second Time Around

A lot has been written and said about First Steps 2016. The 2017 course was another resounding success – thanks to course presenters Sean Englefield and Brian Oakley and their wives Angela and Del.

The relaxed interactive format provided solid basic biblical teaching, giving us a thorough grounding in the faith - a firm foundation - ideal grass roots stuff with plenty to discuss, sharing knowledge and a safe environment for asking questions. We were challenged, encouraged and gained new insights useful when speaking to others about Jesus.

God was truly in the house! We never wanted the amazing worship to end and will never forget the famous “memory verses”.

Although designed as a basic course for new Christians many mature Christians from the fellowship attended and as

each session stood alone people came now and again. The website advertisement even attracted a lady from Woodbridge.

Knowing the basics is a firm foundation for everything else. God’s word is living and active and never failed to give us new revelation.

We were asked why we attended for a second helping. Firstly because we had thoroughly enjoyed the first course, its content, presentation, the fellowship and fun. We looked forward to Mondays evenings and had missed 4 sessions due to holidays. Secondly to encourage and enable others - telling them about the course and offering lifts to those in Ipswich who otherwise wouldn’t or couldn’t attend. For several weeks we brought 2 ladies and sometimes transported a babysitter.

Due to enforced vacations (My Brian’s expression!) we

managed to miss the same 3 sessions as before so if the course is ever repeated we may return for a third helping to fill in the gaps!

Our sincere thanks to Sean and Brian for all their preparation, knowledge and media expertise, and to Angela and Del who ooze love and friendship, providing refreshments, quiet words of encouragement and often prayer.

Sally Verow

A commendation:-

I loved doing the Bible work because every time Brian and Sean read out of the Bible I gave the page numbers so the other people in the group knew where to go in the Bible. It was so much fun to do it for 17 weeks. Now it has finished, I miss it so much on a Monday night. Thank you so much for all the others on it. Love you all for being there with me.

Beth

Baptisms

As a Bible believing church, River of Life Church seeks to follow the teachings and example of the first apostles of Christ who were told by Jesus to “make disciples....baptising them in the Name of the Father, and of The Son, and of the Holy Spirit...” (Matthew 28:19).

In order to obey this command of Jesus before He ascended to Heaven, the Early Church baptised new Christians by full immersion in water, so we follow that example laid down by the first apostles and disciples of Jesus and do exactly the same today. We simply try and do what Jesus told His followers to do.

Water baptism symbolises the death of our old life and the new life we have received by our faith in Christ- “Having been buried with Him (Jesus) in baptism, you were also raised with Him through your faith in the working of God which raised Jesus from the dead” (Colossians 2:12).

This year we have had the privilege of baptising several people at River of Life as the photographs

show, and on this double page spread you will read of amazing testimonies of how people found faith in Jesus Christ. In the Early Church baptism in water always followed faith in Jesus Christ - and it is the exactly same today. People testify to their faith when they are baptised.

We have a large, comfortable heated tank (baptistry) at the front of the church where new Christians, and those who have never been baptised, can take the important step of publicly declaring their faith through baptism. Baptism is therefore a public declaration of faith in Jesus Christ.

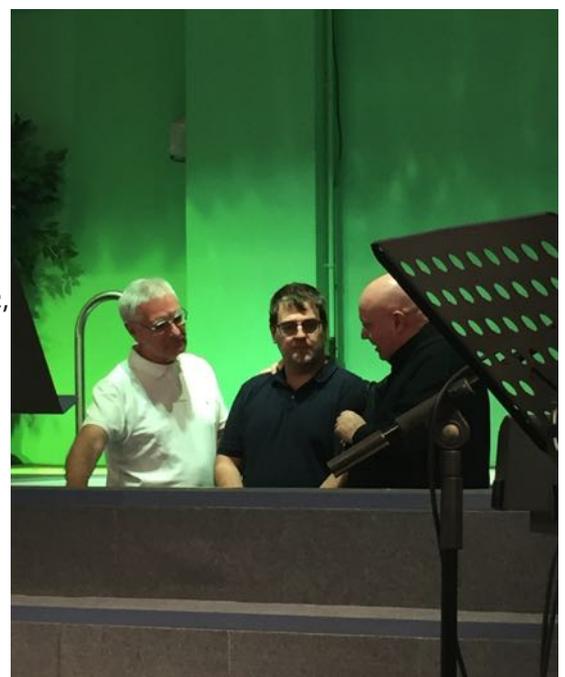
Baptism is a step of obedience to Christ for the new Christian. If you have never been baptised as a Christian believer, then please contact one of our pastors who will be pleased to explain more to you. Baptism services are held throughout the year at River of Life Church and are always a great blessing and joy to baptism candidates and their families who come to watch and support their family member being baptised.



My Testimony By Oli Snowden

I came to fully know Jesus at University about 15-16 years ago when I met Tammy who was a member of the Christian Union and took me along. My walk and growth with the Lord has been continuous since then.

I have been wondering about getting baptised for a while, but have been nervous to make the step forward. After seeing Tammy be baptised last year, and coming to the understanding that being baptised is not about my decision but about obeying Jesus’ example, with some prayer I now felt the time was right to be baptised.





Shirlei Palmer – Testimony

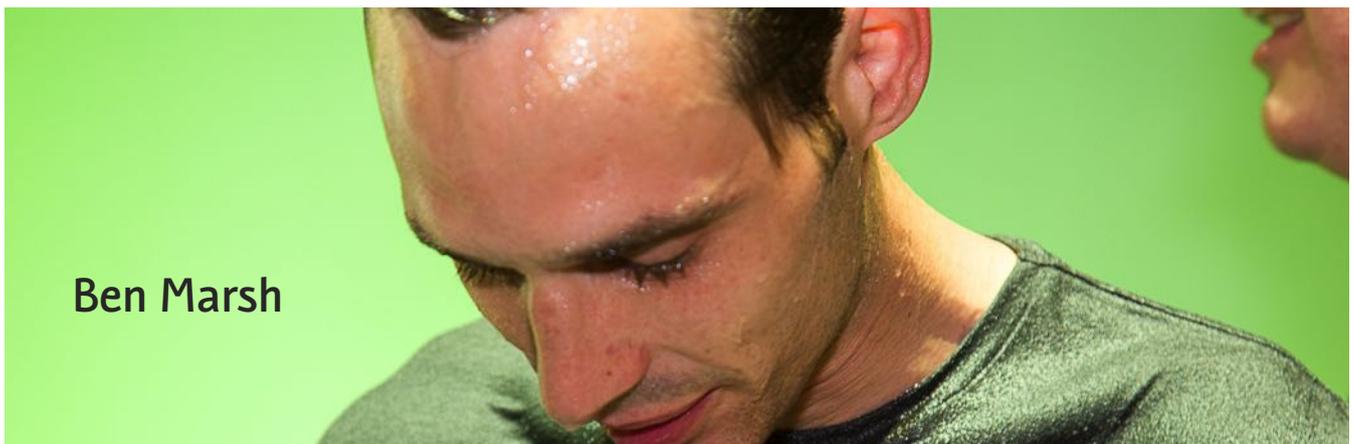
I was brought up as a Catholic. I was baptised when I was a baby and when I was 10 years old we had the catechism followed by the baptism confirmation and I followed all the traditions of the Catholic Church.

I remember watching the 'Passion of Christ' when I was around 5 years old and after that I always wanted to learn more about Jesus Christ.

When I was 21 I met Jose and Nancy Farias who moved from USA and they were part of a church called 'The Way'. He invited me to bible studies. I learned a lot about the Holy Spirit, speaking in tongues and gave my life to Christ again and started speaking in tongues.

I believe God has blessed me and my family in many ways (loving parents and children, good health, very united family) and although I drifted away from God, trying to follow my own mind which resulted in doing things I deeply regretted, I can say that God has been great to me. Always rescuing, helping, protecting and forgiving me.

After years of attending River of Life Church, having different people urging me to be baptised, I wanted the Holy Spirit to put this desire in my heart. It happened this year and that is why I am here, in obedience, trying to do the right thing.



