

Update on Matthew and Rachel Harley
Working with Wycliffe Bible Translators in Jos, Nigeria

It was a real blessing and encouragement to see some of you during our six-week trip to the UK over the summer. We returned to Jos on July 11th, just as the rainy season was reaching it's peak. Now, in September, the rains are thankfully beginning to ease off a little. On 12th July I left for a three-week translation workshop in Bauchi, about 80 miles from Jos, to help train participants from 12 language groups in translation principles and work with the Eda language team in checking through part of Luke chapter 5. This gave Rachel some much needed preparation time in her classroom before school started at the beginning of August.

The translation workshop focussed on how to handle background information necessary for understanding Scripture. For example, how should you translate key biblical terms like 'priest' and 'sacrifice', which assume some understanding of Jewish culture? You don't want to insert a lot of extra material into the text, but you still need to make sure that the terms used don't have any undesirable associations from within the local Nigerian cultures where priests and sacrifices of a different type are extremely common.

The above is an extract from Matthew's letter, a full copy of which can be viewed on the website at <http://www.mossleyhillchurch.org.uk/page33.html>

*If you would like to contribute to the cost of this newsletter please put a donation in the Magazine Collecting Box.
The printing costs are approximately 20p per copy.
If you would like to receive the November edition by email please email Richard Humphreys: newsletter@mossleyhillchurch.org.uk*

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SERVICES

Sunday 5th October

8.30 am Holy Communion
10.15 am Parade & Harvest
6.30 pm Hilltop

Sunday 12th October

8.30 am Holy Communion
10.15 am Family Communion
6.30 pm Hilltop

Sunday 19th October

8.30 am Holy Communion
10.15 am Morning Worship
6.30 pm Hilltop

Sunday 26th October

8.30 am Holy Communion
10.15 am MP with baptism
6.30 pm Hilltop

Sunday 2nd November

8.30 am Holy Communion
10.15 am Morning Worship
6.30 pm Hilltop

MIDWEEK COMMUNIONS

Wednesday 15th October

11.00 am Order 1

Wednesday 5th November

11.00 am Order 2

Church Weekend Away at Quinta

It seemed that we (the Shared Ministry Team) were planning this weekend forever. It began last year with Mary doing the research... looking for just the right place with Christian ethos, suitable for wheelchairs, child loving, attractive and not too far or expensive. Comparing all that Mary found, we soon narrowed it down to Quinta. And what a wonderful weekend it was. I felt that we were all in a bubble of grace from the beginning to the end. And as Tim Hughes said, "The Person that we really wanted to come certainly did show up!"

On Sunday, while we were tucking in to our roast dinner, Jonathan asked me what my favourite part of the weekend was. After thinking for a minute or so, I told him that I most enjoyed being with everyone and worshiping God. I felt His joy welling up in my heart. Mary also enjoyed being free to worship...that is being relaxed and in the right frame of mind to really worship the Lord. Ray said his best bit was celebrating Communion in a big circle with everyone facing each other and all being involved. Alan presided and included the children (especially those who had not yet received Holy Communion). Liz loved the early morning prayers, lovingly set up by Tricia Harley and attended by a great many of our party.

Tim thought his favourite bit was the whole relaxed atmosphere of the weekend. Though many people were working to make sure it ran smoothly and was full of interesting things, it all felt so tranquil- a bit like a swan gliding along with feet paddling away under the water. Jonathan liked the walk we went on (ably led by Jill and Richard). God graciously allowed us to get round the beautiful Shropshire countryside before the rain resumed! Ewan and Bronwen also liked the walk and the barn dance on Saturday night. It was a hoot to watch and the music was great.

John, a Hilltopper, best enjoyed the puppets. Ian and Elaine (The Coverdale Puppets) led a session for the children which was greatly enjoyed by them and by John. Alan enjoyed the teaching DVD that we watched and discussed in groups. Made by the London Institute of Contemporary Christianity, it taught us about discipleship and being a Christian 24/7. Alan also enjoyed being free to spend time chatting and getting to know people. Audrey and Vi, neither of whom knew many people, loved being able to sit at any table and be welcomed. Pat thought Tim's talk on Sunday was the high point and Joyce loved it all!

I didn't get round to asking everyone, but I know that the general consensus was that God blessed us richly that weekend! Here's hoping that even more of our church family will be able to go away together next time.

Kacey Jones

Godfrey's Page!

Sharing Christ

This term we come to the first 'S' in BLESS – our unfolding values statement. We'll be thinking about 'Sharing Christ': how do we let others know that we are followers of Jesus, both in words and action? In the words of St Peter, how do we 'give a reason for the faith that is in us'? And next month, watch out for a special course called 'Contagious Christianity'.

Team Celebration

Thanks to all who came to that great day at Bridge Chapel Centre on Sept 21. And thanks especially to Maggie and Michael Swinson, and Peter Franklin who did much of the planning.

