

Church Calendar: July 2011 to September 2011

July		Sunday 21 st	
Sunday 17 th		10.00am	Terry Wicks: The Bible as Letter/
9.15, 11am	Paul F: Couldn't give a fig!	Teaching	
6.30pm	Sally Heath: How to respond to discipline	6.30pm	Ian Taylor
		23 rd – 25 th	Holiday @ Home
Wednesday 20 th			
8.00pm	Reflective Evening Service	Sunday 28 th	
		10.00am	All Age service - The Bible as Prophecy
Thursday 21 st		6.30pm	Mary Groves
8.00pm	Prayer Evening		
		30 th – 2 nd September	Sacred Space Week
Sunday 24 th			
10am	Mary Groves: The tables are turned	September	
6.30pm	Neil Mobbs	Sunday 4 th	
		11.00am	Community Service & meal: David Lawrence: The Bible as Parable
25 th – 29 th	Summer Outreach Week		
Sunday 31 st		6.30pm	Sally Heath
10am	All Age service: The Bible as History - Noah	Saturday 10 th	
6.30pm	Peter Hatton: Ecclesiastes	8.00am	Men's breakfast
August		Sunday 11 th	
Sunday 7 th		9.15 & 11am	Paul F: What authority!
10am	Paul Green: The Bible as Poetry/Wisdom	6.30pm	Gordon Hindmarch
6.30pm	Terry Wicks	Monday 12 th	
		2.30pm	Inside Out: Talk about Concorde
Monday 8 th			
2.30pm	Inside Out: Talk 'Barefoot to Buckingham Palace'	Thursday 15 th	
		8.00pm	Prayer evening
Saturday 13 th		Sunday 18 th	
8.00am	Men's breakfast	9.15 & 11am	Mike Levy: Wicked Tenants
		4.00pm	Welcome Tea
Sunday 14 th		6.30pm	Mission feedback: Romania & Youth
10am	All Age service: The Bible as a Narrative/Story	Sunday 25 th	
6.30pm	Ed Stuart	9.15 & 11am	Stephen Pacht: Feast of Tabernacles
		6.30pm	Stephen Pacht

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IN HOUSE



The Magazine of Thornbury Baptist Church July 2011

Exciting new beginnings!

WE HAVE APPOINTED DAN POTTER to be our new 'Christian Youth outreach and Community Worker' from early September. Dan is 27, married to Kayte, with a baby daughter, part of Bristol Christian Fellowship. He lives in Bristol, and has been waiting on God for a role like this for some time, after coming out of teaching, for a more informal Youthwork role with young people. This is a completely new and unique role, working with those that are perhaps not achieving; with behavioural problems; having pastoral difficulties or major issues related to family; at risk from exclusion from school or becoming NEAT; or are involved in crime or antisocial behaviour or regular drug or alcohol abuse etc.



For some time now, the outreach side of the existing TBC Youthwork provision has been growing to a point where we need a full-time person. Although we have a very good position in our local community, particularly with the Castle School, in the past two years, I have had to say no to lots of opportunities, ideas and requests to do new things, in and outside of our local schools. At the same time, we have built relationships with some young people, and found they do not function well in the existing youth groups, due to their challenging behaviour. We don't want to lose contact with these young people but recognise we need to relate to them in different ways, and in fact there many more who would never dream of being part of the organised Youth provision we offer. Many who prefer to hang out at the skate park or

around the streets in the evenings rather than in youth clubs. Many who do not have a lot of input from their families, and are labelled as 'trouble'. We want to be involved in early intervention.

We are aware there are these young people in our community that are 'at risk', that really need some extra support, and it seems to be exactly where you might find Jesus hanging out if he were here amongst us today. We are liaising with the Castle School, Marlwood School, the local police and Youth Service, and would partner with any other community groups that we might be able to work with in this project. The unique part of this role is the overlap with being in schools in the daytime, being out on the streets/skate

park and being able to visit homes too. We hope this worker will be quickly known and trusted in the area, and are very excited as to what God has in store to develop this whole new sphere of Youthwork.

The only parts of the work that will overlap with my role are the two outreach cafes we run on Thursday and Friday evenings - Attic and Basement Youth Cafe. This will provide Dan with a base of over 150 young people to get to know the community through, and will be an important first port of call for any new young people he works with. I will concentrate my time on the work I have already been developing, particularly the discipleship and mentoring of young people, especially in the 14+ age group. In this way, our roles will be quite separate but complementary.

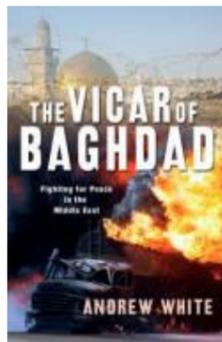
Many of you know I am planning my Sabbatical January-June 2012. During these 6 months, I will be away from Thornbury doing a Discipleship Training Scheme (DTS) with Youth With A Mission (YWAM) with Holmsted Manor, West Sussex being my base. A key part of my work in the autumn term will be identifying a person or two in each of the groups I run, to take over my role whilst I am away, and recruiting new leaders to step into Youthwork from December 2011 to June 2012, to help out just whilst I am away. I will do all I can to support all the teams of leaders before I go. If you feel you could be one of these new 'cover' leaders, please email me or speak to me sometime in the week when we can go through things properly. You might discover why I believe Youthwork to be the best job in the world!!

