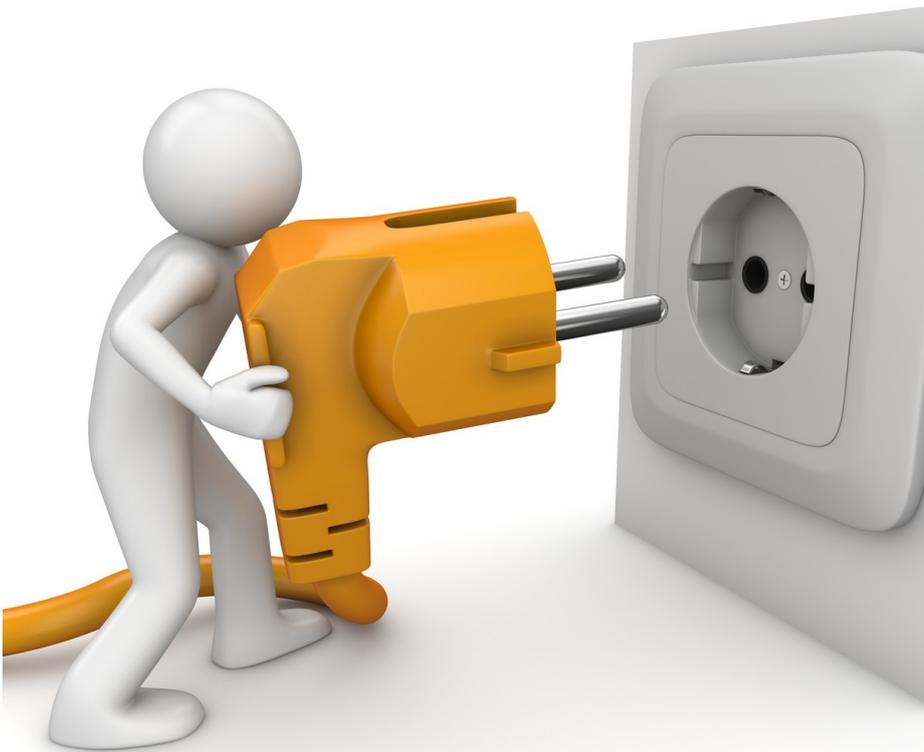




The
Sanctuary Church
change · serve · disciple

Newsletter
August 2017

Plug In!



Article by Nigel Farmer, P2

Welcome to the latest edition of The Sanctuary Church Newsletter—inside you will find all the latest updates, news and reports of life in and around The Sanctuary Church Community. I pray that you will be encouraged as you read through these pages. Have a blessed summer!

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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**"*



Looking to succeed? Plug in!

By Nigel Farmer

As I write this month's article I am about to enjoy a Sabbatical, the like of which I have never before experienced. I am grateful as it is not often that we get the opportunity to slow down and take a break. I am reminded at the outset that "times of refreshing come from God's presence" (Acts 3:19). No matter what our schedule is like God is waiting for us to draw near to Him. When we come to Him, He deposits something in our spirit that refreshes and empowers us.

You know when you have sat with a friend and you have shared a problem or asked for their thoughts, perhaps you have laughed at the situations you have found yourself in, or you realise you have been too serious about something of little real importance. You may have straightened something up that had the potential to be taken the wrong way, or you have been given some great advice or instruction on how to handle a situation. A real friend should leave us refreshed and empowered, even if they have brought some correction. God does this on a much bigger scale.



Too often we are going through our busy lives, doing our service/ministry, and it is not until we get to the end of ourselves that we call out to God and ask for His help. We wonder why we feel dry, why things are not moving as they should or why we are not hearing God clearly...and usually this is because we have not been with God, enjoying His presence. We are too busy getting things 'right' in our own strength, forgetting that God is a God of order and that at His command all things are put right. We need to be more like Mary than her busy sister Martha (Luke 10:38-42). Although God has called us to serve, and it is important that we do so, His first call is to Himself. Jesus said that "one thing is necessary." Mary chose the best thing – the necessary thing - and Jesus commended her for getting her priorities in order.

