



NEWS

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Welcome to this third edition of Churches in Bicester News, which aims to keep you updated on the projects in which the various churches in Bicester are involved. Apologies if you already know about them! There will be three issues per year, namely Lent, Summer and Advent.

News of the groups and events will be welcomed before the next issue, which will be at the end of March, in time for Easter.

Please send any information you may want to contribute for CiB News via your church minister.

As 2011 draws to a close some great events have happened over the year, such as the 7th Annual Fun Day, the opening of the Pope John Paul II Centre by Princess Anne, the first signs of Emmanuel Church's new building going up, the fitting out of the Methodist Church's new foyer, plush seating and redecorated interior. Both they and St. Edburg's are looking to move towards the second phase of redevelopment.

Already for next year, plans are afoot for outreach to various aspects of the community as we look forward to the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, the Olympic Torch passing through the town, and the Olympics themselves. There is talk that the town centre redevelopment will start in earnest.

Here is news of such outreach, as well as ongoing ministries, which continue to show God's love to the town:

OUR SENIOR CITIZENS

The inter-church Senior Initiative Team.



We had our first CiB Senior Initiative "Tea-dance" on October 1st. A great time was had by all, and there was so much food. We will have our second "Christmas" Tea-dance and Sing Along on **Saturday 17th December** from 12:30-2:30 at the Methodist Church Hall. More information will be made available through the churches closer to the time. A big "thank you" to all who volunteered to show appreciation for our treasured elder folk.

Dennis Niziol elimbicester@hotmail.co.uk

YOUTH WORK

At the other end of the age scale, the youth Pastors/Workers of Bicester have started meeting on a monthly basis to share ideas and encourage one another. That's been really exciting to witness. Wednesday mornings (yes, we really can get up for 7:30am!!) at the Methodist Church, we kick off the day with half an hour prayer for the youth of Bicester. We also welcomed the youth work volunteers Amy (OBF), Soren, Sam & Ute (Reign Ministries) who all have been such a great help already over the past few weeks. They come with passion and a heart for young people. We know God will use them greatly in their time here.

Continue to pray that God moves incredibly through the teens as we minister in various ways to them: Costa on Tuesdays, School Lunch Clubs, Absolute and Chillax on Sunday Nights and the various other things happening. CS Lewis wrote in his Chronicles of Narnia: "Aslan is on the move." Indeed, God is on the move!

Darrel: darrel.hofland@gmail.com



We say Farewell to Darrel as he moves back to his homeland of South Africa but he and the youth workers have just enjoyed a holiday in Iceland...no doubt there will be tales to tell in the next issue!

STREET PASTORS

Street Pastors is an inter-denominational Church response to urban problems, engaging with people on the streets to care, listen and dialogue. It was pioneered in London in January 2003 by Rev Les Isaac, Director of the Ascension Trust, and has seen some remarkable results, including drops in crime in areas where teams have been working. There are now over 100 teams around the United Kingdom.



Dave Gordon is an active member of Highway Church and has a real passion for Jesus and for changing lives and society. He says: "Time for a quick update on the progress regarding Street Pastors: We now have agreement with the Ascension Trust that it's OK to use the BCA (the current charity for the Churches in Bicester CiB) as the charity for the Bicester Street Pastors.

This is good news as it will shorten the time to get the formalities in place. The next stage is to get the management committee in place and I know the leaders of our respective churches are working on finding the appropriate people. Once we have that we can sign the Ascension Trust agreement and get the ball rolling on setting up the training. I will let you all know when we are ready to sign the agreement.

Dave Gordon dgordon63@mac.com 07549-524262

A CENTRE IN THE CENTRE OF TOWN

We are seeking Sainsbury's assistance in obtaining a suitable venue and establishing it as a community service centre. It will act as a hub and central access point for the community, as a social inter-face between the churches and the community. We would use the venue for food distribution, counselling, youth cafe, as well as a range of support services, and have it open six days a week with evening openings on several nights. Volunteers & professionals would support Ian Biscoe ian.biscoe@googlemail.com



NEW PRAYER INITIATIVE FOR 2012 "A Season of Prayer"

- **Sun 19th Feb 6-30** "Equipping the Saints" at Salvation Army Hall. Prayer and Ministry with Rev. Dennis Niziol
- **Sun 18th Mar 6-30** "Praise, worship and visual evening" at St. Edburg's Church
Pastor Andy Strajnic
- **Sun 15th Apr 6-30** "Prayer meditation round the grounds of St Edburg's" - Rev. Theresa Scott
- **Sun 20th May 6:30** "Prayer for Civic Service/Jubilee Celebrations" at Bicester Methodist Church - Rev. Paul Howes
- **Sun 17th June 6-30** "Prayer Walking Bicester Town" at town Centre - Rev. Steve Barber

HEALING ON THE STREETS

As most of you will be aware we are now fast approaching the 3rd anniversary of Healing On The Streets, which started in February 2009. We have seen so many blessings in terms of miracles, weather, team turn-out, week by week. We have also seen the heaviness that burdens most people here in our town, who are 'without hope and without God in the world' (Ephesians 2:12). We thank God for the many words He has given us as a team over the years, and we continue to pray.

In terms of the HOTS team, we believe the Lord is telling us (Stan & Joyce) personally to lay it down and wait on Him for guidance as to what we should do next.

As we know there is a season for everything, 'a time to plant and a time to uproot' (Ecclesiastes 3). Our intention is to carry on the outreach in Sheep Street up until Saturday 28th January 2012 and then we will finish this particular 'race'. We may also have to miss 24th and 31st December if people are too busy, though personally we think Christmas Eve would be a good time to witness on the street. What do you think? Could YOU continue this ministry? We would welcome your prayers.

With every blessing in Christ, on behalf of the HOTS Team, **Stan and Joyce**. (stan_martin777@hotmail.com)

If you are able to help HOTS carry on, please contact your minister.

MUSIC MINISTRY

This year has seen the launch of a new Youth Gospel Choir at the Methodist Church hall, on Fridays, 6:30-8:30pm. It is led by David Ireland of OBF, who has had experience running a similar choir at the school where he teaches, who have gone on to record CDs and perform on TV and radio. The choir is open to all 11-18 year olds. There are no auditions and no musical experience is necessary. Why not try it in the new year? Contact David on 07970-646414 bygc@hotmail.co.uk



In addition, Christian rock band Life-Songs has hosted many concerts this year, which have been a blessing to all who come, professionally presented and with personal testimonies from local Christians. The Stewart family of OBF, who run it and perform in it, along with members from other churches, are asking for prayer as to its future direction and financial support. Contact them on 01869-357019 or stewarhome@lineone.net. Thank you.

DATES FOR THE DIARY

- 10th Dec – Twist for families, 4pm
- 17th Dec – Tea dance for the elderly 12:30pm
- 23rd Dec – CiB carol singing in Sheep St, 11am
- 24th Dec – HoTS? – anyone available?
- 22nd Jan – CiB united worship, Meth Church, 6:30 as part of the Week of Prayer for Christian unity.
- Regularly pray for the topics in this newsletter.