Ben Marsh



Steve Palmer – Testimony

I was christened in the Church of England in Stowupland near Stowmarket. I grew up going to Sunday School at the Congregational Chapel in Stowupland. In my teens I drifted away from going to Church on Sunday but I still believed in Jesus our Lord God. I occasionally went to Church and Christian functions during my life. After two failed marriages I met Shirlei who is now my wife. Shirlei set me on the right path to the Lord again. Eventually, we joined River of Life Church, about 10 years ago. You can say Shirlei is my Amazing Grace. I was lost but now I am found.

Praise be to Jesus our amazing Lord God.



Claire Freeman



My Testimony By Dami Osobu

I wanted to be baptised for a year but my mother told me to wait a year so I could make sure I was ready. A year went by and I waited and kept on praying and soon I started to ask if I could be baptised again and this time it was a yes. I've always wanted to be baptised because I've always felt close to God and sometimes can feel the Holy Spirit near me. To be baptised makes me really feel like a child of God.

My Testimony Claire Freeman

I became a Christian back in Paraguay when I was 24. When I first moved to Paraguay I became friends with an English speaking group who were Christians. I told them I was an atheist, but they wanted me to come along to church to see what it was all about. I went to church for a month not understanding anything and couldn't understand why they wanted to believe. I told them that church wasn't for me.

One day when I was in a park alone at night, a man came from behind me, took hold of my wrist. I turned around in a struggle and realised he was holding a gun to my head. He demanded my phone. I was struggling to get away. I then suddenly called out "God save me, help me!" At that moment a feeling came over me, this strength I could not explain. The man then let go of me, his face in shock. He ran off in one direction I in another, still with the phone in my hand. From then on I knew God helped me. Since then I believe.



My Testimony By Gary Whyles

This is largely due to the wonderful Alpha Course that I attended at Headway. I enjoyed it so much I wanted to go on another one straight after it, followed by a discipleship course. Then the people who did the Alpha Course brought me to River of Life Church and I have been coming here ever since. I've been coming here for six months and I am extremely pleased that I have not turned away and I am still coming. I haven't missed a service since I have been here and I have started reading my Bible every day with the encouragement of Pastor Trevor. I have also been praying for people who are sick and seeing the Lord heal them – it's amazing!

A Message from God for 2018

Given by Linda Tuffs



My children, I love you with an everlasting love and I trust you to grow and develop into the child of God I desire you to be. I am holy and my desire is that you too would be holy and led by my Spirit in you every day.

Let me lead you into supernatural encounters and amazing things will happen if you just let go and let me have full rule and reign in your life. I want 2018 to be an exciting year for you, with encounters you will realise that are heavenly rather than earthly; for I have ordained them.

So make up your mind now to be open to me always.

Alpha 2017

In the Autumn of 2017, River of Life ran an Alpha Course, as it had done for many years. John Goldring led the course this year. An Alpha Supper was held on Friday 15th September where church members were encouraged to bring friends, neighbours and anyone else who had not been on an Alpha course.

A lovely meal was prepared by Sean Englefield and his team and enjoyed by all who attended. John Goldring then interviewed Mary Alexander who told us how she came to do an Alpha Course on a previous occasion and how it had affected her life since.



John then gave a short talk about Jesus being the Bread of Life and explained about the Alpha Course, encouraging those present to sign up.

The course began on Monday 2nd October with six course members attending, and ran for eleven Monday evenings, plus the Holy Spirit Day on Saturday 18th November with a further four sessions.

The evenings started with a meal, once again prepared by Sean and his team. This was followed by a DVD talk by Nicky Gumbel. The talks included "Who is Jesus", "Why

did Jesus Die", "How can I Have Faith" and "Does God Heal Today". Each talk was about 35 minutes long and was followed by a "Group" session in one of the classrooms. As there were only six on the course, we had one group. This was led by Clive

Minnican and assisted by Jill Butterworth. The course members were encouraged to discuss the content of the talk and any other questions they had. They entered into the discussion freely and had many questions.

The Holy Spirit Day was very special. We were joined for the day by a couple who wanted to know more about the Holy Spirit. The day started with two DVD talks, "Who is the Holy Spirit" and "What does the Holy Spirit Do", followed by a "Group" session. We then drove to the Brook Hotel for lunch and returned for a talk by John,

entitled "How Can I be Filled With The Spirit". Everyone present indicated that they had accepted Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour and most wanted prayer for the filling of the Spirit. After praying with people individually, several testified that they knew that the Holy Spirit had touched them.

The penultimate evening session of the course was "Does God Heal Today". Instead of the discussion group, the course members were invited to respond for prayer if they needed healing. Several did respond and felt that God had healed them. One even said they had been healed of something they didn't ask for prayer for.

Even though the numbers on the course were lower than in previous years, the course members were blessed by the course and knew that God had touched their lives. We pray that they will all continue in their faith and find The Lord in increasingly powerful ways.

Thank you to all who helped in a variety of ways; Sean and his team of caterers, Clive and Jill in the group sessions, Andrew and Hazel who came along each week to pray with John while the Group sessions were going on, Ray Harvey for setting up and Anita Chenery for admin.



Community Café Vision

I guess it's two years or more since I felt to pursue this vision, It seemed to be triggered off by our visit to Eastgate Church North Kent.

Their front entrance is very warm and welcoming; on entering the building you are struck by a real sense of God and His presence. The modern feel to this purpose built building, echoes of community and a non threatening feel to all that the leaders want to achieve. The building was built in partnership with the local developers who are building all the new houses in that area of Ebbsfleet.

I have always loved being involved with the community, I spent eight and a half years working closely with the local council in Thurrock setting up ways of reaching our local community. At the same time leading a local church.

We set up cleaning up of the streets in our locality around our church building, this also went on to holding annual fun days where as many as 500 people from our community attended on one occasion.

Why am I saying all this? It's because you may feel I am

trying to replicate another person's vision.

I am passionate about reaching our community, helping the poor, feeding the hungry demonstrating Gods love.

So here in Felixstowe, we started by changing the look of our entrance foyer, from the corporate office look, to a more functional welcoming entrance. As we have moved slowly ahead, we have done most of the work ourselves, we asked our congregation to contribute to purchasing coffee tables and new chairs.

Because of a need for funding we have not fitted heating into the foyer as yet, so we then looked at moving into the old library area to create a small cosy area that will cost little to keep warm, so we then looked for ways to raise money for this project; I managed to receive £1,750.00 from the local community's fund. We were able to purchase some lovely units for this Cafeteria area, and also money was gifted to purchase a great coffee machine.

All the work has been done by volunteers, except for the plumbing and the electrics. We have made a new door opening to access the main kitchen, all materials and work have been donated to achieve this, so this

project has not been a burden to the church spending. We are now at the stage of putting things in place to open early this year, people have been so generous, they have bought tiles, paid for coffee mugs, and someone purchased a lovely fridge freezer. So we are moving forward.

My vision is to meet our local people to be a listening ear to those who come in our doors, to provide a non-threatening place to come to.

Eastgate is not in a local town it's on a new development site. So no real passing trade, yet... they have been running now for four years as a Café, they pay all their staff, they do host events which help their income, they also have their regulars who pop in for lunch. We also in Felixstowe have built good links with supported housing units, they are very keen to send us volunteers, they are happy to do DBS checks and also pay for their hygiene training if we feel able to use their help.

The food training we ran here was a great success; this could also be linked in to our vision of involving job seekers getting back to work. This all gives them reason to be motivated each day, it builds self confidence, self worth and being loved.