The apostle Paul said that he counts all things to be rubbish in comparison to knowing Jesus Christ (Philippians 3:8). There is no greater treasure, gift, possession, prize, reward, companion and friend than the person Jesus Christ. In Him are all things. He has all the answers. There is no greater treasure to be found. No gift is greater than the love of God that He reveals to you.

When you know Jesus you already have the greatest mystery of them all, you are forgiven and move from a place of divine acceptance. He walks this journey with you. He knows the course as the One who has already completed it, and you now have the 'No.1 Coach' on your side. He knows you and there is no need to put on an act for Him. You can do all things through Christ who strengthens you. Through stopping and listening to God, you can become stronger and better prepared.

It was clear to see at Wimbledon this year that Roger Federer was performing at his very best after giving himself a season off for a time of rest and refreshing. I predict we will soon be watching the other tennis players who are around 30 taking the same approach as the great man. We can be, and perform, our very best after we have been in a place of refreshing. This summer, I would encourage you to not get too caught up in the rush but take the time to remind yourself that rest is essential.

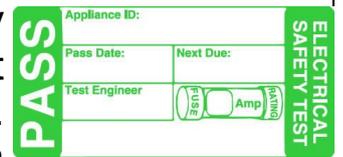
“One thing is necessary”

It is important to get with the right people but we must find times where we can sit and be with God. Let His word wash over you and speak to you, take your time over a verse or two from the scriptures, work through verse by verse Psalm 23 or other favourites. Speak with God about the things on your heart. King David said “Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me away from your presence” (Psalm 51). There is nothing like God's presence. May he dwell in each one of you richly this summer time. At a time when our nation needs God, may every breath that you take be for the purpose of enriching yourself and others with God's Kingdom.



PAT Testing

This month has seen our electrical health and safety compliance come up another gear as Reg has carried out PAT tests on all electrical appliances within the building. Whilst there were no major concerns, there was a momentary 'flutter' when our beloved urn failed its test! Fortunately, Reg was able to use his knowledge of electrics to fix the earth wire and make sure there were no hiccups with our tea provision!



We are delighted to announce that we will be strengthening our partnership with Grace Evangelistic Ministries, headed up in the UK by Pastor Tayo. Over the past few years we have built up a good relationship with Tayo and his team, as they have invited a team from The Sanctuary Church to lead worship at many of their local conferences and we in turn have had the pleasure of having Pastor Bruce come and share with us on a Sunday morning. Most recently, Tayo and GEM hosted a conference here at the end of April, on the theme of Missional Discipleship. GEM has a strong passion for the Word of God and a real desire to equip ministers all over the world. As part of a drive to save costs where they can and be faithful with the donations they receive, GEM are closing their Bristol office in Easton, and will be reopening operations here at The Sanctuary from the beginning of August. It is an honour to be able to welcome them to share our office and to partner with them in this way. Look out for their administrator, Marina, who will be working here 1-2 days per week, and give her a friendly 'hello!'



Development of the Foyer



Work has now begun on transforming the Foyer from a bookshop into a coffee lounge. Livvy's husband, Dave, has kindly investigated and repaired the plasterwork where needed, areas where damp had gradually crept into the building from the outside walls. He has since begun the task of re-painting the entire shop according to Esther's design specifications. With a career's worth of painting experience behind him it was an offer that we couldn't refuse! The elders would like to particularly thank those of you that volunteered to lend a hand for the painting—and you may still be needed yet! Work will be ongoing throughout August and the new carpet will be installed after the painting is complete.

Gracefield School Summer Panto

Gracefield School recently returned to the Sanctuary for their annual summer pantomime. This year, Mrs Morgan and her staff had coached the children in a performance of Cinderella, and what a magnificent performance it was! Tim Owen was invited to take part in the prize-giving ceremony as yet another group of Y6's bid their farewells to the school, along with Mrs Cardwell.

Prophetic Bulletin: July 2017

Welcome to the prophetic bulletin of The Sanctuary Church. These pages feature words that members of the congregation feel God has placed on their hearts for this season. Please pray over them as you feel led. Thanks to Sue Payne for compiling these words.

