

Excited about Mission!

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WRU Half Yearlies Evening Meeting - Speaker Geoffrey Lee

"The Problems and the Possibilities of the little Chapel."

Saturday 21st Nov 6:30pm - Jump, Barnsley

Rushden High St. (Wellingborough Circuit)

Jeanette Maddams writes : We have all the usual Christmas services including our Christingle service which usually fills the church with lots of families who we don't often see, so this is great, it means we can advertise the rest of the Christmas services and all church activities.

We also are involved in an initiative called My Christmas Wish. It starts with our annual Toy Service at the end of November, and from then on until 11th December we collect toys at a High Street Estate Agent (the owner comes to our church). These are then passed on to another local church (Full Gospel) who also run a night shelter and a Food Bank. On 12th December, families who use the food bank are invited to choose toys as well for their children. (They've usually been given the details prior to this date). This is the 2nd year we've been involved with this. This year we've extended this by the local Rotary club have asked to buy presents as well for specific families who are struggling financially this Christmas, so we are collecting details of families in need via local Sure Start Family Centres, School Parent Support Workers and other local churches. Last year was a great success and rooms full of gifts were collected, all given by the people of Rushden. People think we are doing a great thing for people in need but actually we all are greatly blessed by this service we are helping with and really encapsulates the spirit of Christmas and giving to others.

Also, on 28th November our High Street has a Christmas festival going on with lots of stalls and seasonal entertainment. As we are in the High Street, we also have our church open for the day offering refreshments and Christmas children's crafts and usually have many families coming in to see us. We are also organising our Christmas Tree festival in our church at the same time. We have invited local schools to take part as well as different groups within the church and groups that use our church. The theme is Christmas films and songs. This is also a great time to advertise our Christmas events and to invite people to share with us at our church.

Matlock Bikers

We are concerned! On the first Sunday of the month Elaine and Dave Tuckett are not at Church!! It's been rumoured that they go off somewhere on their bike. We've got six days to do our own stuff, but Sunday mornings are when we as Christians serve God in Church! So what are they playing at? As their Pastor I thought I'd better address this, with an official interview!!!

Transcript of the interview between Pastor Andy Wilcock and Elaine and Dave Tuckett, is as follows....

Elaine and Dave: I am really concerned that you are consistently missing from church on the first Sunday of every month. I have been told (and I'm not saying by who), that you ride off on your bike somewhere. Is this true?

A. Yes

Where do you ride off to, that is more important than being at Church with us?

A. Matlock Bath

How long have you been doing this?

A. For about 5 years now, from May to October.

Matlock Bath? Isn't that like a Seaside Resort in Derbyshire, with Chocolate and Ice Cream shops? Slot Machines and Boat Rides? What type of people go there on a Sunday Morning?

A. It's a meeting place for hundreds of bikers. Bikes of all types from scooters to sports bikes to Harley



Davidson cruisers to Goldwing Trikes. And a lot of people also come in their cars to enjoy the scenery, the “atmosphere” and to look at the bikes.

Who do you meet up with?

- A. We're part of a small group called NEDS (North East Derbyshire and Sheffield Christian Motorcyclists). We have links with Christian bikers in other parts of the country (including the Heart of England Bikers based at our Bedworth church). There are usually between two and five of us and we park our bikes in a prominent spot at the entrance to the Fishpond Car Park.

What do you do while you are there, and how long do you stay?

- A. Each bike displays up to 9 Biker Bibles (produced by the Christian Motorcyclists Association) and we also have other Christian booklets and children's bible storybooks too.

Most of us wear white crosses on the back of our leathers or clothing with some clear Christian symbols or message. We make it clear that the bibles are free for people to take, but we don't hand them out, as we want people to take that very small step of taking one for themselves. We also visit the food kiosk



in the car park (great bacon sandwiches!) and talk to them and to the Derbyshire County Council Bikesafe guys who we know well. If the weather's bad when we arrive at about 10, we will go the service at the parish church close by and then decide whether to set up after the service. Generally we're there from 10 till 3 although we obviously don't leave in the middle of a conversation!

Does anyone ever take bibles and what kind of conversations do you have?

- A. The number of bibles taken each month varies but probably averages between 15 and 20.

It's always wrong to pigeonhole people and we've had conversations with some outwardly scary looking people who were really searching for God. Others will sneak up and take a bible when they think we're not looking as they don't want to be seen by their mates! We pray that they will read it and that God will speak to them through it. There are some who want to argue with us or tell us their weird ideas. There are also those who are hurting because they're going through very hard times in their life for all sorts of reasons and we will ask them if they would like us to pray with them there and then. Some of these people have come back to see us in the following months to talk further.

What encourages you to keep going back?

- A. We never know who God will ask us to talk to. Also people notice we're there each month and we hope this starts them thinking about God. And there are people we've prayed with before who we want to keep in contact with. On two occasions this summer people came up to Dave and asked to borrow tools to sort out a problem – we're happy to help and show God's love in practical ways.

