

OCTOBER 2008 at Christ Church

Dear Friends at Christ Church

All good gifts around us, are sent from heaven above

Then thank the Lord, O thank the Lord, for all his love

It's true! All the good things we have are gifts from God. Living in a world where we can walk into the supermarket and buy whatever food we want from all over the world rather than having to grow it ourselves, it is easy to forget that actually, it is God who gives the harvest. But for all our human ingenuity, the advances in agriculture and transport, we still are dependent on rain and sun, on the miracle that turns a tiny seed into a fruit-bearing plant. We are dependent on God, not just spiritually, but materially as well.

It's true! All the good things we have are gifts from God. And that means that no matter what our circumstances, we have much to thank God for. And I think that is why our Harvest Festival is so important. We need to stop and remember God's generosity, to say a heartfelt 'thank you' to the Lord.

It's true! While in this life our enjoyment of God's good gifts can so easily be spoiled by the brokenness of the world, we have a hope that goes beyond this. In 1 Corinthians 15, Paul uses the harvest to point towards the resurrection – just as the seed that is planted has to die before the plant can grow – in the same way the death of our bodies is the start of a glorious new life. It is that hope which we want to share with others – on Back to Church Sunday it was great to see so many who had been brought along by friends. Let's keep it up!

Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labour in the Lord is not in vain. (1 Cor.15:58)

Yours in Christ

Regular weekly activities:

Monday	-	9.30 am Toddler Group
	-	1.00 pm TLC
Tuesday	-	9.30 am Toddler Group
	-	1.15 pm Art Group
	-	4.00 pm Shine
Wednesday	-	9.30 am Toddler Group
	-	1.00 pm Needlecraft Group
	-	1.30 pm Toddler Group
	-	4.00 pm Rainbows
	-	5.15 pm Rainbows
Thursday	-	1.00 pm Craft Group
	-	9.45 am Keep Fit
	-	11.00 am Keep Fit
	-	5.30 pm Brownies
	-	7.30 pm Guides
Friday	-	9.15 am Mothers 'n' Others
	-	7.00 pm Evening Bowls

CURACY NEWS!

I'm delighted to be able to announce that we will have a new curate joining us next June. Peter Bourke is currently training at Oak Hill College in North London, and he and his wife Sarah will be moving to Moreton at the end of the academic year, ready for Peter's ordination on 5th July.

Please keep Peter and Sarah in your prayers over the coming months.

TLC

Our ‘Tea, Listening and Company’ has now been running for 6 months. Several people have come along and found it to have been a real help, and we do want to say ‘thank you’ to the team who run it. But we do long to see more people coming and finding help and support at TLC – and the best way for that to happen is through personal invitation. So if you know someone who is struggling with life, and who would appreciate a listening ear, please give them one of our TLC leaflets, and encourage them to come along – Mondays, 1.00 – 3.00 pm.

‘Carry each other’s burdens’ (Galatians 6:2)

Caring for one another should always be our aim, but we do need within the church those who are gifted in pastoral care. To help equip anyone who is interested in this, we are planning to run a new course, starting after Christmas.

‘Pastoral Care’ is a 10 session course produced by the Open Bible Institute. Each session involves around 5 hours work at home, and then a group session to talk through what you have learned. The course costs £30. If you are interested, or would like to know more, please speak to Graham

Tearfund, forty years on....

Two world events helped to trigger the creation of Tearfund - floods and famine in Bihar, India, in 1967 and the suffering caused by the war between Nigeria and the breakaway state of Biafra in 1968.

That year, Tearfund was born, a specifically evangelical, Christ-centred response to poverty, suffering and injustice. Tearfund provided emergency help then, and continues today to respond to emergencies as they happen. Tearfund signalled its vision with a Biblical challenge; ***‘Let us not love in words or in speech but in deed and in truth.’ I John 3:18.*** Forty years later that inspiration still runs through Tearfund’s DNA. Tearfund is about working with the local church to see lives transformed, people released from material and spiritual poverty.

