



The Sanctuary Church

Newsletter
April 2015

Completing a task

By Nigel Farmer
Senior Minister

There's always things that need doing and especially so in a Church building of the size of ours. During the dark, cold, wet months of winter my job list seemed to grow rapidly...and not all of it got done! But Spring, that beautiful time where flowers begin to bloom, sets an increased desire to complete some of those tasks, like the fence repairs, gardening, decorating etc. that have been put off. There is such a good feeling when tasks are complete and no longer hanging over us.



Easter provides time for a break from the daily grind, and to get some things complete and set yourself to do something new. It was during this time, 2000 years ago, that we heard the final words of Jesus on the cross, saying: "It is finished."

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Vision

"A Joyful Church, passionate about Jesus, connecting with our community through the power of the Holy Spirit."
Outworked through the following three...

*"Committed to **Change**"*

*"Dedicated to **Discipleship**"*

*"Serious about **Serving**"*

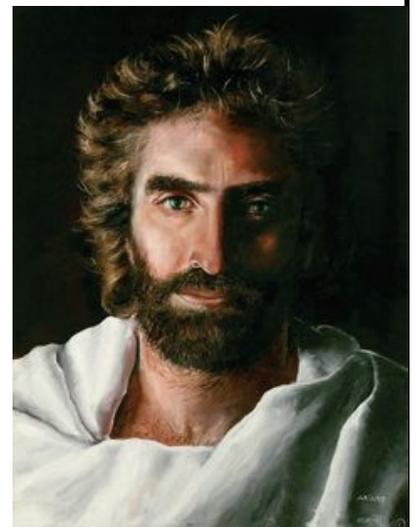


So what had Jesus completed? Not long before uttering those words, Jesus had prayed in the knowledge that He had “finished the work you have given Me to do.” Jesus was to seek and to save those that were lost and to make a way so that man could be back in relationship with the Father (Atonement): this had been the task.

God is best summed up by the word ‘Love’ according to the disciple John (1 John 4:8), and from the time with Adam in the garden right up until now He has not stopped demonstrating love toward His creation. Since that time in history when Adam decided to do things his way, rather than in a loving relationship with God, sin entered in between us and The Father’s plan that One would come to provide a way back to Himself began to take shape.

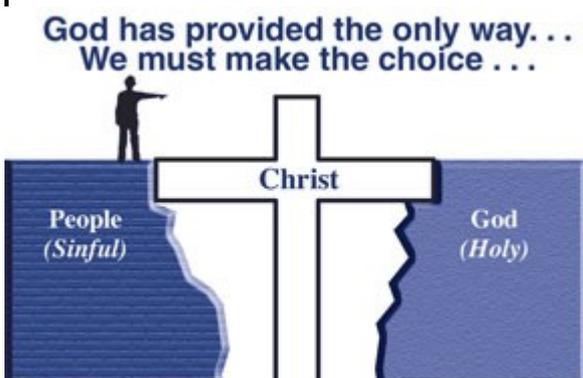
God had to put laws in place to help his people see their need for a Saviour and He gave them symbols to help them see what the Saviour would be like. How could a loving, holy God be in relationship with sinful and self-ish man? God Himself had to provide the way, and that way would be His Son.

If His Son could live as a human with the turmoil and temptations of life and remain sinless, then He could become a substitute for humankind and face the consequences of the sin which must be dealt with before humanity’s relationship with God can be restored. For whoever believes upon that man Jesus, shall never perish but have eternal life (John 3:16).



So what did Jesus complete as He uttered those final words on the cross, “It is finished”? Old Testament prophecies (of which there were over 300 concerning Him), beginning from Genesis 3:15 declaring that He would crush the serpents head, to Isaiah 53, describing the suffering servant, right through to Malachi 3:1

which declared that John the Baptist who would come as the messenger to prepare the way for Him, were all completed on that day on the cross. Sin and that which separates us from God was now destroyed, and for those who choose to believe upon Him, those who were once destined to death can now be made alive because of Jesus. The forgiveness of sin was now made possible because of his death.