Pete Howe

Jo Jingles

We hire out rooms in the Christian Life Centre for selected groups and the following is a hirer's experience since using our Church facilities

I have been running Jo Jingles Ipswich for just over two years now. As the name suggests most of my classes are run in Ipswich but I actually own a territory much larger than this so I am always keen to take my classes a bit further afield! With this in mind towards the end of 2017 I turned my thoughts to finding a venue in Felixstowe! The reason for this was that a few of my customers attending classes in Ipswich were travelling from Felixstowe. Now I know how difficult it is to get out of the door with little ones, let alone having to travel half an hour for a class so I decided to make things easier for them! Frankly I didn't know where to start! One of those customers suggested a variety of halls/venues I could try. I didn't look round many before stumbling across River of Life Church. Everything was made very easy for me from the very prompt initial response to my e-mails and the very friendly chat I had on the phone to organise a viewing. I was

shown several different potential areas and found one ideal for what I was looking for; not too big, warm and comfortable and with toilet/baby changing facilities nearby! Having had a few of my customers 'follow me' to this venue from others they have been in with me they all agree this is the best by far! I agree with them too! The large car park right outside the building was an added bonus to all of the above. The families who attend my classes often then go to play in the park opposite or enjoy a picnic on the grass outside the venue. The board have also been so supportive of me in my venture to 'crack Felixstowe!' When I started I was only able to run one class and they adjusted my hire fees to reflect this until more recently when I have been able to start running two classes! They have also helped to advertise my business wherever they possibly can which means so much to me and my business! SO what is Jo Jingles you may ask?!

Jo Jingles is music and movement classes for babies from 3mths to children of 5yrs. Jo himself becomes the

children's best friend from learning about their bodies and spatial awareness with numerous sensory experiences in the baby classes to joining in with movement songs, story time and listening games with the older children. Best of all it is all under the guise of fun!



Please do get in touch if you are interested in joining my classes at River of Life Church in Felixstowe on a Wednesday morning or indeed one of my other classes in Ipswich, Westerfield, Kesgrave or Stowupland. www.jojingles.com/ipswich, E-mail ipswichjingles@gmail.com or call me on 07732 544548.

Katie Fitzmaurice

If you would like to enquire about hiring our facilities, please visit our website: <https://www.riveroflifechurch.net/Groups/278712/Events.aspx> or telephone the Church Office on: 01394 273700 or email: mail@riveroflifechurch.net

Cotman House

DOORS OPENING IN OUR COMMUNITY

Earlier this year, we were approached by Cotman House Care Home in Felixstowe and asked if we would like to visit once a month and conduct a service. We willingly agreed and on 26 September we visited for the first time. We received a very warm welcome. Assistant Pastor Sean opened in prayer and Pastor Trevor led the meeting and encouraged the residents to join in as we sang 'The Old Rugged Cross', 'How Great Thou Art' and various other old hymns. Margaret Beith and

Linda Tuffs shared some readings, Jackie Hopkins and Chris Marchant shared testimonies and I finished off with giving a blessing. We stayed on afterwards as the residents were served their afternoon tea and chatted with them and the staff and handed out copies of LifeNews magazine. One resident was overjoyed at our visit sharing 'you don't know what it means for you to be here. When you have been going to church for years and suddenly you are unable to attend anymore, you miss it so much. Can you bring me some Bible notes, I'm desperate!'

A month later and we were back again, Bible notes at the ready. This time we stayed on longer, milling and chatting and sharing with the residents.

December came and we went back. Everyone joined in singing carols. We took in mince pies and heard some amazing stories from the past as residents were once again keen to chat and share about their lives and the preparations they were making for their Christmas Fair. Knitting seemed to be the theme and I have promised to return in

January with balls of wool for one resident who is a keen knitter! I think the carers will be kept busy casting on and off and picking up stitches but you can see that they really do care and will do so with joy and laughter.

Thank you for the staff at

Cotman House for giving us this opportunity to come and minister and share each month. It is a joy and a privilege to join you.

If you would be interested in getting involved in this ministry, please contact the Church Office. We have a good number of volunteers and we take a team of 6-8 each month.

Anita Chenery



Spring Waters

Spring Waters Pregnancy Advice Centre, Co-Ordinator Lesley Byfield-Loveland shares how Spring Waters came about...

Spring Waters is about Pregnancy help, care and advice, mis-carriage, still birth care and support. Abortion and the grieving process.

I was part of a larger group 'Care Confidential' and had felt it laid on my heart that Felixstowe had a need for such a Centre.

My husband and I moved from Rushmere St Andrew, near Ipswich, within 2-3 weeks. As soon as we were in Felixstowe, I had a phone call about a lady needing help. A day later, I was offered a room in a childrens' centre and from there things progressed.

I am an advisor with counselling skills and am now based at River of Life Church.

We are not judgemental. It does not matter what creed or ethnicity a person is, male, female and the bigger family! It can be a sister, brother who was supporting the mother and then realise that actually they have emotions that they need a bit of help with!

If a person makes the decision to have a termination, we offer support if they need it afterwards.

Spring Waters was re-launched at River of Life Church on 15 May 2017. We had a lovely time with some of the past clients and present where we had hot and cold drinks, cakes which were delicious and ride-on toys for the children, colouring etc.

not judge, no matter what they hear.

Senior Pastor Trevor Harris and the leadership have opened the church up to this very vital work!



Spring Waters Launch

We had a photographer from our church and our support network: Dr & Mrs Mark Reid from Maidstone Road Baptist Church, Pastors Emeritus Terry & Juanita Baker, and our new helpers that are interested in the work that we are building up!

One lady had said that she did not know how she would have come through without the help she received.

I believe Spring Waters is moving in a new way. I know there are many people who just need some tender loving care when life just drags them down, someone who will listen and

It is voluntary work that is very fulfilling! We meet very special people who are unique and we thank God for each one of them.

We are looking to build up a bigger team! Thank you Del Oakley, Hazel Berry and Sean and Angela Englefield for the wonderful help they have given and of course Anita in the Church Office.

If you feel that you would be interested in this work, please call 07935 242829. 'the truth will set you free' John 8:32b

Lesley Byfield-Loveland

In the Community

Work with Residents from Sheltered Housing

We continue to offer bread to the homes in Felixstowe, thanks to Anchor Bakery we receive Artisan bread each Thursday to share with residents.

This goes to Genesis Housing in Orford Road and Burgate Road, at times to Queens's Road. the Foyer, in Maidstone Road. and also Sanctuary Housing, in Langley Avenue.

We take on average of three to four trays of bread each week to these homes. This contact weekly means we can chat to the residents, meet the staff and hear their needs.

At times staff have shared health needs with us. We have been able to pray for them.

One support worker came in our building at R.O.L. and said "A lovely feeling in this place." Mary said "Do think it may be God?" They said "Yes!!" Later we saw the lady who again said that feeling stayed with her when she left the building.

The **Food Store** has been able to support itself without money from River of Life paying for food. Money gifted has been able to keep us going the whole of 2017; we are now at the end of this money kept in the safe for emergency food needs.

We seem to be giving out many more bags of food weekly. Thanks to the generosity of our members we can meet the needs of so many people looking for help.



Cooking Training:

Last year we were able to run a six week course to train residents from the supported housing units to learn to cook simply, with low cost healthy food.

Eunice and Mary taught people how to manage costs, tasty ingredients, giving confidence to some who maybe have lost the incentive to cook for themselves.

Most of the residents managed to attend the course, it was very encouraging to find six people to attend. The problem is finding people to commit to these sessions.

We have been asked to run another group for new residents this year, we will see if we can find another 6 to make up a team.

We feel that our links with these homes has become stronger, and the connection with support workers has been good, we will miss Vicky from Orford Road who has been a strong

lady who really goes the extra mile when caring for these people. Vicky has moved to Cavendish Lodge in Ipswich to run the home there, still for Genesis.

We all gave her a nice send off before

Christmas 2017. We hope to keep in touch with her as she faces new challenges this year in her new role.

Cooking with Genesis

On Tuesday March 14th 2017 we started cooking, with a group of 6 homeless people from local sheltered housing.

Please pray for this work, that they will gain confidence and self-worth again.

Since this article was written the group completed a course of classes and a new course is set to begin again in Spring of 2018.



They attended a class at the River of Life in our kitchen, on how to cook.

This was run by Eunice and Mary who gave their time to train 4 men and 2 ladies. They learned how to cook shepherd's pie, they were told the cost of each item, so they could compare with what a shop bought pie would be like for cost and value for money.

Also to compare the taste difference, Eunice had purchased a ready meal – which had very little meat content, also proving it's cheaper to cook than to buy microwave meals.

We believe this is the start of a great opportunity to connect with our friends from sheltered housing.

This idea was out of our delivering bread each week, and getting to know these people, and ways of helping them.

We do thank those of you who supply practical goods for their home, when they are transferred to their own flat.

