

Church Calendar: October 2012 to December 2012

October		Saturday 10th	Regional dance day
Monday 8th			
2.30pm	Inside Out		
Tuesday 9th		Sunday 11th	Remembrance Day
12.00 to 2.00pm	Ladies that lunch	9.15, 11.00am	Paul Ferguson
		6.30pm	Sally Heath
Saturday 13th		Monday 12th	
8.00am	Men's breakfast	2.30pm	Inside Out
Sunday 14th		Thursday 15th	
9.15, 11.00am	Lis Pearce	8.00pm	Prayer evening
4.00pm	Dance workshop		
6.30pm	David Lawrence	Sunday 18th	
Tuesday 16th		9.15, 11.00am	Mike Levy
7.30pm	Safeguarding course	6.30pm	Neil Mobbs
Thursday 18th		Sunday 25th	
8.00pm	Prayer evening	9.15, 11.00am	Dave Day
Sunday 21st		6.30pm	John Moseley
9.15, 11.00am	Mike Levy	December	
6.30pm	David Ling	Sunday 1st	Advent 1
Sunday 28th		11.00am	Paul Ferguson: Community service and meal
9.15, 11.00am	Paul Ferguson	6.30pm	Sally Heath
6.30pm	David Finney	Friday 7th	
November		7.30pm	Worship Central
Friday 2nd		Saturday 8th	
7.30pm	Worship Central course	8.00am	Men's Breakfast
Sunday 4th		Sunday 9th	Advent 2
11.00am	Paul Ferguson: Community service and meal	9.15, 11.00am	Dave Day
6.30pm	Terry Wicks	6.30pm	SNG

IN HOUSE



The Magazine of Thornbury Baptist Church October 2012

MISSION? SPIRITUALITY?



MISSION SPIRITUALITY

Over the last months we have spoken about what it means to be Christ's disciples. Jesus calls us to be his apprentices, to learn from him, to do life as he did it. With this in mind we have been looking at a venture that we believe can play a part in this. Alongside an organization called Inspire we are seeking to start small discipleship groups (3 or 4 people) called Bands. The development of the 'Bands' is already in progress and a good number of people have started to get involved.

The rest of the article is produced by Inspire and will hopefully help us understand more fully the vision of Inspire and explore the thinking behind fellowship Bands.

Inspire write...

At the heart of these groups is a concept of mission spirituality which highlights the important connection between personal spirituality and evangelistic mission:

Mission. The mission of God is the outreach of holy love in a broken world. It is God's own way of drawing people into his healing embrace, through Christ, and by the Spirit. It is a journey of entering into fellowship with God, and receiving the gift of new life.

Spirituality. Authentic spirituality is what it means to participate in God's mission of holy love. It is entering and deepening our fellowship with God, so that the love of God fills our hearts, and overflows in love to our neighbours, through a life of service and witness.

Evangelism. The good news is that all people may enter into fellowship with God. Evangelism means leading people into the healing embrace of God, so that they too may be set free from sin and death, and

filled with holy love.

We believe that the mission of God is advanced by the presence and power of God at work in the hearts and lives of Christian disciples. Mission spirituality is a life-transforming relationship with God that takes flesh in costly discipleship and the outreach of holy love in the world.

The heart of mission spirituality can be expressed in the Wesleyan covenant prayer:

**Jesus calls us to
be his
apprentices, to
learn from him**

I am no longer my own but yours. Put me to what you will, rank me with whom you will; put me to doing, put me to suffering; let me be employed for you or laid aside for you, exalted for you or brought low for you; let me be full, let me be empty; let me have all things, let me have nothing; I freely and wholeheartedly yield all things to your pleasure and disposal. And now,

glorious and blessed God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit you are mine and I am yours. So be it. And the covenant now made on earth let it be ratified in heaven. Amen.

This is what it means to participate in the mission of God, and be radically committed to God's purposes for the world; but these are promises which cannot be fulfilled alone.