How could we pray for you and support this interesting work?

- A. Pray that God will lead people to us who want to know more about Jesus. Our conversations often start with motorbikes but don't move on to God – pray that we may proclaim the Good News in a clear and relevant way. And if you're out in the Peak District on a Sunday afternoon come and visit us!

Mayfield Church (Sheffield Circuit)

Bonfire - On the Saturday after Bonfire night Mayfield Church hosted a wonderful evening, of food sparklers and a huge fire. They joined with their new neighbours to be, who are developing the school site next door. So they had lots of wood to burn and offered to have the fire in the old School Yard. They also provided Toffee Apples for the kids. It's lovely to see friendship developing between the Church and the Family, who also invited the builders along as well.



Carol singing with the Salvation Army Wed 9th Dec 2pm :

Five Courses and Carols. (Now full!) Thur 17th Dec 7pm

Carol singing round the valley : Mon 21st Dec meet in the yard at 6-30p.m.

Wrap up warm, all welcome Please let Susannah know if you will be staying for refreshments at the end by email syoudan6@aol.com

Christmas Morning Service 10-30a.m. All very welcome

Ellistown Church (Ashby Circuit)

Margaret Aldridge writes : Last month we held a concert with Ibstock Community Choir in Aid of Hospice Hope. We enjoyed a wonderful evening of fellowship and raised £231 for the wonderful work being done.

Sunday 6th December at 3pm we will be hosting our annual Christingle Service with the various scout groups which will be followed by a buffet tea. Some of us will be

going to join with the Cubs and Beavers during their meetings prior to the service to help them make the Christingles and to explain the meaning while we're doing them. We might even attempt to make a giant Christingle to use in Church! We have built a lovely relationship with these groups over the years and always look forward to them joining with us and the opportunity it gives to come alongside the families.

Friday 11th December we will be holding a 'Christmas Songs and Soup Evening' at 7pm. It's an opportunity for everyone to get into the Christmas spirit by singing traditional Christmas Carols and lots of those favourite Christmas Songs then enjoy some homemade soup. The event is free with donations in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support.



Word Of Life Church Ashington

Michael Hedley writes: We are continuing with our choir and we are visiting 3 old folks homes doing carols for them. This has opened another door allowing me to go in on a monthly basis to minister to the residents and staff in these homes. It also opened a further door for opportunity because they want to attend special services at the church when we get into North Seaton Road in Ashington. This means the residents will be accompanied by members of staff to attend.

We are also doing well with the parent toddler group and we are having a special service for the parents and children on the Sunday 20th December. On the 18th we are having a Christmas lunch as part of our Friday Diner Club which we started in October. We have 30 members of this now with a regular average attendance of 15. We have a Toddler facebook page and this is how we disseminate information, but the parents are loving it and it is spreading.

Two of our men are having outreach meetings in a local café, where they sit and chat and pray with anyone that comes into the café. The café which is a hub for people to attend job searching sessions is an ideal place to share the love of Jesus.



Mexborough Life Church and Centre

Steve Hunt writes :

On Saturday 5th December 2015 at 7.30 pm, we are holding a Forget Me Not Service to Celebrate Life and Cherish the Memories of loved ones who are no longer with us. After the success of our first event of this kind in 2014, we are looking forward to this being an even bigger attended event this year. Christmas can be an emotional time for many families in the community who have lost loved ones and this event provides an opportunity for them to come together with the church family at Mexborough in a reflective service to remember them and also an opportunity to share the Gospel.

On Thursday 17th December 2015 at 7.30 pm, we are holding our third annual Carols by Candlelight event. For the past two years this event has attracted over 200 people from the Mexborough Community and is now becoming one that is looked out for each year. Again the team are putting together an unforgettable evening of Christmas Celebration with a clear Gospel outreach message.

On Sunday 20th December 2015 at 1030 am, we are holding our Christmas Nativity Family Service. This

will be an event for all the family with a mix of carols, contributions from the children from our Sunday morning Roots Ministry and Little Acorns Parent and Toddler group, and a Gospel message all re-telling the story of the birth of Jesus.

All the 3 events are being held at the Mexborough Business Centre, College Road, Mexborough and will be followed by free refreshments.

Looking a little forward into 2016, we are planning to hold a **Baptismal Service on Saturday 30th January 2016 at 7 pm** with the venue for this being Father's House Pentecostal Church, West Melton. Already a good number of our members have expressed a desire to be baptised and we are looking forward to an exciting time of celebration and thanksgiving for all that God is doing.

Richmond Church (Sheffield Circuit)

Wendy Hudson writes : Our main outreach event this Christmas is our Carols by Candlelight on Tuesday 15th December. This is a mixture of festive readings, carols, Bible Readings and an evangelistic talk. It is very informal with chairs grouped round coffee tables with lots of lighted candles in the room giving a lovely atmosphere. During the final carol everyone is given a candle to hold so it really is carols by candlelight! We end the evening with festive refreshments.

