

FOCUS

ISSUE 22

AUTUMN 2011

Information Inspiration and Interaction Connecting Baptist churches in Cambridgeshire, Essex, Norfolk and Suffolk



Welcome to Focus 22

Autumn in our region is truly a sight to behold, vibrant colours, amazing harvests and glorious skies... how can anyone deny the existence of Creator God in the middle of such beauty?

Inside there's news from around the region, information about training and hopefully a little encouragement and inspiration.

This issue will be our first trial of full colour printing – let us know what you think!

We're moving to publication three times a year, Spring, Summer and Autumn editions. Please bear this in mind when submitting articles.

Enjoy the season... and is it too soon to wish you a Blessed and Peaceful Christmas?

Jill

Editor

*The Eastern Baptist Association is a member of the Baptist Union of Great Britain and a supporter of BMS World Mission
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A Grand Day Out in Norwich...

This year's Assembly took place in Norwich and was graciously hosted by Norwich Central Baptist Church.

Based on the theme of The Changing Face of Church, it included seminars on a wide range of issues from encouraging small rural churches to mission in our everyday 'Crossing Places'.

The Reverend Doctor Pat Took, this year's Baptist Union President, spoke passionately both in her seminar and her keynote address about being church in the modern world without compromising Biblical values and principles. We welcomed those joining us in ministry in the region and commissioned our new Association Moderator, Reverend Norman Tharby.

Sadly, attendance was significantly down on previous years and, due to lack of numbers, children's and youth work was cancelled – a source of great disappointment.



Olympic year, 2012, will see us in Hadleigh in Essex with exciting things in store... get the date in your diary now! Saturday June 23rd 2012



Church and undertaking some work with The Baptist Unions of New South Wales and Victoria.

All email addressed to Richard during this time will be deleted unread!

From mid-September, Richard Lewis will be away on Sabbatical. He and Jean are travelling to Sydney, Australia where they'll stay until January 2012.

We wish Richard and Jean safe travels and a time of inspiration, rest and blessing in Australia.

Alongside some studies, Richard will be preaching at St. Ives Baptist



A marriage made in... Ipswich

When Roger Armstrong and Gillian Hitchcock met up, they clearly had more in common than taking minutes at the church meeting!

Roger, church secretary at Colchester Road Baptist Church, Ipswich and Gillian, church secretary at Rushmere Baptist Church, were married earlier this summer.

We wish them every blessing in their marriage



Mr Roger and Mrs Gillian Armstrong

G'day Swaffham

We welcome Reverend Guy Yeomans, his wife Sandra and their children, twins, Carys and John to the region from their home in Sydney, Australia.

Guy is undertaking some work at Swaffham Baptist Church as part of a Sabbatical exchange with Richard Lewis.

Guy may also be available to lead a limited number of retreats.

Capturing time at Leigh Road

Children from Leigh Road Baptist Church Pre-school buried a time-capsule today, Thursday 8th September on the site of Leigh Road Baptist Church's new building development.

Leigh Road Baptist Church (LRBC) embarked on a £1 million re-development project for their home on Marguerite Drive, Leigh-on-Sea in May of this year.

The work which aims to be completed by the end of 2011 will provide:

- a new and inviting glass landmark entrance and meeting area
- a bright and inviting worship and performance space seating around 250-300
- an enhanced community hall for events, sports and celebrations
- a new purpose built pre-school facility with internal open-air safe play area
- a beautiful garden and open-air events space for all to enjoy.



From left to right. Back row: Graham Milne (Site Manager for T.J Evers Ltd.), Jane Brookes (LRBC BUILD Project Coordinator), Janette Land and Liz Davis (LRBC Pre-school Managers), Rev Steven Hembury (LRBC Senior Minister) and Tom Lawrence (Builder from T.J. Evers Ltd.)
Front row: Pre-school children, Dylan Sanders, Rudy Brown, Joseph Morgan, Verity Rose and Cicibelle de Tourtoulon

The children and staff of the pre-school were joined by LRBC Senior Minister, Rev Steven Hembury, Graham Milne and Tom Lawrence of building contractors T.J. Evers Ltd. and Jane Brookes LRBC BUILD Project Coordinator. The time capsule contained church, local and national items that show a snapshot of life on this day in history. Local and national newspapers, photos and programmes of the many groups that meet at the church, a Bible and details of the other community services that are held from the church island site, as well as some work of the pre-school children. The churches website for this day was also archived and placed on a memory stick along with some sample recordings of different church services from LRBC's weekly podcast. Steven Hembury said, "We are delighted that every week hundreds of people use the church premises for a multitude of activities. We currently provide a coffee shop, community centre, auditorium, halls, retail outlets and warehouse facilities. However, we desperately needed to modernise our premises - the new development will help us to serve and welcome our neighbourhood more fully. The new upgraded hi-tech worship area, will also allow us to communicate the good news of Jesus Christ in a relevant and accessible way."