Spirit of Christmas Felixstowe 2017

Thanks to the continuing generosity of members of the River of Life Church in Felixstowe, each of our residents received a beautifully wrapped Christmas present this year. The photo shows Mary and Peter Howe, who are weekly visitors to our schemes, delivering bread and cakes donated by Anchor Bakeries. The River of Life Church also provide food parcels to our residents, as well as free transport when needed, and made outstanding contributions to our McMillan coffee morning in September. We are very grateful for their help and support throughout the year – it's much appreciated. A very happy New Year to all from Felixstowe Services.



Just One

THOUSANDS ATTEND THE LARGEST U.K. EVANGELISTIC EVENT SINCE THE BILLY GRAHAM CRUSADE

“JustOne” at The Emirates Football Stadium. Home of Arsenal Football Club

Saturday 8 July 2017

3.00p.m.

EVANGELIST — J. JOHN

For decades the well known evangelist J. John has travelled the world telling people about Jesus Christ and communicating the Gospel in a unique way.

On Saturday 8 July he brought the Gospel of Christ to the U.K. Emirates Football Stadium home of Arsenal Football Club. This was a culmination of planning and preparation which had taken place over the previous four years. “Kick off” was scheduled for 3.00p.m.

As the day dawned the sun shone. As the sun rose higher in the sky the day got hotter as coaches and cars converged

upon London all through the morning and into the afternoon. People queued at the turnstiles waiting for them to open to take their seats. The Stadium looked pristine with emerald green grass glistening from early morning watering. Security was excellent and people were soon seated.

River of Life Church had two ordered coaches to take people to the stadium and a great time of fellowship and friendship was enjoyed amongst all who attended despite the temperatures soaring during the day.

As usual J. John’s unique humour and wit was evident from the onset as he, together with his wife Killy and his oldest son Michael conducted the afternoon with much grace.

High profile Christian singers accompanied J. John such as Matt Redman and Noel

Robinson who led times of praise worship together with a 1,000 voice choir from Hillsong, London and the London Community Gospel Choir. During the afternoon J. John, together with his wife Killy, conducted a “living room” style interview with a number of speakers – Canon Andrew White, Julia Immonen, Lord Michael Hastings and Linvoy Primus. These interviews/testimonies proved to be a time of great encouragement to all.

As J. John preached the Word of God he was extremely articulate and very creative as he spoke in a way that touched people’s hearts melting away any hardness of heart. He truly has a unique gift from God to be able to do this.

All attendees had been encouraged to bring “just one” other person to the event which many did and it doubled the

impact of the day as thousands responded to the Gospel message J. John preached. People stood to indicate their desire to know more about the Gospel or to make a first time

particularly in the majority world, with some spectacular rallies in places like Africa”.

So what happens next in Britain with evangelistic stadium events? Many stadiums in Britain have approached J. John and the Philo Trust offering their stadiums for just such an event. The next one planned is Saturday 9 June 2018 at the Priestfield Stadium,



commitment to the Lord Jesus or to make a recommitment to the Lord.

As Christians watched people responding all over the stadium they surely had to be encouraged and challenged to also pick up the banner of evangelism and begin sharing the Gospel with their friends and neighbours from that day forward.



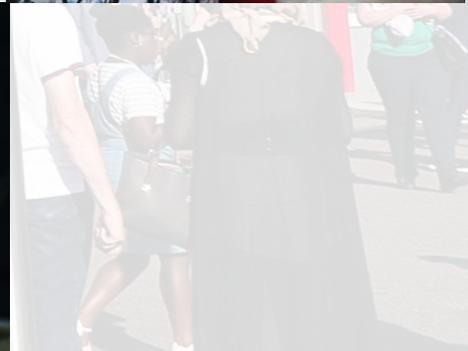
Prior to the event well over a thousand Christian volunteers had been trained to minister to those who stood. They were kind, gracious and attentive to people and they went the extra mile for them. We have to add that the Emirates staff who were also on duty that day were excellent, caring, cordial and considerate to all.

Gillingham.

JustOne at the Emirates Stadium was the first of many anticipated stadium events in the UK.



As J. John told Premier radio the world needs to see the church engaging in mass evangelism he said “There is a Biblical authority and historical precedent for mass evangelism. I find it significant that outside the increasingly secular west, mass evangelism has continued,



Men in Sheds

We've enjoyed another year of well attended meetings at Sheepdrift Farm.

Victor Jack, a man of Grace, founder of Sizewell Hall

Christian Centre visited us in July. He talked about his time as Chairman of the Garden Tomb Association in

Jerusalem and reflected on how he persuaded Mr John Cobbold [past Chairman of The Tractor Boys] to receive Billy Graham at Portman Rd in 1984.

Neil Smith, also known to many of us, gave a powerful testimony. His friend Lester Morse, at a subsequent meeting, described his upbringing as 'feral in foster care'

followed by a life of crime and prison. God came on the scene

and he now has a passion for rehabilitating those on the fringe of society. It is truly amazing how he is given derelict houses to refurbish and fills them with the homeless, addicts and ex-offenders,

giving them new life and a hope for the future...WOW!

Also, what a pleasure it was to meet Simon Pinchbeck in

October. Simon is the Regional Director, England [East] for Christian Vision for Men. He was a rising star in the Metropolitan Police Force before slipping into a life of crime – again, what a testimony! Watch this space Simon is coming back.

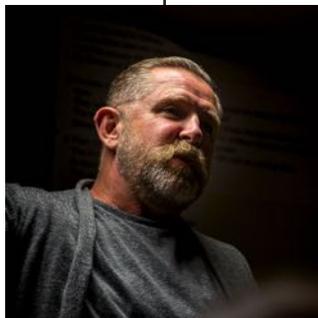
Our evenings start with fish and chips or a BBQ, followed by an agricultural joke! If the men are still there!! We watch a short DVD or listen to a speaker. We enjoy a valuable time of discussion, sharing 'bloke stuff' and prayers. We finish with a hearty song. It is always good to see non-church men regularly with us.

Thanks to all our helpers, particularly Derek, Gareth, Ray, Ivan and Jevan who are always there to serve and sometimes stand in the gap. Also thanks to Eunice for keeping us supplied with coffee and ketchup. Fancy joining us? See you there !

Andy Mayhew



Victor Jack



Lester Morse



Daughters Connect

Tania Bright was a breath of fresh air when she attended the Daughters Connect Breakfast on 18th March.



Having read her book I was keen to get Tania to speak. She is a brilliant communicator, witty, thought provoking, challenging and gracious.

Life has not always been easy for her but she uses her various life experiences with understanding and empathy. She engages with the listener as she speaks with passion, insight and most of all with authenticity and authority.

She loves God and serves him to unlock the potential in others to bring hope and action.

Amazing women of God.

In July we met at Great Bealings for our annual Summer Supper. It was a beautiful summer evening and we ate delicious food that everyone contributed, and played croquet. Then



we were overcome with an urge to get up and dance... so we did!!

We relaxed with a cup of coffee and watched the

Joyce Myer DVD entitled 'Hold Your Peace' which, as always, was encouraging and practical.

Over a period of a few months we met with some of the teenage girls in the Church on Saturday

mornings for hot chocolate and a chat. The girls discussed the possibility of singing a song and filming some footage to accompany the lyrics. They decided on a song called 'While We're Young' by a Christian group called 1 Girl Nation. We were blown away by their beautiful voices and we had fun making the film. Abina worked so hard with Raj to dove tail the recording with the video. It was a fun project and great to unlock the potential in our young people.



Christmas Creative night at Great Bealings started with a cookery demonstration and then there was the opportunity to make some festive decorations and treats helped by Julie, Veronica and Mary. Once again there was a lot of laughter and everyone went home delighted with their creations.

Everyone has a creative side...after all we are made in the image of God!

Eunice Mayhew



Uganda with Steve and Sue Bloomfield



In September 2017 we had the great pleasure of visiting Uganda for the first time.

We went along with our friends, Ian and Claire, and our daughter Isobel and her husband David. Izzy and Dave are both trustees for the charity 'A Little Bit of Hope'.

The main purpose of the visit was to support the Ugandan based staff and the projects that they run in the Butaleja district.