History shows that there was such a man, and whether you choose or choose not to believe in Him as the one that came to restore our relationship with God, why don't you set yourself a new task of knowing Jesus in a greater way? For those that know Him, not only sin was forever defeated but after the resurrection of Jesus, death no longer hangs over us either. **Happy Easter!**



Welcome our new prophetic team... **By Esther Farmer**

As you know, Nigel and I have been running a 'Developing your Prophetic Gifting' course throughout March which has now finished. We have had lots of fun exploring the prophetic together as a group and allowing God to stir the gift within us as well as a practical final session where everyone received and gave words and pictures they felt God had given them to share. "Fantastic" I hear you say! Let's not forget the prophetic gift is for all. In fact in 1 Cor 14v1 it says "pursue love and desire spiritual gifts but especially that you may prophesy."



As a church we believe the prophetic is essential for the building and edification of the body, (ie. the church), and also for seeing God's heart for your present and your future. We are grateful that many members of our church operate in the prophetic and I'm sure will continue to do so as we remain open to the Holy Spirit. As a result of the course we now have a team of people willing to support the church and are ready to listen to God and share what he is saying to you!

How wonderful that we serve a God that wants relationship with us! I believe God is always talking but it's up to us to stop and listen.

Why not give it a go today?

Your Sons and Your Daughters
Will Prophesy

Easter Egg Hunt



By Shaneen Lee

On Saturday we held our annual Easter Egg Hunt in Staple Hill. Each year it gets even better and this year was a huge success despite the wet and windy weather! The kids' church children decorated 9 Easter egg cardboard cut-outs and these were hidden in shop windows along the High Street. Each egg displayed part of the Easter story and the children had to read the story and answer the questions on the egg hunt activity sheet to win their chocolate egg surprise! The children from the local schools had all been invited along with their friends and family and the children from Happy Hands.

Levi was out on the high street encouraging people to join in and over 70 children took part. They had a great time finding all the eggs and learning more about the events of Easter before coming into our building to collect the prize and joining in with craft activities provided by the kids' church team and a few other lovely helpers! Many faces were painted and lots of tea and coffee was served. There was a fantastic atmosphere in the building and the gospel was shared both in word and action.



Thank you to all of you who were able to help put on yet another successful event for our community!



Photo: One of the girls with her face paint and decorating her candle holder.

HAPPY HAPPY HAPPY
EASTER

Congratulations to Viv on her retirement!

When the Elders heard the news of her retirement, it was met with mixed feelings. On one hand, we were so happy for Viv, for this exciting new part of her life was about to start. On the other, we knew we were losing a great employee. Viv is going to be sorely missed in the church office.

Over the years that Viv has worked for the church, she has provided great guidance to us while looking after the church finances. Viv's enthusiasm for saving money & knowing how to search out the best deals has no doubt saved the church thousands of pounds.

We cannot thank Viv enough for all her hard work.

Viv has been a tremendous asset to The Sanctuary office and she will be leaving behind some very big shoes to fill. As Tim steps into this role, we have no doubt that he will do an excellent job after the training Viv will provide. We are glad to note that Viv will still be continuing in her role as a trustee. Her advice in this area will continue to be invaluable.

Viv's retirement is our loss but we wish her a well-deserved break from her working life. May God bless you Viv, in this new phase of your life.



AGM of the Sanctuary Charitable Trust

As part of the Church's legal obligations under the Charity Commission guidelines, we have to hold AGMs. They are a great way of keeping members and supporters up to date with the most recent information regarding the financial structure and 'performance' of the church.

The next meeting will be held on **Sun 19th April, at 1pm.**

By holding it then, it will hopefully make it more accessible for those who may not be able to make a mid-week evening.

The meeting is open to all.



"After it morphs into a pie chart, it gets a little tricky."

April Commitment

*Dare to do
something new
for Jesus
this Easter.*



April birthdays

With lots this month!

