



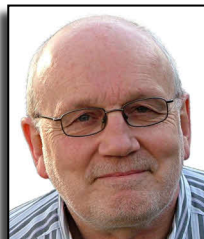
**BRISTOL
CHRISTIAN
FELLOWSHIP**

EQUIPPING CHRISTIANS
TO BUILD CHURCHES
TO CHANGE OUR WORLD

BCF NEWS

January 2010

Happy New Year!



Dave Day is looking forward to a year of consolidation, growth and still more change

I hope you have all had a good Christmas and are ready to face whatever 2010 presents.

Last year was a year of unprecedented changes in BCF, probably more change than any other year in the history of the church. I have been encouraged with the overall response, enthusiasm and opportunities that have arisen. Good patterns have emerged in the three areas of development and there are growing senses of identity in Thornbury, Barley Close and Aard'vark. I appreciate the willingness of so many to help make the changes happen. Some have specifically stepped out of their comfort zones and made positive choices about their commitment and involvement.

What does this year hold? Always allowing for new directions inspired

by the Holy Spirit, there are several things I want to see. Our changes have been partly motivated by the desire and need to be more intentionally missional. If we are pursuing this, we need to see people come to faith this year. I must say that this is not just the responsibility of the new churches and their leaders: we all have a responsibility to be good news wherever we are. I am aware that it is an area in which I need to see more connections in my own life.

The Ark

We will over the year, see the growing partnership with St Matthew's centred around the Ark. We are looking to see a new Trust develop with the responsibility of using the Ark as a centre from which to see transformation to the local community in Cotham and Kingsdown. It is an exciting development and will build upon the success of 2008's Festival of Hope and last year's Open Festival. As we develop the mission and building, there will be a lot of opportunity for many to become involved in mission and serving.

The Blackhorse building

We may over the next year see the completion of the new Blackhorse building. Again, it is another exciting development which will enable us to connect with the community. The building is a step of faith in many ways, not least financially. As Graham said at the December fellowship meeting, we are between 5-10% under budget for the year. That does mean many thousands of pounds shortfall and we need to be trusting God to maintain what we believe he wants us to do. Graham said that the bulk of our regular giving goes towards people – we want to maintain that principle but we are being stretched and need some breakthroughs.

Thornbury

Matt Sanderson is taking a lead with the Thornbury group and they are starting a more regular pattern of meeting together. Please pray for all those in Thornbury and especially Matt, Liz and family. The expression of BCF life in Thornbury will be different from the other two areas, and that is very healthy. Matt will be joining us on the Apostolic Team.

BCF staff

Pete Osborne, who by the time you read this will be a proud dad, is changing his work schedule. He has been working full time for BCF for several years with responsibility for youth and children's work and more recently Aardv'ark. From December, he has cut down to working three

days a week for the church with the prime responsibility for Aardv'ark. He will be using the other days for parental duty and also developing and working using his IT and video making skills. Pete has done a great job over the years with our youth and we are praying for him, Lindsay and family as they start a whole new phase of life. Ruth McConnell will be overseeing the youth work in the church. She is working three days a week for BCF.

Pauline Berndes is also stepping down as a Trustee after five years of service. Our grateful thanks to her.

So 2010 will be a year of consolidation, growth and still some more change. It is all good and I look forward to writing something in twelve months' time when I can acknowledge with thanks the growth that we have seen.

Happy New Year

Social Action Group

Rebekah Brain encourages us to get active with our faith!



Romans 12:2 "Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind..."

James 2:22 "You see that his faith and his actions were working together, and his faith was made complete by what he did."

It says in the Bible that our faith should not just be shown through words, but, also, through our actions. The idea of this social action group is for us to corporately "do" our discipleship, and follow in Jesus' footsteps, in a way that will relate to modern society. This could combine campaigning against injustice, or carrying out acts of kindness (eg. Litter picks, prayer walks etc.)

If you are at all interested there will be a meeting at Ruth and Fran's at 2.00 pm on Saturday 23rd January 2010, to discuss details and any ideas.

Thank you, hope to see you there.