After several months of planning and vaccinations we finally arrived in the town of Busolwe, late evening, Saturday 16th September. We were very tired, after a long and mainly 'off road' journey from Entebbe. However, we received a very warm welcome from the staff of 'The Good News Guest House'. This was our base for the next 10 days.



On Sunday morning we went to Busolwe Assemblies of God church. This was a joyous occasion and we were treated like 'long lost family'. Everyone wanted to say hello or as we soon learned to say, in Ugandan, "Kojeyo". In the afternoon we set out to explore Busolwe town. As we walked along the dirt roads we soon gathered a large group of local children who were keen to speak to us.



Monday morning, we made our first visit to the A Little Bit of Hope (ALBH) office. We travelled on the back of motorbikes locally known as 'Buda Buda bikes'. We were met by the team led by Ivan, the director, and his staff Christopher, Issac, Fred, Grace and Grace! They are each from the Butaleja district and, we soon discovered, extremely dedicated and enthusiastic about their work and the people they serve. The whole district is very rural and most people are surviving as 'subsistence farmers'. We soon discovered that small amounts of money, in UK terms, can make a life changing difference in Uganda.

Over the next few days we visited some of the main projects supported by ALBH. Our first was to the Butaleja Technical College. Here we met five students who are completing two-year training courses in electrical, carpentry, plumbing and painting & decorating skills. They all expressed how this opportunity, provided by ALBH sponsorship, has transformed both their own and

their wider families lives. They now have the skills and training to allow them to earn a living to support themselves and their family.

We also visited a small tailors shop in Busolwe. Here a group of young, mainly single mothers, girls are trained as apprentice tailors. Having dropped out of education this provides them the opportunity to learn skills that can then be used to support them, and their families, financially. ALBH also supports apprentice groups in hairdressing and carpentry.



We enjoyed a trip to Busolwe library which offers a range of books and learning materials. It is also the base for an IT training programme. This is an important community based facility and does much good work despite limited space and resources.

'Straight Talk' is a group for young adults offering both emotional and practical support for those facing difficult choices. They run discussion groups and have helped, the young people, establish a successful business making and selling 'Mandazi's' (a type of doughnut). The profits made are reinvested into the business.



We visited several sanitation projects. ALBH has built latrines for many families and, following an education programme, encouraged communities to start their own building campaigns. One village built 90 latrines in 3 months. This was a huge success for a community of 100 dwellings.

A number of schools have engaged in the 'school farms' programme. ALBH has supported the schools in producing their own crops to enable children to have a nutritious meal. This has helped to improve attention and attendance levels of the pupils.



The charity also does great work with widows and other vulnerable women. Building houses to provide safe accommodation and encouraging support groups to flourish. We met several women who have been enabled to make and sell things like, mats, bowls and bags, from inexpensive materials. These are then sold to raise funds for the group to make their lives more comfortable.

Since our return from Uganda many people have asked 'what was the most memorable thing about our trip?' We always answer that it was the people that we met. The Ugandan people are full of joy and always have smiling faces. Despite difficult circumstances, for many, they have a very optimistic outlook on life. From small resources the people we met always looked to give and to bless others. We were often overwhelmed by the kindness shown to us as visitors.

We look forward to a return visit in the future.

MAF Weekend

Weekend visit of Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF), 20 – 21 May 2017

Hope, Help and Healing

On Saturday evening Cathy Burton and her husband Paul together with their bass player. Mark and Kevin and Serena from MAF HQ came to bless us with praise and worship and to raise some funds through making us all more aware of what amazing work MAF is doing.

Cathy is a gifted worship leader who also gives of her time together with Paul, to support MAF events. So that evening we were inspired by Cathy's music, which she had written herself, and seeing film footage of what MAF is able to do in really isolated places.

On Sunday morning Kevin gave the word in our service and opened up with some amazing facts of how MAF have operated for over 70 years. He used Luke 10:25 - the Good Samaritan to show how they too come alongside isolated people to give hope, help and healing.

They have 130 aircraft and one of these takes off or lands every 3 minutes somewhere in the world. They work with 15,000 other organisations to bring the right help for each situation. So the pilots with MAF reside and fly under difficult conditions and are often asked to operate mercy missions in bad weather on poorly constructed air strips, under stressful situations. Their motivation is not the flying but the smiles on young faces along with the relief and gratitude of parents fearing for their children's wellbeing.

In the same way we are challenged to stay strong in the Lord, not because of personal fulfilment on earth but for the heavenly reward awaiting us when we meet Jesus face to face.

MAF VISION – "to see isolated people physically and spiritually transformed in Jesus name."

For more information about MAF visit their website: www.maf-uk.org



Cathy Burton

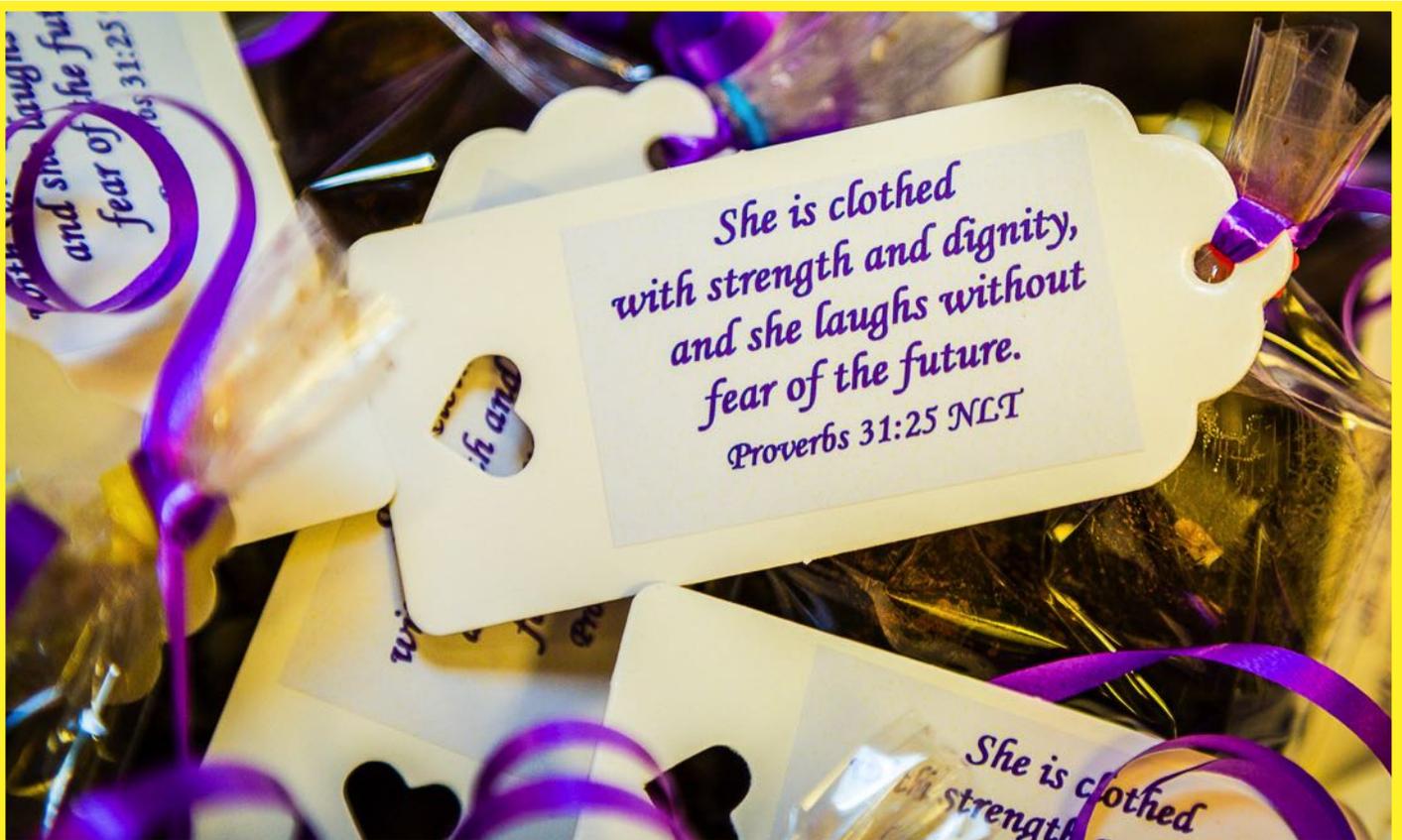


Kevin Crook (MAF)

Mother's Day



A tribute to Mothers



Unity Worship

Unity Worship events at River of Life Church bring together Christians from different denominations and backgrounds for the purpose of getting together in unity to worship God. Previously, we have seen Noel Robinson, Martin Smith, Cathy Burton, and Godfrey Birtill but this time we worked with Ministry of Music and brought you something completely different - a band called **Echo!**

What was different? We took the rows of chairs out of the church and replaced them with table and chairs for a Café style worship with Mary and the Team serving coffee tea and biscuits in the break. I can still picture Pastor Trevor's face one Sunday when I announced about the Café Style worship from the front of church without speaking to him first, but it worked!

