

Christ Church Oswestry

*Transforming life through Jesus
Christ*

Celebration! Newsletter

November 2009



Come, Lord Jesus come



Advent and Christmas



29 th Nov	Hope in God? Advent Sunday
6 th Dec	2 nd Advent [with HC] followed by Church Meeting
Tues 8 th Dec	Ladies Fellowship Christmas Lunch
13 th Dec	Hope for the world: GB Parade & Christmas Nativity
Wed 16 th	from 5:45 to 7:00+ Friendship Christmas Party
Friday 18 th	8:00 pm Pub Carols at the Top White
Saturday 19 th	Family Christingle Event from 6:00 pm
Sun 20 th	Advent 4 and Church Christmas Lunch
Thurs 24 th	11:30 Christmas Eve Midnight Communion
Friday 25 th	Hope made human: Christmas Day Worship



Our Christmas Season
Charity cash collection
is for the Air Ambulance Service



Christ Church contact details.

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<http://christchurchoswestry.org>





What is your Christmas Hope?

How different Christmas gifts are today, even from 20 years ago. How many people will rise to the hope of a new electric gadget,

even a computer?

Computers are everywhere. They say that there are more computers in a modern car than there were in the space craft that took the first men to the moon! We couldn't exist as we now do without computers. Just look back at the films and TV shows of the 80's to see how much computers have changed the world from mobile phones to digital cameras.

Today you can use a computer for such things as buying home-delivered goods from shops; seeing your family across the globe; delving into your past to find your family tree and keeping your photos on view with a digital picture frame instead of storing them away in albums.

Ah but what do you do when the computer doesn't work properly any more? What do you do then? Take it to the repair shop and hope and pray that they will say, "Don't worry, we can fix the hardware and upgrade the software"? Oh the relief that all is not lost.

But what of the future? Not the science fiction future when computers rule the world and discuss whether to keep people as pets, but the real future that is coming upon you, when all the computers in your life, from the car to the washing machine are still and silent because you are the one who has died. What's your future? Can you be fixed and upgraded?

Our hope is in the Lord Jesus Christ, who with His Father and the Holy Spirit invented the hardware and the software for life, the universe and everything. He offers you an eternal upgrade. He is the resurrection and the life and He promises that whoever believes in [ie trusts and follows] Him will live even though they die; and whoever lives and believes in Him will never die.

So is it
to be
The End



or
is it to
be Life?





On Sunday 22nd November we especially remember our persecuted brothers and sisters across the world.

Around the world but not in Britain?

The Revd Noble Samuel, pictured right, is the minister of Heston URC and the host of a TV Gospel show run from studios owned by a Muslim! In March this year, after a series of aggressive phone-in calls to his TV show by Muslims, as Revd Samuel was driving to the studio, a car pulled over in front of him, a man got out and came over to ask for directions. Then, in Samuel's words



“He put his hand into my window, which was half open, and grabbed my hair and opened the door. He started slapping my face and punching my neck. He was trying to smash my head on the steering wheel. Then he grabbed my cross and pulled it off and it fell on the floor. He was swearing. The other two men came from the car and took my laptop and Bible.” They threatened Samuel saying: “If you go back to the studio, we’ll break your legs.” The Police are treating it as a ‘faith hate’ assault.



Hope – the power of the persecuted Church.

Asia Harvest is a Christian organisation working in Asia to 'see effective churches planted among unreached people groups.' After spending many years around persecuted Christians, Asia Harvest has come to see “that they have learned to place their hope completely in God. The circumstances of their lives have been so difficult that they have abandoned hope in the things of this ... world. They have seen that the world offers nothing but pain and confusion.” By comparison, “Too often believers in 'free' countries have placed their hope in church buildings or leaders, or schools, programmes and education” when they should have put their “relationship with Jesus above everything else.”

“Friend, if you have allowed the things of this world and the burdens of life to take you away from ... Jesus Christ .. we encourage you to stop, spend time with Him, and once again place your hope and trust in Him, He alone is worthy.”