Helen Smedley

Listening Groups and CLC

Since the beginning of this year I have been part of a (Christian) listening group and found it to be an oasis of calm and renewal in a busy world. The principal purpose of the group is to provide a safe and caring environment where people can grow spiritually by spending time listening to God, to themselves and to each other. It is unlike a traditional home group insofar as we do not debate issues or offer advice (unless it is requested) but rather affirm each other by listening seriously without interruption or judgment to whatever is said; and so far I have found this works really well for me. Another feature of a listening group is that, apart from being committed to meeting together on a regular basis, we make no real demands upon each other. That means that if you want to say something, that is good, but if you would rather just listen then that is equally good too. These groups consist of between three and ten people generally and the aim is that as the members share their thoughts, experiences

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and prayers together then the group grows in unity with a strong sense of belonging and security.

You might discover why I believe Youthwork to be the best job in the world!!

The group I belong to uses material provided by the Christian Life Community (or CLC) which follows an Ignatian pattern. CLC is an ecumenical organisation which seeks to develop Christian spirituality in all people regardless of their background.

If you would like to be part of a listening group then please contact me on: 01454 414174 or robert_hirstwood@hotmail.co.uk

Robie Hirstwood

Book Reviews

We asked if anyone had read any good books which they could suggest to the rest of us for our summer reading. Here is a selection of reviews and recommendations:

Everything Belongs by Richard Rohr

This book is all about deepening our spirituality, prayer and contemplation and transforming our daily experiences into something deeply meaningful. Although this all sounds heavy going it isn't that kind of book at all. Richard Rohr is a good communicator and manages to set out what he wants to say in a very readable way. It is also written in fairly short chapters so that you can pick it up, read a bit and put it down again without losing the thread of his argument.

The Vicar of Baghdad by Andrew White

A remarkable man of faith, who oversees the Church of England in the capital of Iraq. God's amazing ways of working in an Islamic country.

[Andrew White is speaking in Bristol on 22nd October - see poster for details.](#)

God On Mute by Peter Craig

This is an easy read about times when it appears our prayers are not answered. Honestly written, the authors struggles and strength with life's pathways as a disciple of the Lord Jesus.

Seriously Funny by Jeff Lucas & Adrian Plass

One of the cornerstones of British humour is the ability to laugh at ourselves as we see the stupidity of the situations we create for ourselves by thoughtless words or actions. Lucas and Plass take us at a brisk trot through some ridiculous episodes, causing numerous chuckles as well as tears of incredulity.

Simultaneously, as if by predetermination, is an increasing synthesis of what it is to be a Christian and loved by God; then towards the end of the book comes the sudden realisation that these two men from different perspectives understand the heart of the good news of Jesus and tears of laughter are replaced by a deep awareness of Jesus speaking and, perhaps, tears of remorse that we can make something so simple, difficult for ourselves and others at times. Bite sized chunks with an unmissable climax.

[Seriously Funny tour is coming to Woodlands Church, Bristol on Tuesday 29th November. Book tickets NOW.](#)

I Shall Not Hate by Izzeldin Abuelaish

Born into the tensions of the Jabalia refugee camp in Gaza in 1955, and the eldest of six brothers and three sisters, life was never going to be easy; - " but even as a child I always had hope for a better tomorrow." A hope that made Izzeldin Abuelaish persist against all the odds to acquire an education, to eventually qualify as a medical physician,

and to devote his life to medicine and reconciliation between Israelis and Palestinians.

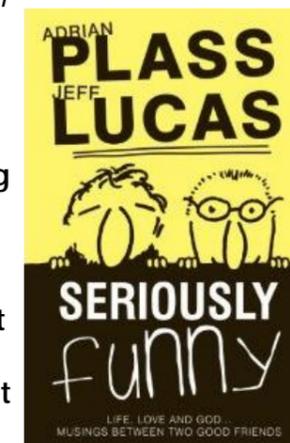
He has treated patients on both sides of the border for many years of his working life and promotes the need for better healthcare and for education for women as the way forward in the Middle East.

In January 2009 he lost three of his daughters to an Israeli shell during the incursion into the Gaza strip. His response to such a tragedy made news around the world. Instead of seeking revenge or sinking into hatred he called for the people of the region to talk to each other. His deepest hope is that his daughters will be "the last sacrifice on the road to peace".

Doctor Abuelaish expresses a remarkable commitment to forgiveness and reconciliation and the courage to refuse to hate. A precious beacon of hope for everyone.

His website and Foundation address is: www.daughtersforlife.com

Out in paperback in August



Is That Really You God? by Loren Cunningham

This is a book I couldn't put down and one I didn't want to finish.

It is the story of how Youth With A Mission (YWAM) began and it is still working today, all over the world. The story of a young boy, Loren Cunningham who had a vision of taking the Gospel all over the world, especially to the youth; how he learned from his parents to listen to God's voice and to be obedient to his call. We hear about the set up of the teams of enthusiastic and committed people all over the world who love the Lord; some of their pitfalls and learning curves, as they seek to fulfill the Great Commission: Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation (Mark 16:15). A book that challenges and asks the question: 'What am I doing for the Lord?'