This was a great opportunity for an outreach event as Echo take some popular Motown songs and slightly changed the words to praise Jesus. Their style of praise was exuberant, exciting and very uplifting. Songs played were classics like 'We are Family', 'Soul Train', 'My Guy', 'Best of my Love', 'How sweet it is to be loved by you', 'You're all I need to get by', 'Say a little Prayer' and more. Compassion charity were represented on the night and 3 children gained sponsors and a donation of £20.00 was made to Compassion by someone on the night - thank you!

Echo were amazing and very well supported by everyone, we were all up and dancing and at one stage there was a soul-train going round the church led by the lead singer. The 4 girls also gave short talks praising Jesus between the songs explaining why they had chosen the songs

they had in a very uplifting way. This was the first time I had seen worship in this way and it brought home how much we are loved by God and how He is in our everyday lives everywhere we go and in everything we do.

I would like to thank all those who helped and for everyone's support. We work as a great team. A big thank you to Mike Maidment, Compassion and Ministry of Music for introducing the band and to Echo for an amazing evening of worship and praise.

Please check out the Ministry of music website: www.ministry-ofmusic.co.uk to see how they could help your church.





Beautiful Hope

Gill Gifford's visit to River of Life March 2017

It is always a joy to welcome Gill as speaker. She thanked us for having her and for the beautiful worship led by Garry.

She began by saying you need to experience something in order to talk about it.

As she sat on the beach, near her home in Majorca, watching a storm coming up, the Holy Spirit had warned her that soon there was a big storm coming into her life and she needed to be in the eye of the storm and stand strong.

She went on to explain how she heard that her granddaughter was fighting for her life in a special unit for anorexia and then husband Skippy experiencing serious health problems with his breathing. She knew she had to go to the foot of the Cross and give it all to God.

She went on to describe several people in the Bible who experienced storms.

Joseph had every reason to fear the storms but He came through and God raised him up to be a fine leader. Job was told by God to submit to Him and be at peace with Him. Hosea had to believe in the Lord who told him to go into the market and find a wife among the prostitutes. He married her and they had three children and then she left him and went back to prostitution!

But god said go fetch her back! God was with him and went through the trouble with him. God will always look after our needs when trouble comes. King David's sadness when the baby born to David and Bathsheba is sick and dies. David rose up from the crisis, washed and changed. Put on his robe of righteousness and worshipped God. Find the eye of the storm; rise in the Holy Spirit and don't be down cast in yourself when things go wrong. Arise and be washed in the blood of Jesus. Worship Him and wash, put on

your new clothes - your robe of righteousness.

"May the God of your hope so fill you with all joy and peace in believing [through the experience of your faith] that by the power of the Holy Spirit

you may abound and be overflowing [bubbling over]with hope" Romans 15:13

Christ is our beautiful hope; so put your hope in His Word.

And praise God Bethan three years on has completed her degree in Dance and is working for the Lord. And Skippy came through his health crisis.

We look forward to Gill's next visit.



Coffee, Chat & Connect

Del Oakley and Elizabeth Goldring felt prompted to start a coffee morning/fellowship/friendship for ladies, back in May last year while attending a conference. They then asked Hazel Berry to come on board and we had our first get together in July 2017. Twenty ladies turned up in the new foyer at

that is how He sees us – BEAUTIFUL! It was an emotional and meaningful morning.

So, Coffee, Chat & Connect starts a new year with new ideas –



Recipes
Valentine theme
Easter theme
Visiting speaker on 'scams'.

Please come along and enjoy and be blessed!!

Comments from a few ladies:

God Filled! Brilliant

River of Life where we shared our vision and invited the ladies to write down their ideas for not only what we would call ourselves, but also what they would like to be doing each time we met. Since then we have met every 2nd and 4th Tuesday morning of each month. There were some of the ideas we have used:

- Summer walk
- Book Review
- Testimony
- Picnic in a beautiful garden
- Shared out talents
- Costume Jewellery
- Cinema Visits
- Glassware

They are very special to me

It has gone really well and we know that ladies have been blessed! In October Elizabeth's friend came with a display of her glassware and gave her testimony. How she started to create these beautiful pieces of work. She then shared how when we drop glass it breaks. We cannot put it back together – but when we have shattered lives that have been broken – God puts us back together and makes us into something beautiful again and



Cosy, connecting, variety
Very very good. We all feel blessed.
Good to have a chat with everyone that we miss in Church.

Photos are of our 'Christmas Special'. We had a wonderful morning, all received gifts. As you can see there was plenty of laughter!

New Members



L to R: Barbara Williams, Sally Minnican, Clive Minican



Ruth Englefield and Pam Thorpe



L to R: Fay Ferndale, Gary Whyles, Jessica Marchant (hidden), Christopher Marchant, Matt Chenery, Colette Downey, Kim Clifton



Thomas and Tracey Englefield



Jill Butterworth

Healing – Anita Hadjah

I gave this testimony in Church in October 2017. I always thank God when something very good happens in my life but with this I was pushed by God to give testimony in Church to encourage somebody that no matter what you are going through, with God and prayer and trusting in Him, all things are possible.

In 2008 I went for a check-up and I was told I had a small hole in my heart. I was referred to the heart clinic and I went and had some scans and tests and I was told the hole was not that bad and it should close by itself. I was very happy. I prayed and thanked God for what he had done.

As the years went by I was ok until I felt a bit sick in the middle of 2016 and had to visit my G.P. I was given an appointment in Ipswich and went for some scans and blood tests which showed that the hole in my heart had not closed but rather got bigger. The doctor told me I had to have an operation to close it but I will be put on medication for some time. I started praying because I knew that God could heal me because He is the only God



who heals at the snap of a finger. His promises are sure. I stood on Psalm 107: 19-22 'Then they cried to the Lord in their trouble, and he saved them from their distress. He sent out his word and healed them; he rescued them from the grave. Let them give thanks to the Lord for his unfailing love and his wonderful deeds for mankind. Let them sacrifice thank offerings and tell of his works with songs of joy.' I also came to Church to pray a lot after dropping my son off at school.

I went to the clinic for my normal check-up and the consultant was very shocked because the hole has started closing and I didn't take any tablets or any supplements to help it. At the next appointment I was told that the hole had closed and I was discharged from the heart clinic.

I thank God for giving me another life and healing me from all my pain. I want to tell anyone who is going through hard times, that God still does wonders today and is still healing His children. I thank God because he kept me. Amen.

Honour

By Jackie Hopkins 8 January 2018



We sang a chorus yesterday that said "This is my desire to honour you". I have just been reading a book by Kenneth Copeland called "Honour - Walking in Honesty, Truth and Integrity". Honour is an old fashioned word which is rarely used today but I was really convicted while reading this book. Kenneth Copeland asked the Lord "What is the biggest problem in the Body of Christ". Reply - "Your dogged determination to correct one another". It's the biggest problem in the Body of Christ. It stops more healings, more faith, more power, more of everything. Our dogged determination to correct people that we have no authority over is dishonourable.

I have been guilty of this and have asked the Lord's forgiveness and trust Him to change me.

Healing – Brenda Rumsey

For many years I have suffered badly with I.B.S. (Irritable Bowel Syndrome). I always prayed about it and had lots of prayer at Church. It got to the point when I thought this is something I have to live with, but guess what — Jesus spoke to me and said ‘you already have been healed, now believe it!’ Now it’s been almost a year that I have been free from it.