Whole-Hearted Dedication to Him

John Mapley 24th July 2017

This is what I say to you – I hear you cry - when you say that you are desperate for Me and for the move of My Spirit. And so I say to you; don't let this pass you by. Don't let the move of My Spirit pass you by. Because that is the reality that many people who think they are in My will are facing now – because this move of My Spirit is going to come, and many people are going to be left behind by it.

This is because they won't yield their hearts fully to Me, there is something they are clinging onto in their hearts that they won't let go of. I am not a God of compromises. Either follow Me fully with your whole heart, or not at all. I won't tolerate compromise.

If that is too hard a word, then so be it. For I will not compromise on what I require from people; which is their whole-hearted dedication to Me.

Give Me Control

Sandra Akintola 24 July 17

I saw two sections of bags, some on my left hand and some on my right hand. And with the bags on one side, we say God you can have them; but the other ones we say, these are mine; these are the ones I control. God is saying don't give me some parts of your life to control; give me all of it.

Are you willing to lay everything down?

Jayne Turrell 16 July 17

My challenge for you today My children is: am I over *all* in your life? Have you laid every part of your life down for Me? Because that's what I desire. But not out of 'you must do it.'

For I am your God; I am the great I AM. The great I AM. And I love you. I gave My own Son for you.

So I ask – are you willing to lay everything down?

For the world out there do not know Me. You are the people who take Me to them. So take Me, walk with Me, keep your ear open to Me, and listen to Me.

Sometimes it may be quiet, sometimes it may be loud but open your ears to listen. For I will give you the words to say; I will give you the actions to do. For I love this world.

So as you lay down everything, know that My Spirit will empower you, for I have said that I will never leave you nor forsake you - never.

And He will empower you; He will give you wisdom; He will give you strength; He will give you everything that you need.

But because of My Son, because of My Son; not because of you, you have everything. So as you lay yourself before Me, know that I completely cover you, so you do not ever need to be afraid.

So a question; are you willing to make Me Lord over everything?

Time to Choose

John Mapley 10th July 2017

I say to you, I have given enough warnings and exhortations about what I require from you. If you have not listened by now, you are never going to, and that is what it boils down to. I cannot wait forever; for there are those who have been patiently seeking Me and waiting for the outpouring of My Spirit – and I am a God who delivers on His promises.

And so I say to you, if you are willing to follow Me and put everything else aside then now is the time to do it, because I will not wait any longer. It is time to choose whether you want a part in the things I am going to do; or otherwise you will not have any part in it at all – it is your choice.

God's Desire is to See Christ Formed in Us

Val Russell 9 July 17

My children, My children, My heart's desire is to see Christ formed in you. The earth is crying out for a manifestation of the sons of God. I long to see you transformed, from glory, to glory, to glory.

And My children, sometimes I love you so much that I do need to discipline you.

The chains will fall off when you surrender those things that you know are in your heart, that need to be surrendered, that need to be repented of. For I see them; I see them. And I long for you to see them and acknowledge them.

Because in that, you can give me what is wrong, for Me to be able to transform you to be more like My Son. I have called you to be a manifestation of My Son, here in the earth. And My children, I LONG to see Christ formed in you. I long to see you transformed from glory, to glory, to glory. That those that you come into contact with will see Christ in you, will smell the aroma of the presence of Jesus in you.

And I'm saying this to you not out of a heart of condemnation, for I do not come to condemn, but My Spirit will convict. And I give you a choice, to choose life or to choose death. To choose life means that you will need to surrender those things that you know are not right. Because I love you too much to leave you the way you are. I long to see Christ formed in you, and the earth is crying out for that.

Yes there'll be an army that rises up, but it will be an army of those that have been transformed, as I form Christ in you. There will be a transforming work that happens in your life. A transforming work that only My Spirit can do. It's not all about gifting; it's not all about power. It's about character as well. I long to see the character of Christ formed in you. Will you acknowledge, "Yes, Lord, have what's wrong in my life; have what's wrong, and transform it."

I love you so much My people that I cannot leave you the way you are. I love you; I love you; I love you. So come and have those chains broken. The invitation is given to you because I love you.