The children in our Sunday Club will be presenting the Christmas story in our December All Together service with help from other members of the congregation. The service will be followed by a Christmas lunch, which always goes down well in all respects!

Our various children's clubs will be running Christmas parties, so please remember those in your prayers; that the children will have a great time, but that they may also think about the true message of Christmas.

Oughtibridge (Sheffield Circuit)

Jackie Shapland writes :

- We were pleased to welcome quite a lot of guests to our **Harvest Service and Harvest Supper** followed by a pub-style quiz. Harvest was another great opportunity to invite friends and relations in to join us in thanking God for His goodness towards us and to enjoy food and fun together.
- **The Ladies' Nights** we held over 5 weeks in September/October were very encouraging and exciting. We had 45 ladies attending between ages 16 - 82, some committed Christians, some searching, some not really thinking much about God at all. Over the 5 weeks we saw God at work through His Word in the lives of those attending. It was all far more than we ever imagined when we started planning these evenings! The "Live " course which we used was very helpful, bringing a mix of DVD talks, discussion of a Bible passage, hearing 'life stories' on DVD, with an accompanying booklet for each participant. We enjoyed eating together and having time to chat. New friendships were made, existing friendships deepened, people were moved along in their faith journey and opportunities were opened up for further discussion and learning. We are thanking God for all He did and working at following through on what was begun.
- In November we are showing a **televised debate between John Lennox and Richard Dawkins**, and a lecture by Francis Collins, Director of the Human Genome Project, explaining how he reconciles his career in science with his faith in Jesus Christ.
- For 2016 our men are planning a series of **men's breakfasts** to invite friends and contacts to. They are considering using material entitled "The Reason for God" as a basis for discussion after breakfast.
- We also have **Maureen Greaves coming to speak on 7 March** and expect a lot of interest in hearing her share her faith story in the light of her husband's murder on Christmas Eve 3 years ago.

Bethel Church Bierley (Bradford Circuit)

Margaret Dennison writes : Since September we have included a further session for our Ignite group. This is a tea-time drop in with toast and hot chocolate followed by activities and games. Numbers are now building and we are encouraged by this session and the longer standing group. Most of the children who attend come from unchurched families. In the coming weeks we are holding an Archery/Pizza evening for the young people and their families to be followed a week later by our annual Christingle Service when we are praying for a more positive response from the parents. The children have been invited to design our church christmas card which will be going to the homes of Bierley including our greetings and details of all our special christmas services. There will be prizes for the best designs which will be presented at the

Christingle Service. We are looking to seek funding to increase the hours for our youth worker and to provide for an Family Away Weekend. We believe that God was calling us to "Invest in Young People" and this has been our response thus far. The numbers at our church@5 group have also grown and our youth workers have been able to encourage some youngsters from the area to join us. There is amazing potential in the area and we continue to pray for growth both in numbers and discipleship. The work has not been without its challenges but we continue to press on.

Church on the Rock (Oldbury Area)

Jackie Clarke writes : We have just had a craft day when 40 folk came along with new folk attending. Last night we had a fireworks party for the youth.

Christmas Cracker is Sat 21st Nov with stalls games and food and a **Cowboys and Indian theme**.

Christmas Carols Tue 3rd Dec, **Christmas Crafts** is Sat 5th Dec, **Toddler Parties** 9th & 10th Dec.

Christmas coffee morning 12th Dec, **School's Nativity at Church on the Rock** is Fri 18th Dec

Ibstock (Ashby Circuit)

Andy Wilcock writes : We had a lovely time with a good number of kids, many who we have know for a number of years. There were also some new faces and it was good to get to know their parents and younger siblings. Along with lots of fun and games, we looked at the story of Onesimus through the letter of Philemon. We thought about how Onesimus witnessed the life of a church, first at the home of Philemon through the eyes of a slave, then he

as he returned to Philemon and we consider the effect of receiving forgiveness and acceptance into the first church, now as a brother of Philemon, and at Paul's expense. It was exciting to see how the children really caught what makes a church a church, and the love of christ that shone through the story.

Muff Field Church (Bradford Circuit)

Monday 16th - Thursday 19th November
Bible Time Exhibition by the Zephaniah team

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



Zephaniah Trust Bible Times Exhibition

you're welcome to drop in at all times and see...

- Hebrew scrolls...
- models and facsimiles...
- stories...
- things you remember from way back...
- things you never knew...
- connections you never made before...
- ...oh - and Bibles ! Loads of them !

bringing the Bible to life

Muff Field Wesleyan Reform Chapel
Tichborne Road, BD5 8AN

Monday 16 - Thursday 19 November

General opening:
Monday 1.30 - 4.30pm
Tuesday - Thursday 10am - 4.30pm

**come and see the exhibition,
meet the Zephaniah team**

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