BCF Thornbury update

Terry Wood has information about meetings in Thornbury

Following our announcement that from January we will be starting to meet at 4pm on Sundays in Thornbury, we are really excited about the regular venue that we have been able to secure for our fortnightly meetings. These will alternate with the 4All meetings held at St Mary's that some of us have been attending.

The Anglican Church in Thornbury has very kindly allowed us to use St Paul's the Hackett. This is a wonderful 100 year old small traditional church building on the edge of Thornbury complete with modern amenities. This very generous offer from the Anglicans is a testament to the good relationship that exists between the churches in Thornbury.

We are really looking forward to our first meeting there where Dave Day will be speaking. This will be on Sunday 10th January at 4pm. As an exception we meet on 24th January in the Church Hall - at 5pm, just to keep us all on our toes! - but after that we should be able to meet at St Paul's for the next few months on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month.

BCF Thornbury New Year Schedule:

- 3 January 4pm: 4All – St Mary's Parish Church
- 10 January 4pm: BCF Thornbury at St Paul's the Hackett with Dave Day
- 17 January 4pm: 4All – St Mary's Parish Church
- 24 January 5pm: BCF Thornbury at the Church Hall
- 31 January 4pm: BCF 5th Sunday Special: Venue to be advised

And as a reminder the Thornbury Blog is the place to look for the latest updates and also an online diary:

www.bcfthornbury.blogspot.com/



Hello! My name is Marta and I love to create children's wall murals. If you are interested in transforming your kid's rooms into magical places give me a call on 07870753330 -- the first person to order gets it free!

Aardvark update

From **Pete Osborne** (who is about to take a short period of paternity leave - see below!)

A quick update on some plans for Aardvark in 2010 before I disappear!

1. We plan to take the Sermon on the Mount as the theme for (part of) the year. We'd like to take our time going through it, so plan to cover it in some detail. If you want to get a head start, take a look at Matthew 5 - 8. We'll be starting this series on Jan 10th. (Jan 3rd there will be a social gathering at the Edbrookes'.)

2. We have started to explore the concept of belonging. We'd like to take this further, and offer everyone a chance to discover what it means to be a part of Aardvark and then have an opportunity to commit to that. We will be running a 4 week 'Aardvark Family Thing' which we would like everyone who considers themselves part of the Aardvark family, or is thinking about it to participate in. This will be running from Tuesday 19 January to 9 February. Each week will start at 7pm (TBC) with food (although if you can't make it that early, come along later).



You can always talk to Neil, Ruth or Emma for more info about any of these things.

Congratulations

to Pete and Lindsay Osborne. Raewyn Lesley Osborne and Theo Harvey Osborne were born on 18 December



Resound update

Tim Groves

OK I admit, I'm feeling quite romantic. As I write, the snow is on the ground, and I'm still feeling warmed by the afterglow of yesterday's carol service. However, reading this, as you are, on the other side of the festive season, several things are worth mentioning.

Resound

We will now refer to the Blackhorse building and indeed the church this side of the city as 'Resound'. This will, I appreciate, take some growing into.

20:20

On the 10th of January we will launch an in-house initiative called 20:20, which is designed to help us as individuals and as a congregation to evaluate our walk with God and stimulate an intentional approach to discipleship. We will be encouraged to take out 20 minutes of our day, over the remaining 20 days of January to read, pray and seek God. Hard copies will be made available, but a full colour virtual copy will be accessible on the BCF web site.

Leadership team

I would like to take this (among other opportunities I'm sure) to thank the members of the steering group (C.J.; Fran Kidd; Pete & Julie Ricketts; Ruth McConnell; Nick Harvey; and Mike Bennett), who have helped make the transition from the Grange to Barley Close as pain free as possible. I have valued the contributions and gifts of each member and look forward to what God will help us build in 2010. This team, which was intended as a short-term team, will now give way to the new leadership team. The new team is: Colin and Cara Medus; Claire and Paul Collins; Trudy Wainwright; Mike Bennett; and Ruth McConnell. We will be ably assisted by Christine Fulterer as administrator.