Nigel Farmer 9 July 17

Then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean; I will cleanse you from all your filthiness and from all your idols. I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. Ezek 36:25-26

We Need to Call on God to Send the Rain of His Spirit

John Mapley 3 July 17

During the worship at the Monday prayer meeting, I was feeling really dry and thirsty to the point where I was just starting to cry out to God and say 'I'm just so thirsty; I need to be filled; I need the rain of Your Spirit'.

Then we had a quiet time and God said to me that He knows how dry and thirsty this land is; He sees that every day. But His people need to realise that's how it is, to see it the way that He see it, that this is such a dry and thirsty land spiritually. We need to realise that we need Him to pour out His rain on us.

We need to get down on our knees in PRAYER and CALL ON HIM for the RAIN.

He said that when we do that, it will come.

Trust and Surrender

Jan Cestrelli 3 July 17

The thing that kept coming to me was 'trusting'; we need to TRUST in Him. And we need to SURRENDER our lives to Him; real full deep surrender. And be prepared to do what He wants us to do. Those two things just came so strongly.

The Secret of the Lord Is with Them That Fear Him

Sandra Akintola 3 July 17

I sensed God saying 'The secret of the Lord is with them that fear Him' (Ps 25:14). And I heard God saying, 'You keep asking Me for more and more and more, but do you really want it? Is it one of those things you just say for the sake of saying it? You like all the fancy stuff, you like to see things happen. But are you really serious about it? Is it something you really want to experience, or something you just want to keep talking about? If it's just something to keep talking about, things are going to remain the way they are.

But if it's something you really desire, you need to come in submission to Me, not seeking what you want.'

It's as though you had an open book, and on one side of the book, it was written out; it was filled. The other side was blank. And the Lord said this is how it is; you guys write all this agenda, and you give it to Me and you say 'action it'. But God said 'What I want is the *blank page*, because I want to write on it what I want.'

I just get the sense that whilst it's good for us to have plans; it's good for us to have aims and ambitions, we need to come to a place where we're completely willing to do what He wants; we're completely sold out.

We need to come to Him and say 'God what's next?', rather than coming with our plan or our agenda and expect God to stamp it.

I felt God was saying, 'What you know from the past is good but that's not going to carry you through into what needs to happen. You cannot plough with the instrument you used before, for the season ahead.

And it kept coming back: that the secret of God is with them that fear Him.

We really need to decide where we stand. Do we genuinely want the move of God? Because the move of God is not going to be what we think it is. A lot of us are so conditioned; we're very comfortable with certain ways things are done; this is the way we like it, but can we be so in submission to God that God can take us where He wants?

We're so conditioned, even in our services, in the way we do everything; it's so very conditioned. Can we come in submission, in the knowledge that God is the great I AM. That is where the fear of God comes in. It's not being afraid, but standing in awe of Him, knowing His greatness, and being completely yielded to that greatness. And saying 'God do with us what you want, how you want.'

We need to cultivate more of that submission to God that comes from a place of recognising His greatness, where we're not waiting until a particular time in the meeting before we tune in to what He wants to do. Even the moment before we come into a meeting, and whilst we are in the meeting, let's be so attuned to God that we know how He wants to lead.

Update from Foodbank

By Claire Collins, Foodbank Co-ordinator



Dear supporters,

I hope you are enjoying the summer! Thank you everyone who has collected specifically for our Summer Hunger food parcels. Even as I write, the team are beavering away packing the boxes which will be delivered next week to support families with school-aged children over the summer break. We are delivering 15 of these boxes in the local area because we want to bless and support people in a practical way, helping to ensure there will hopefully always be some food in the family cupboard to keep hungry children satisfied over the summer.

We are still collecting for these summer hunger food parcels. Many parents in this area face real problems just feeding the family, as free school meals are not available, so they have to find 5 extra meals per child for 6 long weeks I realise there are lots of pressures on your own budgets but if you could find time to buy just one item from our eclectic shopping list our clients would be really grateful. I know the list is a strange mix but these are the items where stocks are running low. Please remember we have enough soup to float the Ark and enough baked beans to feed the entire Wild West (twice over)!!

Love and blessings

Summer Essentials

CORNED BEEF
TINNED FRUIT - all sorts and sizes.
FRUIT JUICE - 1 ltr cartons.
TINNED RICE PUDDING - sm and lrg.
'SMASH' - sachets.
SHOWER GEL.
SHAVING FOAM.
TINNED TOMATOES.
SWEET AND SAVOURY SNACKS
SHAMPOO.