Thank you Lord for setting me free from some other fears too. I am so thankful to our dear Lord for being with me every day of my life and for all the blessings I have already had.



Healing – Christine Robinson

Early last year I attended the everything was as it should that I had the beginning not need medical treatment

I needed new glasses so went ahead with that. After a couple of days wearing these I noticed a line completely down my right lens on the left hand side. Perplexed I returned to the optician, they could see nothing wrong with them but adjusted them in a couple of places and asked me to try again.

The line was still there. Noticing it more when watching TV, I went back for a further consultation. They could not understand what this line was, they couldn’t see it on the lens but they adjusted them again and sent me on my way.

I think in all I returned around four times with the same complaint. I was, by this time, completely at a loss as to what I should do. When I got home I decided to go back to my old glasses and found, to my horror, that they now also had the line, which was not there before I had my eye test. I have lived with this line for over a year now and am convinced it has something to do with cataracts.



opticians for my annual eye check, be except for the fact they told me of cataracts in both eyes, but would for a long time.

However a few weeks ago Pastor Terry said that someone in the auditorium had a problem with eye focusing and to go up front for prayer. I sat in my chair and thought, that’s me! I went forward and Sally and Sean prayed for me. I knew the Spirit was working in me because I always have this lovely warm feeling and the urge to do something and know that my Spirit is talking to me.

A couple of days later this line was no longer there. This was so faith building for me and I am so thankful to God and give him all the praise and glory for this healing.

Life Groups

Senior Pastor Trevor writes on the benefits of joining a Life Group

YOU WILL UNDERSTAND THE BIBLE BETTER IN A LIFE GROUP

If you've ever listened to a Bible teacher or preacher and wanted to stop that person and say, "But what about...?" or "I don't understand!" Then a small group is for you! Preaching and teaching is one-way communication. You listen while the speaker speaks. It's fine for imparting knowledge but not as effective for personal application as a small group. In a small group setting, you can ask questions, participate in a discussion of the text, and hear others share insights and illustrations of the truth you are trying to grasp. The Bible must be applied to your own personal situations and that happens best in small groups.

Sometimes people comment after a service, "It would be helpful if I could sit down with some others and discuss the implications of the message today. I need to digest it." Our Life Groups at River of Life Church often use the Sunday morning message outline as a Bible discussion guide, which provides a forum to discuss the message.

YOU WILL REALLY BEGIN TO FEEL YOU ARE PART OF A FAMILY

Most people who have been part of a Life Group say the greatest benefit is the close relationships and friendships that develop. They will frequently telephone each other during the week to share an urgent prayer request or an exciting answer to prayer. You'll discover that your needs and

problems are not unique - we're all in the same boat. It helps to know that others are facing the same difficulties and challenges, or have lived through them and learned spiritual principles in the process.

Over fifty times in the New Testament the phrase "one another" is used to describe our relationship to other believers. We are instructed to love one another, encourage one another, pray for one another, accept one another, bear one another's burdens, and build up one another. The only way you can really put this into practice is in a small group! We really do need each other. God never meant for you to go it alone in the Christian life. If you're lonely, the answer to your problem is to join a Life Group.



PRAYER WILL BECOME MORE MEANINGFUL TO YOU

Many people are hesitant to pray in front of others, especially in a large church. In a small group of 6 to 12, you will learn to participate in prayer by having a conversation together with God. No one is pressured to pray, but as you become comfortable, you'll be able to pray sentence prayers and join in. There are many promises in the Bible related to group prayer. In praying together with a few others, we are drawn together and we find answers to the needs in our lives. You will be able to handle stress and pressure better.

Life groups provide excellent support in times of crisis, change, and stress. You'll have a sense of stability and security knowing there are people who really care for you and are committed to standing with you.

When someone loses a job, or a family member has an extended illness, or a mother needs a babysitter – these are practical needs that will be naturally taken care of through your small group. Your group will share burdens with you. Many people in our church could testify that they would not have made it through a difficult time if it hadn't been for the support of their Life Group. In addition, we have a number of special support groups that deal with life-challenges like Bereavement, Marriage Guidance, Debt Counselling, and Pregnancy Advice.

YOU WILL HAVE A NATURAL WAY OF SHARING YOUR FAITH WITH OTHERS

It may be that some of your friends who don't know the Lord wouldn't be caught dead in a church. They have a preconceived idea and just the thought makes them defensive. But those same people may be open to an invitation to a casual Bible discussion in a home. In a small group, your non-Christian friend can ask questions and express honest



Christmas Celebration

doubts without feeling "put on the spot". When your friend sees the love and warmth and honesty of your Life Group, it will make them more receptive to the Good News.

YOU WILL DEVELOP LEADERSHIP SKILLS

The Bible teaches that every believer is given certain talents or "gifts" to benefit others in the family of God. Unfortunately most Christians remain as Sunday morning spectators all their lives because large group meetings are primarily "sit and listen" situations. As you share and participate in a relaxed small Life Group setting, you'll discover your confidence and

self-esteem rising. This will help you at work, at church, and in every other relationship.

YOU WILL DEEPEN YOUR UNDERSTANDING OF WORSHIP

Many believers mistakenly believe that worship can only happen on Sunday morning with a sermon, the worship-band, and a larger group! Not so! Worship happens any time we focus on God. Sometimes that happens best in a smaller group in praying or singing together. At River of

Life Church, we even ask our Life Group leaders to serve the Lord's Supper when they sense they need a Communion service for their group. Breaking bread together in a smaller group can be very meaningful.

YOU WILL TRULY BE A NEW TESTAMENT CHRISTIAN

The book of Acts in the Bible, which is a history of the early Church and how it developed, is very clear about how God intends for his people to grow and have their needs met in the Church. Very often this is through group ministry. There will never be enough full-time clergy to meet all the individual needs in a church family. God never intended for it to be that way in any case and so the ministry of Life Groups is so important.

It certainly is for us at River of Life Church !

4.1.2 Youth Worship



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4.1.2 Youth Worship



Dedications



Dedication of Jonah Snowden



Dedication of Sienna-Keturah Clifton

Golden Weddings



David and Christine Robinson



Harman & Jacqueline Hopkins. Ivan & Pam Thurlow

Prayer & Praise

PRAYER AND PRAISE EVENING SUNDAY 12TH NOVEMBER 2017

On Sunday 12th November 2017, Anita Chenery and Jackie Hopkins' Life Group presented the Prayer and Praise Evening at River of Life Church. We decided to base the evening on the persecuted church with the emphasis on Release International, which was started by Richard Wurmbrand, a Romanian who was imprisoned for his faith in Jesus. Everyone in the group wanted to take part which was a real blessing.

Dave started off the evening with a challenge on what is your saturation point. Basiima provided us with some tremendous worship which set the tone for the evening. A group of ladies, Anita, Jackie, Sally and Dawn, presented a lively worship dance with scarves which was very well received while Beth waved her flag. Clive gave us an interesting talk on China followed by a short clip on the persecuted church in China. This was followed by Harman reading from Matthew's Gospel and a clip by Helen Berhane, an Eritrean who had been imprisoned in a shipping container.

Anita Introduced the prayer for

the persecuted church which included four prayer stations, maps and prisoner profiles. We spent about 20 minutes praying for these prisoners of faith.

Following on from this evening we received an email from Release International informing us that one of the prisoners of faith, who had been

imprisoned in Eritrea for over ten years in appalling conditions, has been released.

The prisoner's wife has been encouraged and strengthened by the knowledge that believers around the world have been praying for her husband and is thankful for our prayers. While we rejoice with the release of this prisoner we must not forget the other 172

prisoners of faith who are still denied their liberty and their families. Please continue to pray for these precious people.

By Jackie Hopkins



We ended the evening with a song from an Egyptian church which had been desecrated but the congregation were singing a beautiful song inside the ruins called "Your beauty is awesome". Basiima then finished in prayer and we continued to worship. The whole evening was very well received and opened people's eyes to the persecution going on in other countries.