The mutual support and accountability of Christian fellowship is necessary if we are to live the covenant prayer; to discern God's purpose, and be resolved to seek it in costly mission-shaped discipleship. The vision of the network is to gather Christians into small groups in order to support and equip one another for this missionary calling. The vision of Inspire is to promote discipleship as a 'way of life' that is essentially missionary in nature, or 'mission spirituality'.

Christians are brought together in small groups called 'fellowship bands', so that they can hold each other

accountable for their discipleship in everyday life. These fellowship bands are networked together as a means for gathering, supporting, and mentoring disciples in the way of mission spirituality.

At the heart of Inspire is a 'way of life' which shapes our discipleship in four dimensions of mission spirituality:

The 'way of life' is a vision of mission-shaped discipleship which we aspire towards and grow into. It is rooted in the life of Jesus and the Spirit-filled life described by Paul and the other New Testament writers. It is a means by which the Spirit searches our hearts and lives; and turns us to greater faithfulness in spirituality, discipleship, and mission.

Seeking growth - life with God we desire an intimate walk with God, so that our daily lives are filled, transformed and overflowing with love of God and neighbour.

Using disciplines - life in action we deepen our walk with God by using the 'means of grace': which are prayer, searching the scriptures, participation in the Lord's Supper, fasting or abstinence, and works of service.

Sharing fellowship - life with others we take responsibility for encouraging one another into a deeper walk with God through mutual support and accountability.

Engaging mission - life in the world we seek a growing passion for evangelistic mission as a result of our communion with God, whose heart is to draw all people to himself.

Please consider if this something for you or your friends could get involved with.

Paul

www.inspire-network.org.uk

DO WE REALLY NEED A FOODBANK?

I wonder how much you know about a Foodbank and if and where one is needed. I knew very little until a few months ago when one of the people we have been helping through New Start Debt Advice had neither food nor money to buy any. Through a friend of Mark Stuart I was able to go to the Foodbank at Lawrence Weston and be given three bags of food. This is not normal procedure but I will tell you a little more about that later. I was so impressed by the welcome given to those who come in; they are given time and an opportunity to chat to a volunteer helper who finds out what they need, and the welcome is accompanied by a cup of tea, coffee and biscuits. It is obvious that the volunteers enjoy what they are doing. The same person had further need for food and this time was given a voucher by Social Services to go to The Candle in Yate where there is another Foodbank.

This person was welcomed and chatted to, spent an hour there with them and received enough food for 3 days. We also know of another Foodbank in Dursley and there are several in Bristol. They all come under Trussell Trust a national Christian charity which has set up over 90 Foodbanks all linked to churches. Robert Vernon runs the Foodbank at The Candle and we invited him to come and share with us at the Mission Strategy Group (MSG) to see if there are ways we could help. Robert although retired works full-time running the Foodbank. Trussell Trust provides the training. In the 7 months since it opened the Yate Food bank has fed 234 people.

Non-perishable food is donated by 10 churches locally. Some food comes from local schools or from shoppers at a local supermarket; some supermarkets give unwanted food. Perishable foods such as bread and margarine are purchased on a weekly basis and non-food essential items are also supplied.

Clients must have vouchers, usually a maximum of three, to collect food. These are to cover a short term crisis whilst other agencies sort out the longer-term problems. One voucher gives approximately 3 days' supply of food. A Foodbank gives vouchers to Job Centres, schools, Sure Start, Willow Tree Trust, Health visitors etc. Clients come from a variety of backgrounds and are in crisis for various reasons; redundancy, debt, loss of benefits etc. Provision of food parcels gives opportunity to see how people can be helped in their situations and through this demonstrate God's love at work. Clients may then be referred on for appropriate help.

When a client goes to a Foodbank, they are welcomed by volunteers who chat with them and give them a cup of coffee or a meal if they haven't eaten that day. Letting the client talk enables the volunteer to explore what further help may be given. Meanwhile, other volunteers pack the food at the back of the premises. Yate Foodbank is open on Tuesday afternoons and Friday mornings, but they will deliver to rural areas or to people who are unable to come in. Volunteers are asked to give about 2 hours a fortnight.