Updates on what's on, where and when can be found on the LRBC website www.lrbc.org.uk as well as updates on the project.

Pier Avenue's Welcome Centre development makes a difference

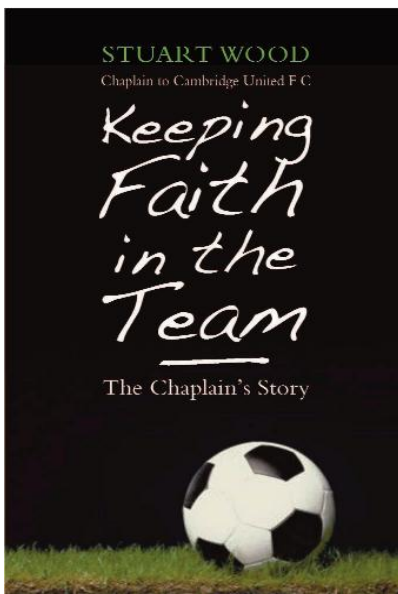
With the help of the Big Society Fund, local Council and the Primary Care Trust, **Pier Avenue Baptist Church in Clacton on Sea** has been able to complete the refurbishment of its Welcome Centre to include showers, toilets and a wet room allowing for full disabled access.

This enables the community at Pier Avenue to continue its work with the vulnerable.

One morning a week, breakfast and showering opportunities will be offered to those sleeping rough or in very poor accommodation and this will be supplemented by nursing/medical services supplied through the PCT. Other services, including job search opportunities provided through the Volunteer Bureau, will be provided, and more support services will be built up over time.

JobCentre Plus will be involved in setting up a Job Club. This will be run in close cooperation with the 'Embrace' project of the Salvation Army.

This is the final stage of the development of the Welcome Centre, costing over £750 000, and enabling it to live up to its name by providing superb facilities that are used by the church and local community groups.



Faith and Footie

For many supporters, football is a religion, an idol to be worshipped, but it doesn't have to be that way. Is it possible to be Jesus at the match? Does God care about 'the beautiful game?'

Stuart Wood has one of Christianity's more unusual jobs – in addition to being the minister of a small Baptist church to the North of the city, he is official chaplain to Cambridge United FC. In this book, published at the start of United's centenary year, Stuart writes an honest and heartfelt diary of his season, from pre-season (and the World Cup) through to May, as the club battles to reclaim promotion to the Football League.

Stuart Wood is minister of Barnwell Baptist Church in Cambridge, and official chaplain to Cambridge United Football Club. In this latter role, he offers pastoral and spiritual care to all people involved with the club, including players, staff and supporters. He has a very strong public profile at the club, writing a full-page column in every matchday programme and being the on-pitch team and notices announcer. His varied tasks involve talking to the players and staff on regular occasions, travelling with the team and staying with them overnight for the occasional away game, and conducting weddings, baptisms and funerals for supporters.

South Woodham Celebrates!

South Woodham Evangelical Church in Essex celebrated its 80th Anniversary over the weekend of 7/8 May.

Almost 300 people attended an exhibition "South Woodham Ferrers – Land of Hope and Glory" held in the church on Saturday. Spread over some 30 display boards, this depicted the different stages in the growth of South Woodham Ferrers, the development of Christian witness in the town and the history of the Evangelical Church itself. The church's Boys' Brigade had constructed a one-sixth scale model of the Mission Hall that originally stood on the church site especially for the event and this was a big draw to the steady stream of visitors as was a large 1983 model of the whole town.

Sunday saw an Anniversary family service on Sunday morning attended by the South Woodham Ferrers mayor and led by the church's effervescent Baptist regional minister Sheila Martin. This was followed by a shared lunch and the day was rounded off by a 'Songs of Praise' with the South Woodham Ferrers Handbell Team attended by former Evangelical Church members the mayor and mayoress of Chelmsford, Alan and Jackie Arnot.