Toddler Group

Due to the popularity of this group for 0-5 year olds, we once again have a waiting list! Should a family/childminder come for registration they shall be welcome to attend

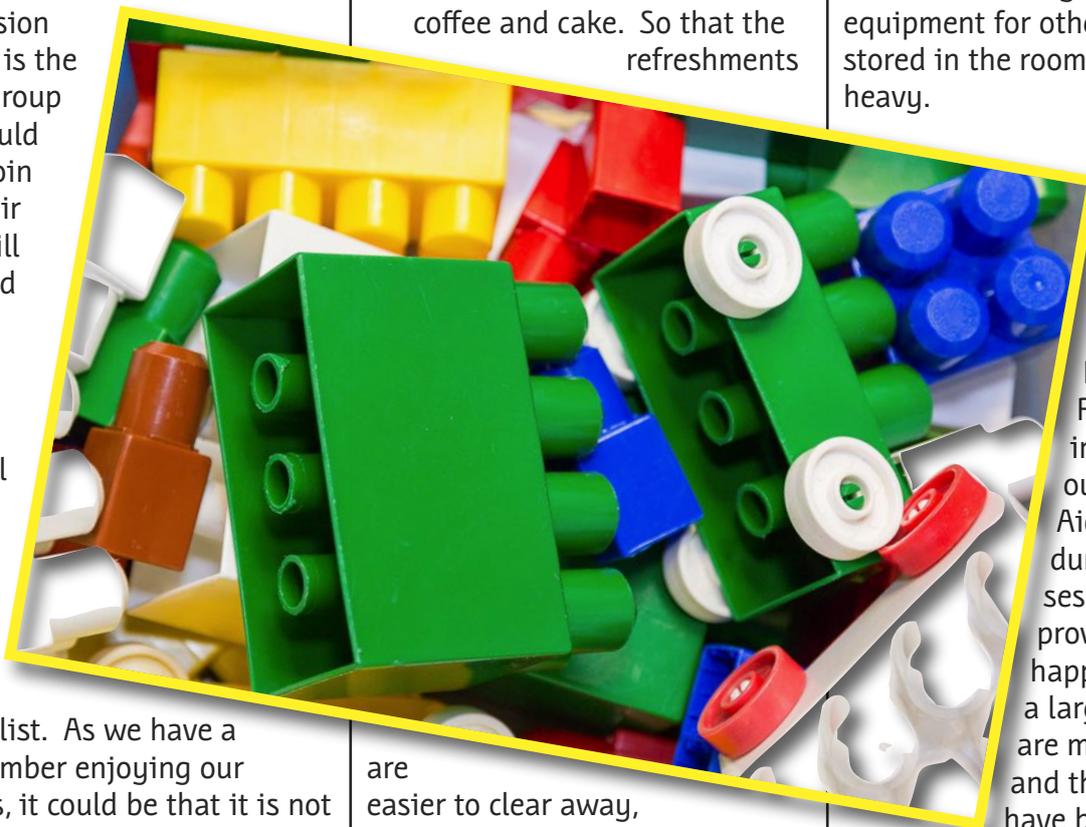
that session and if it is the sort of group they would like to join then their name will be placed on our waiting list, so initially they will attend as a visitor then be placed on the

waiting list. As we have a large number enjoying our facilities, it could be that it is not suitable for all children but most people are pleased with the large area we are blessed with for the youngsters to play in and the amount of toys, ride-ons and other equipment.

During the Friday morning session, 10.00 am – 11.30 am, the first half hour is spent on registration and craft suitable for that age group so we close the doors at 10.30 am. Around 10.45 am we tidy away the books, puzzles, dolls houses, lego and other table toys to prepare for 'snack time'. We have four highchairs for babies and

children sit at tables while they eat and drink. The youngsters enjoy juice or water with savoury and sweet mini biscuits and fruit, generally banana whilst the adults have tea and coffee and cake. So that the refreshments

always appreciated by the adults attending in bringing the play equipment to the cupboard door, however, toddlers are not allowed in the cupboard for health and safety reasons; also equipment for other groups is stored in the room, some of it heavy.



We are a friendly group and all embrace the usual Church Child Protection Policy instructions set out and a First Aider is on hand during the sessions. So providing you are happy to be part of a large group, all are most welcome and this year we have been given

extra toys by a group in Felixstowe who were closing down so have a large variety of toys for your loved ones to enjoy.

are easier to clear away, we encourage the attendees to take these in the area outside the kitchen as our facilities are carpeted and to keep a watchful eye on the toddlers as we have a limited number of busy helpers. Between 11.00 am – 11.30 am the tables and chairs outside the kitchen are cleared away and there is still a large area for play until 11.30 am with nursery rhymes and simple instruments to use as well as dancing to the music in the area where the bouncy castle has been.

At 11.30 am the toys are put away in the store room so help is

God bless from the Toddler Team: Linda, Mary, Derek, Julie, Sean, Angela and Barbara

Christmas Celebration

Christmas with the Children – Carol Service Sunday 17th December 2017

We held our Christmas Carol Service at River of Life on the afternoon of Sunday 17th December, which this year we styled "Christmas with the Children".

After weeks of preparation we saw our Younger Church led by Caroline Sturman and myself come together to present "Away in a Manger" and "Light of Christmas" along with our Church Youth Group, "The 412", who presented a very humorous video-spoof of Christmas past and present, and Nina and Rhea presenting 'Noel' and 'Mary did you Know?'. There was also an animated fun video by Nina, Rhea, Jade and Rebekah singing; "While we are Young". To see young Reece impersonating Pastor Trevor in a LifeNews spoof, complete with "bald" swimming cap, was truly hilarious!

The various presentations were supported by our Worship Team who led the congregation in some inspiring carols and the

afternoon was rounded off with a challenging Christmas mes-



sage being given by Emeritus Pastor Juanita Baker entitled "What are you doing about Jesus this Christmas?"

Afterwards, everyone was invited to stay for mince pies



and mulled punch!

Working with Little Lobsters is a challenge! Three to five year olds whose attention span is truly amazing put their items together with soft voices, in a time-span faster than one can work out what is to be accomplished with these children- and with the big event coming faster than a rollercoaster; or at least so it would seem! Special thanks to Caroline Sturman who

knows how to draw these children in to focus on a song to sing in front of a large audience and on the day they sang beautifully.

The Carol Service was a special event for these children but we must not forget our special thanks go to all who teach and help in Little Lobsters throughout the year.

Cool Crabs; five to ten years; I love how much Bible knowledge stays with these children- every week they are keen to learn something new about



Jesus. In so many ways we are investing in these children's lives for the future.

Thank you to everyone from parents to all involved in how these children grow in confidence in what they say and do.

Assistant Pastor Sean Englefield
(Younger Church Overseer)



50 Declarations

Declarations to the Church



This Church is blessed.

- This Church has the favour of God on it.
- The people in this Church will grow. They will grow to love and serve the Lord like no-one has ever seen before.
- This Church is a prosperous Church.
- This Church is the Church of God. It is the very essence of Jesus in this earth.
- You will see my hand upon this Church. You will see mighty wonders, great and mighty wonders, things you have never dreamed of.
- This Church will be led. It will be led according to the way of the Lord. The Apostle will lead this Church. There will be prophecy - the prophet, the evangelist the teacher, the pastor - all will be in order.
- There will be honour in this Church. Each person will honour each other. There will be no more bickering. There will be honour among this people.
- These declarations I make in the name of Jesus Christ.

Harman Hopkins



JustOne

— with J. John —
at Priestfield Stadium

Saturday 9th June 2018

Just One Day
Just One Message
Just One Invitation



River of Life Church would like to take several coaches to this event in Gillingham, Kent. Ticket & travel costs to follow but if you would like to register your interest in attending this event you can sign up online at www.riveroflifechurch.net [Events>External Events], or sign the board at the back of the Auditorium, or call the Church Office on 01394 273700.

Welcome to



Open

*Wednesdays,
Thursdays
and Fridays*

*10.00 am
to
3.00 pm*

Freshly made
Sandwiches

Bacon Rolls

Toasted Teacakes

Homemade Cakes

Scones

Selection of Teas

Coffees

Americano

Cappuccino

Latte and more

At Christian Life Centre

2 Carr Road

Felixstowe

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