Growing Leaders

Please pray for some of our members starting the *Growing Leaders* course this month: Rich Reardon, Fadzai Nyazika, Vicky Wren, Roy Owen, David Bishop, and Tim Hughes. It's a course designed to help people grow in faith and confidence, to 'be led more by Jesus, to lead more like Jesus, to lead more to Jesus'.

The Next Gathering – October 29

We have another Sabbath Week at the end of the month – no business meetings! On the Wednesday of that week we have another Team 'Gathering' for worship, learning, food and fellowship. This time we'll be thinking about the gift of prophecy. Why not come along and enjoy these increasingly popular events?

What is God's future for our church?

That's the question we're asking during this month of prayer, which was launched at the Special General Meeting on 30 September. Godfrey and Alan subsequently produced a pastoral letter: make sure you get your copy!

Godfrey Butland

Kenya

Although it has passed out of the news, you will, I am sure, recall the reports of serious political unrest in Kenya following the last elections. As part of his ongoing reconciliation work, the Dean of Liverpool visited the Diocese of Eldoret in West Kenya (on the Rift Valley) in January to meet with those, including the Bishop and the Provost (Dean to us) who were in the midst of events and were involved in rescuing victims of a genocidal attack.

The Bishop of Eldoret, his wife, the Dean and the Enrolling member of the Mothers Union have been visiting Liverpool both for some rest and relaxation and to plan some reconciliation work. A small group of us met with them for a relaxed meal and chat together during their visit.

The evening was extremely informative and we were able to learn about the background to what happened and some of the anxieties and problems which need to be tackled for the future and especially before the next elections in 2012. The people need our continued prayer support as many individuals have lost homes and families and there is no longer a programme of external aid for those in the transition camps.

The church also needs our prayers as it works to help reconcile the various tribal and political groups at a local level to restore the trust of the community in one another and in the democratic process

Maggie Swinson

Hilltop Big Feed

As students start a new year, with many new students arriving on our doorstep, Hilltop provided a welcome break from the business of registration and freshers' fairs. A splendid spread of food, from curries and casseroles to apple flan and cakes welcomed all those who responded to the invitation to Hilltop on Sunday 28th September. It was good to see the congregation back in the fifties and to meet with some of the new students. Thank you to all who contributed food for the evening.

New programmes are available for this term. This month we are looking at Jesus' teaching on issues which we face today and in November we are beginning a series on the sayings of Jesus from the Cross. Why not join us at 6.30 p.m. on Sundays for our informal services with contemporary worship, bible teaching and participation.

Churches Together in Mossley Hill

It is good to know we are not alone as we serve God in our community. As well as the benefits of the Mossley Hill Team Ministry, we are also part of Churches Together in Mossley Hill (CTMH) with nine other churches in our community. Last month I wrote about our covenant together which is now being reviewed. The Churches Together council would appreciate your views. If you have any comments about Churches Together in Mossley Hill and the covenant please write them down and give them to Peter Franklin. The following questions may be helpful.

- What is God calling us to be and to do?
- How does the present covenant help us in this?
- What resources do we have to fulfil our calling?
- How might we use them better?

Certificate in Theology and Vocation

I have now started this course with St Johns College, Nottingham. The first module is on the New Testament and consists of several units of reading, study and reflection with a number of written assignments. I am already feeling the benefit from the study. I have completed the first assignment and the tutor is looking forward to the next one! Thank you for all your support. My employers have also agreed to give me an additional day's leave each month and I am learning to manage my time more efficiently, so I am not studying all the time! I should complete the course in a couple of years.

Peter Franklin

**CHRISTMAS FAIR
AND
VISIT OF SUE WOODCOCK
Saturday 29th November at 2 p.m.**

As previously announced we are holding our annual Christmas Fair on Saturday 29th November so make a note in your diaries NOW! In addition to the usual goodies for sale we will be privileged to welcome

Sue Woodcock, our SAMS mission partner from Sabadell, near Barcelona. Sue is making a special trip to see us and I am sure that you will be delighted to welcome her again.

In particular, I would welcome any offers of hospitality either in the form of offers of sharing a meal with Sue or perhaps making her welcome to stay in your home for one or two nights. Anyone who is able to do this should contact me soon. Many thanks.

Margaret Hughes

URGENT

The 48th
Liverpool Brownie Pack
(Clearview)

Need another warranted Brownie leader as our Brown Owl is leaving after Christmas to have a baby, and without one we will have to close.

If you or somebody you know is
Interested, please speak to Alison Franklin (Woody Owl)
on
0151 427 8445

JOURNEY TO BETHLEHEM

Would you like to bless our community? Share Jesus with them by taking part in the 'Journey to Bethlehem' at Beechley Stables on Saturday 13 December. Many people are needed to dress up and be part of tableaux as shepherds, wise men, soldiers, rabble etc. Please sign up soon or speak to Kacey or Charlie Jones (733 5069).

Thank you to all who have contributed to this Newsletter.

*There will be another edition published on Sunday,
2nd November*

*Please pass your contributions (50 to 200 words) to
Richard Humphreys by typed copy or email to the address
below by Tuesday 28th October*

newsletter@mossleyhillchurch.org.uk