7th Larry
7th Maxine
12th Marian
18th Linda Facciponti
18th Christopher Johnson
21st Mavis
22nd Sandra Sullivan
27th Inatoma



Wishing you all a very happy birthday!!

Get to Know You

Every month we send out our crack investigator to track down a member of the church and then subject them to a rigorous grilling! This month's column features Daz McCarthy.



1. How long have you been a member of the church?

10 years

2. Have you always lived in Bristol?

I have lived in Bristol all my life.

3. How did you become a Christian?

I became a Christian through the youth club. I attended the club every week then started doing other activities with the church as well. Then in 2006 I gave my life to God.

4. What is your favourite book/verse of the Bible and why?

Over the last year there have been some hurdles in my life but through God I can be strengthened to keep my head held high and give it to God so I've chosen **Philippians 4:13** - I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.

5. You have recently taken on the mantle of being youth church leader...tell us what your vision is in the next couple of years.

My vision is to show and teach the youth of the church the love of God! I want to be someone they can turn to for support and encouragement as they face many hurdles in life!

6. Finally, what do you like getting up to on your days off?

In my spare time I love spending time with my family and friends I'm blessed to have.

Thanks Daz!



Sanctuary Books
 New Opening hours
 Monday – Friday
 10am – 12pm



We have a wide range of Christian resources.

Come in & Browse!

End of Season run-in

Justin Watts, sports correspondent

The football season is now drawing to a close and the Sanctuary are still holding on for 4th spot. With 4 games to go it is pretty much in their own hands, but they face some stiff competition from those around them in the league. With that in mind, they would love any extra support you are able to offer, and are inviting all church members to come to any of their remaining games—and they'll even throw in a free BBQ at the last game!

Remaining fixtures:

Date	Team	Where?	Time
11/4	Woodies	Page Park	10am
14/4	Castle Green	Page Park	6.15pm
16/4	Edge	Hallen FC	6.30pm
21/4	Hillfields	Southey Park	6.15pm

C'mon, let's cheer the team to the top!!



Here is the current list of food items that Foodbank are most in need of:

Tinned minced beef

Fray Bentos pies

Tinned mackerel or pilchards

Tinned green beans

Tinned ham or spam

Tinned corned beef

Tinned sponge puddings

2-in-1 Shampoo

Shaving foam

Tooth paste and brushes - all ages.

Please cut out this list and put it on your fridge as a reminder for when you do your shopping. Thanks!



Sanctuary Church

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Charity No. 1055406

Keep Fit Tip of the month:

**Exercise Daily:
walk with the
Lord.**



**You are
welcome at
Sanctuary
Books**

**The shop is open Monday to
Friday from 10am-12pm**

Church Members get a
10% discount

Tel: 0117 956 3300

E-Mail:
sanctuarybooks@aol.com

**If someone would like to
oversee the shop on a Sunday
please let us know.**

What's Happening in April

Please note – all activities take place in the church
building unless otherwise specified.

Regular events

(weekly / fortnightly - see a leader for details)

Sun Morning Service 10.30am

Mon Bible Study @ Anne's 3pm
Prayer Meeting 7.30pm
Worship Team practise 7.30pm

Tues Happy Hands 10am

Weds Mature Adult Keep Fit 10am
Homegroups/prayer/teaching 7.30pm

Special Events

Weds 1st Day of Prayer and Fasting
Inc. Prayer meeting 7.30pm

Fri 3rd Good Friday Service 11am

Sun 5th Easter Celebration
Inc. Bonnet Parade & Buffet 10.30am

Sun 5th Easter Worship Service 6pm

Sat 18th Men's Social: Chinese 7pm

Sun 19th Charitable Trust AGM 1pm

Sun 26th Dedication of Zac Radford 10.30am

Coming in May

Sun 3rd Open House @ Mike&Mary's 1pm

Sun 10th Guest Speaker: Graham Riley 10.30am

**Don't forget to add us as a friend on facebook by
searching "Sanctuary Church." Also take a look at our
website: www.thesanctuarynet.org**