Discipleship groups

January will see the launch of discipleship groups, designed to stimulate a supportive and accountable approach to personal discipleship. Groups will meet bi-weekly and be around six people in each group. We do intend to review these groups quarterly, and are constantly open to change as and when necessary. Meeting every two weeks allows us to consider paying particular attention to sharing our lives with others outside the church. We acknowledge that discipleship and mission are the two pressing issues we want to focus on in 2010.

Community choir

The choir will start in February and will be led by our very own Abby Lacey. I would like to encourage as many of you as possible to consider being part of this exciting group. This is of course in addition to the discipleship groups.

Cafechurch

We will be pushing forward with this in January and will be looking to get a team of interested people together. Please see Christine if you would like to be involved.

There will undoubtedly be many more ways you can get involved and grow new missional activities, let alone discipleship groups, events, etc. Please put your thinking caps on. If you are inspired to see something take shape please share this with me or one of the leadership team.

Blackhorse project update

Good News! The Planning application has been submitted to South Gloucestershire Council! If you want to follow the application's progress on the council's website, it's numbered PK09/6025/F, where there's also the facility to make positive comments.



We are also obtaining planning permission for Severn Ridge in order to get best value when it is marketed in 2010. Firstly to extend the existing property into the loft and secondly for two more dwellings on the land. The sale will help fund a large proportion of new building.

Happy New Year- let's pray for an exciting 2010 for us which sees God surprise us with his provision for the project.

Cathy Knowles (project co-ordinator)



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BCF Diary January 2010

Sun 3	Resound all-age special	10.00 am	Barley Close School
Sun 3	Thornbury 4All	4.00 pm	St Mary's Parish Church
Sun 3	Aardvark social gathering		The Edbrookes'
Wed 6	Spark	7.00 pm	(Venue to be confirmed)
Wed 6	Resound community meal	6.30 pm	Lincombe Barn
Thu 7	Prayer	6.00 pm	Joyce Lewis's
Sat 9	Ignite	7.00 pm	Severn Ridge - worship, prayer, bonfire, etc.
Sun 10	Resound meeting	10.00 am	Barley Close School <i>Tim Groves</i>
Sun 10	BCF Thornbury meeting	4.00 pm	The Hackett <i>Dave Day</i>
Sun 10	Aardvark	7.00 pm	The Ark The Sermon on the Mount
Thu 14	Prayer	6.00 am	Pauline Berndes's
Sun 17	Resound meeting	10.00 am	Barley Close School <i>Val Jeal</i>
Sun 17	Thornbury 4All	4.00 pm	St Mary's Parish Church
Sun 17	Aardvark	7.00 pm	The Ark
Tue 19	Aardvark Family Thing	7.00 pm	The Ark (see p.5)
Thu 21	Prayer	6.00 pm	Ruth and Fran's
Sun 24	Resound meeting	10.00 am	Barley Close School <i>Dave Day</i>
Sun 24	Thornbury meeting	5.00 pm	Church Hall
Sun 24	Aardvark	7.00 pm	The Ark
Tue 26	Aardvark Family Thing	7.00 pm	The Ark (see p.5)
Thu 28	Prayer	6.00 am	The Broadfoots'
Sun 31	Resound meeting	10.00 am	Barley Close School <i>Tim Groves</i>
Sun 31	BCF Thornbury	4.00 pm	5th Sunday Special (venue to be arranged)
Sun 31	Aardvark	7.00 pm	The Ark
February 2010			
Tue 2	Aardvark Family Thing	7.00 pm	The Ark (see p.5)
Sun 7	BCF-wide meeting	3.00 pm	(Venue still to be arranged)
Tue 9	Aardvark Family Thing	7.00 pm	The Ark (see p.5)

Finding your purpose

Roger Allen still has places for **Finding Your Purpose**. Thursdays at Severn Ridge starting at 7.30 pm on 28 January. For full details see last month's BCF News, or contact Roger at roger.angieallen@blueyonder.co.uk or 01454 416 446

Entries for the February Bulletin by 26 January, please.

bulletin@bcfnet.com

BCF News is edited by Ian Wilson.

Read it online: www.bcfnet.com/resources/BCF_News