MSG, supported by the leaders, has a vision to help in some way and we need your support. How can we help? By speaking to local agencies we can establish if there is a need for a satellite here in Thornbury, if there is, would you like to be a part of it?

To run a satellite we would need 10 to 12 volunteers. Yate Foodbank would take care of management and fund raising. Local churches could be asked to donate and bring food to a central collecting point. Yate would make up any shortfall in food.

We would need to make links with local agencies such as the Health centre and schools; provide volunteers and a café area where clients could come and collect their food parcels. Yate Foodbank volunteers would come and pick up the food, to date and pack it then return it for distribution. We would probably need to

store sufficient supplies for 20 people which would be 10kg per person.

Our aim would be to run this under the banner of Thornbury Churches Together. We have begun to reach out to those in need in our area through New Start Debt Relief and the coffee shop and soft play area, providing a listening ear to those who drop in. This would be another way of reaching out with God's love to those in need in our community. We brought this to members at the last family Forum and had a positive response. Sally will take this to TCT in November but in the mean time we need you to pray and ask questions - is this something you would want to be part of?

Let us have your thoughts

Mair Vaughan

Mission Strategy Team

MACMILLAN BIG COFFEE MORNING

Once every year there is a BIG COFFEE MORNING which raises much needed funds to support MacMillan Cancer Care, a charity which provides support for cancer sufferers.

This year the 'Bumps and Babies' mother and toddler group (which meets in church every Friday morning) joined together with the Coffee Shop on Friday 28th September to raise both money and awareness for this very important charity ... and it was a wonderful morning!

The church was absolutely full to overflowing with people of all ages; the cakes were fabulous; the children had a marvellous time in the soft play area and a lot of money was raised in a fun way which will enable MacMillan Cancer Care to help people at a very difficult time.

The coffee shop has been going from strength to strength throughout this year and it is a great way to reach out to the people of Thornbury with the love of Jesus Christ. In the near future we are hoping to advertise our service among older people in our community and encourage them to come into church during the week to have a low cost drink and snack and an opportunity to meet other people in a warm and friendly environment.

Please pray for this work, we have touched many lives in a very positive way but we need God's direction and we need regular volunteers to build relationships with the people who come in.

Here are a couple of quotes from our 'regulars':
Brilliant! My little girl loves it here and it's great for Mums to be able to have a coffee and a chat whilst the children play safely.
Excellent value for money. Wonderful for young kids.
Great fun for the kids, really good value for money.

Well, what can I say? The coffee shop and soft play is fantastic. It's a safe environment for my son to play in, the coffee shop is brilliant value and we are always greeted by a friendly face.

Excellent value for money; it is a very friendly, comfortable, warm environment. It's lovely to have a chat with the other Mums and know that the kids are safe and having fun.

It's a lovely, friendly environment. The children love the soft play and it enables parents to get together socially without worrying about whether their children will get bored and upset. The food and drink are extremely good value and everyone is very welcoming. Thank you.

Excellent value for money and a lovely environment for children; wonderful and friendly staff.

A lovely place to bring young children and great value for money for the tea cakes!

We love it! Great tea cakes and such good value. Our little ones love it.

Robie Hirstwood

REMEMBER THIS?

This is a picture taken at the FUN FACTORY; it feels like it was a long time ago but be assured that all the hard work involved was worth it.

We may forget about these outreach opportunities but the children who came don't ... they make a lasting



impression and lots of children will be looking forward to another chance for some fun.

Yes it is true ... the church needs so many volunteers for so many things that it makes you wonder whether we will have any time for other things.

We are definitely not asking anyone to stretch themselves too far so don't go doing that ... but just think what impact you could make on people's lives if you could comfortably spend some time helping out with church activities.