Church member, Betty Holden, has been attending the church for all of its 80 years

Present at all services was current church member Betty Holden who was present as a three-year-old at the church's opening service 80 years ago. It was a weekend celebration at which the church recognised God's goodness in the past as it looked forward to serving and witnessing in the community of South Woodham Ferrers in the years ahead

From Cambridge to Kasese – with music and peace

In May, Gareth and Bethan Shrubsole were commissioned at St. Andrew's Street Baptist Church to work with BMS World Mission in Kasese, Uganda.

Bethan is a music therapist who has worked in many situations including in special needs schools, psychiatric care homes and with emotionally and behaviourally-challenged pupils in mainstream schools.

In 2008 she set up a music therapy project in Gulu, north Uganda, which continues to provide music counselling to war-affected children with special needs through a Ugandan employee.

Gareth has been an officer in the Royal Navy, serving on a number of ships all over the world. In 2008 he completed a six-month operational tour on land in the multi-national headquarters in Basra, Iraq, where he worked on reconstruction and development projects and was the U.N.'s military liaison officer in southern Iraq.

They have a son, Samuel, born June 2010.

After their time at IMC, they moved as a family to Uganda in June 2011. Here, as BMS long-term workers, they will work with the Baptist Union of Uganda in Kasese, western Uganda. Bethan will use her music therapy and experience of psycho-social work with vulnerable women and children. Gareth will be involved in peace building and community development projects.

Please remember this family in your prayers.



THE BACK PAGE

Training and Events around the region

crossingplaces

www.crossingplaces.org.uk

**Baptist Christians
making a difference
wherever they are**

**Colchester Baptist Church
Saturday 1 October 2011**

With

Ian Bunce, Head of Mission, Baptist
Union of GB

Kathryn Morgan, Mission Adviser,
Baptist Union of GB

**Cost: £5 per person - please
bring your own lunch**

Bring a group from your church
to inspire and be inspired by
stories of Baptist churches
engaging with their local
communities.

incarnatenetwork

**New Ways – a day to explore
starting fresh expressions of church**

Saturday 19th November 2011

9:30am – 4:30pm in Southend on Sea

www.churchfromscratch.org/newways

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BOOKING DETAILS FOR EVENTS:

Assembly – Hayley Beckett

secretary@easternbaptist.org.uk

Others

jillmayes@easternbaptist.org.uk

**Fakenham Baptist
Community Church**
'to know Jesus and make Him known'

**Want to inspire your
leaders and ministry
teams?**

SOZO Training

11-12th November 2011

£10.00 per delegate

Fakenham Community
Baptist Church
10 Mill Court
Fakenham
Norfolk
NR21 9AU

Tel: 01328 864268

Email:

office.fbcc@btinternet.co.uk

<http://www.bethelsozo.org.uk>



**So you
think
you can
preach?**

**Training for those called to
lay preaching**

with

Revd Richard Lewis
Regional Minister

**Swaffham Baptist Church
Saturday March 5th 2012
10.00-3.30pm**

THE E WORD

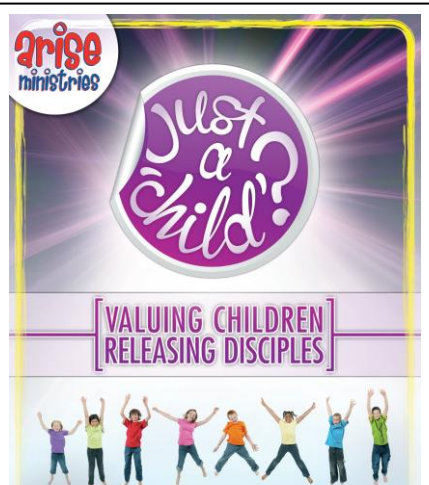
**Evangelism Training
@ Braintree Baptist
Church**

Led by Revd Sheila Martin
Regional Minister

**Six Sessions commencing 24th
February 2012 and
concluding 30th March 2012**

More Details :

Revd Vilma Broadhurst
vilmabroadhurst@btinternet.com



1st October – North Essex

8th October – South Essex

www.ariseministries.org.uk