Hebron Hall



Our church weekend away at Hebron Hall was once again a fantastic time of being away together, enjoying each other's company, taking time out from the usual weekend activities and getting around the Word. Despite the rain and the traffic doing their very best to hold up proceedings on Friday night, we began

with one of 'Auntie Sandra's' lasagnes around the dinner table, and the weekend simply got better from there! With time in the swimming pool, a Bible study around the theme of simplifying your



life, and times in St Fagan's, Barry Island or



in Cardiff, a great time was had by all. On the Sunday morning we had a time of worship and then broke up into groups to figure out

creative ways of sharing the passage of

Scripture that we were given, all of which were rooted in God's love. Many thanks to Jamie and Shaneen for organising such a fabulous weekend...here's to the next one!



Ministerial Sabbatical

As many of you will know by now, Senior Minister Nigel Farmer will be taking a sabbatical over the summer. After having served in his position for seven years, he and the elders felt that it was a good time for him to take some time out to concentrate on seeking the Lord and also to enjoy some time with his family away from the day to day responsibilities of that position. Nigel will be away from the church from Monday 24th July and will return on Sunday 10th September.

During that time, Jamie Lee will be taking overall responsibility for leading the services and overseeing the pastoral work. The office will be open as usual.

NEWS REPORT C IN THE PARK 2017

Sally Sibley, School-Community Link Worker

Hundreds of local people streamed into King George V Playing Fields on the morning of Sunday 2nd July to take part in an Open Air Service provided by Sanctuary Church, Staple Hill as part of the annual C in the Park event. Young and old alike, took part in an uplifting act of worship that encouraged us all to consider what it means to have Jesus in our lives and not to be ashamed of proclaiming the Gospel of Christ. Shaun Taylor gave a moving personal testimony that urged us all to have confidence in our faith and Andy Machin from Downend Baptist Church reinforced this message in his talk. It was wonderful to have some of the uniformed groups present and also children from Mangotsfield C of E Primary School singing.

From twelve noon onwards there was a varied programme of entertainment provided by local schools and groups, who gave freely of their time to sing, dance and provide music for an appreciative audience. Around the field were a variety of large inflatables, games and craft activities for children and young people to enjoy and for those wishing to be refreshed there was



of course tea and cake! Also present were local groups such as, Downend and Bromley Heath Council, Christians Against Poverty (CAP), Downend and Bromley Heath In Bloom and Downend and Emersons Green Voice.

The whole day was made possible because 9 churches from Downend, Mangotsfield, Emersons Green and Staple Hill worked together and resourced all the activities that were then **FREE** for their local communities to enjoy with family and friends. C in the Park committee would like to extend thanks to the local councils that also supported and enabled the day and to the Scouts who gave freely of their time and lent equipment as did Emersons Green Primary School. Also appreciated was the time given by First Aid Volunteers and the local Police. A supply of 'C in the Park' T-shirts was kindly donated by Ballyhoo Clothing Co. that allowed all the stewards and team of helpers to be identified and of assistance to the large crowds as they basked in glorious sunshine all day. Help given by local neighbours was also very much appreciated and contributed to a wonderful day of love, smiles and a great community and family atmosphere.



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What's Happening in August

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	Prayer Meeting	7.30pm
Weds	Mature Adult Keep Fit	10am

Special Events

Sun 6th	Service in Page Park Open House	11am 1pm
Thurs 10th	Men's social: BBQ	7pm
Sun 13th	Beeses' Tea Gardens	1pm
Sun 20th	Trip to Weston	1pm
Sun 27th	Countryside Walk	1pm

Coming in September

Tues 5th	Child Protection Training	7.30pm
Tues 12th	Leaders' Meeting	7.30pm
Sun 24th	AGM 'Realise' Worship Evening	1pm 6pm

Check out bristolnetworks.org.uk to see what's up and coming across the Church in Bristol



August Birthdays

5th - Carole
12th - KK
14th - Japhet
18th - Len
30th - Kezia
31st - Alison



Wishing you a happy birthday!