From the Autumn 2009 edition of 'In Gear' the magazine of the Group for Evangelism and Renewal within the United Reformed Church [URC]

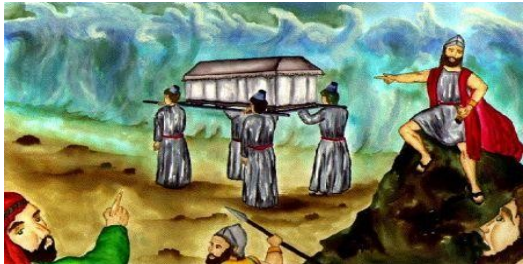


to everyone
who at home or away,
or in an event in the Church
supported our
Prayer4Life weekend.

This was a really important 40 hours in the life of our Church. Those of us who were able to gather in the Church for prayer were very aware of the presence of the Holy Spirit. I hope you had a sense of this where and when you were praying. The weekend began with a moving Praise Party, in which we anticipated the future wedding feast of the Lamb with a mix of worship, prayer & togetherness – which set us up very well for the 40 hrs.

On Saturday we read through the books of Ezra, Nehemiah and the major part of Acts, prayed between-times as individuals and then together in group prayer, under the leading of the Holy Spirit. Across the day we also welcomed 2 visitors, who came in search of prayer & the special spiritual peace that is found in our Church building.

All who took part will have their own special memories of the 40 hrs. Perhaps for me this was the 8:00 am Saturday prayer time for the Church, in which I was reminded of the day when Israel left the wilderness to



enter the promised land by crossing the Jordan. The Jordan river represents all that stands between God's people and His future for them – hence the Jordan is often used as an image of death. But, as the priests carrying the ark of the covenant took step into the river the Jordan stopped flowing! Its waters piled up and the river became dry for the people to cross. It seemed to me, by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit that our prayers, through God's grace were stopping the flow of the waters that have been preventing our going forward into God's future Kingdom.

As Jesus said, “Times up! God's Kingdom is here. Change your life and believe the Message” then “Come with me.” [see Mark c1]

[from “The Message” a translation of the Bible in contemporary words by Eugene H Peterson,]



150 Years Ago, in 1859, A Prayer Based Revival Swept Across Wales.

As the Revd Dr Eifion Evans writes in this month's PCW Treasury, God did much work through a PCW minister, David Morgan, who had been praying for a revival, and calling people to a “personal commitment to further Gospel objectives for the glory of God.” In the revival prayer meetings, one of which numbered 18,000 people [!] the “sense of the Divine presence was acutely overwhelming. People wept with a sense of guilt for their sins, and all sense of time was lost, as eternal issues became the consuming concern...” And preaching “concentrated on Gospel priorities: Christ's cross, re-generation, & holiness replaced legalism, moralism, and congregational entertainment.”

And what was its fruit? “There was evidence of changed lives and a transformed society. Family worship was commenced in many homes for the first time and renewed in others after negligence. Temperance received a boost. The Church began once more to have an impact on the world, with sustained conversions, and Christians influenced social behaviour as salt.”

Dr Evans concludes with three points.

“It is right to commemorate & celebrate what God has done in the past.

“It is good to be aware of God's mercy & power in hopeless situations.

“It is time to consider our spiritual danger, plight and poverty. .. Prayer is still heard before God. Today is a call to God's people to be willing in the day of His Power. Because it is not yet the Day of Judgement, it is still the Day of Grace.”

Our Prayer4Life weekend has been just one part of a regular commitment to pray for revival over several years. Prayer we still continue on Sunday nights, especially after evening worship. Please join us in praying for this. Come along on a Sunday evening and/or pray for God to revive us, and this community, in your own personal and family prayers.

Remember 2Chronicles c7 v14-16.



Autumn Extravaganza



**Saturday 21st November
10:00 to 12 noon
in Christ Church Halls**

tea/coffee
book stall
toy stall
cake stall
white elephant

please come and
give your support.

We look forward to seeing you

**All proceeds to 1st Oswestry
Girls Brigade**

Be a Barnabas: be an encourager

[see Acts 4:36 and 9:26-28]

Who do you know who could do with some encouragement?
Write their names in this box.

In this box, write how you might encourage them.

E.g. send a card; cal on the phone; give flowers; take out for a treat.

In this box write when you'll do it and how

May the God of encouragement empower you
to be an encourager.