

This months services

	10 am	6.30 pm
6th	Rex Kemp	Tearfund Jubilee - Heather
13th	All Age - Steve Morley	Steve Morley
20th	Dave	Pentecost Praise from 2-5pm at Wat Tyler
27th	Communion - Colin	Messy Church (4pm)

Regular Meetings

Sunday

10.00am - Morning Service

18.30pm - Evening Service

Monday

10am-12pm - Coffee Pot (Term Time)

4.15pm - 1st Laidon Rainbows

6.00pm - 2nd Laidon Guides

Tuesday

4.15pm - 4th Laidon Brownies

7.45pm Bible Study/Home Groups

Wednesday

1.45pm - CAMEO (Term time)

4.15pm - 3rd Laidon Rainbows

Thursday (Term Time)

5pm - 5th Laidon Brownies

8pm - Xplore Youth Group

Friday

7pm - Harlequin Rangers

Second Saturday of the month

3pm - Disabled Christians Fellowship

Services at local residential homes

(Both at 3pm)

1st Sunday of the Month - Ghyll Grove

3rd Tuesday of the Month - Evelyn May



Knowing God,
Showing God,
Making God Known.



May 2018

*Be devoted to one
another in love.*

*Honour one another
above yourselves.*

Romans 12:10 (NIV)

Email for general queries / bookings:

Manormission@aol.com

www.manormissionchurch.org.uk

If you have a prayer request that you would like to be prayed for in confidence, please call **Heather** on **07722 304917**

This month's magazine is going to have various contributions from those who went to Spring Harvest. Spring Harvest is a Christian Conference every Easter time and we felt it was important that we shared what we learnt with the rest of the church.

I appreciate that it is a much bigger edition than normal, and there is a lot of different information included from the 6 contributors. Hopefully, rather than swamping you, you will over the next month be able to use it and take away something useful.

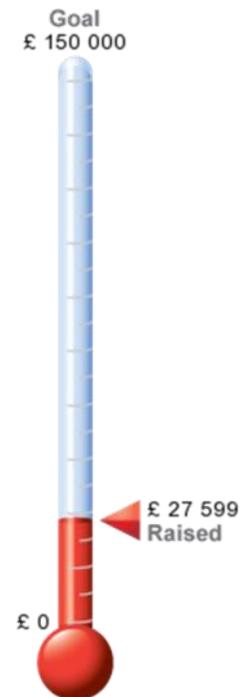
Changes to the morning Open Service

One of the sessions that Tim attended at Spring Harvest was entitled 'Shouldn't we all be teachers by now?' Whilst the session wasn't saying that we should all be preaching every week, it was encouraging us to all get to understand the Bible in a 'wisdom' sense (applying it to our own lives, not just a head

knowledge). The speaker also pointed out that none of us have a monopoly on revelation from the Holy Spirit when we read God's word. So in the Open Services we are going to trial a tweak, where we have fewer songs, but spend longer discussing a passage that has been given us in advance to read and try to understand and learn from. There will still be communion and a time for prayer, but greater emphasis will be placed on the passage. As I mentioned, none of us have a monopoly on understanding, so the person leading the service won't necessarily have a standard 3 key point summary of the passage with the 'perfect' answer. They will moderate and pull out points raised to ensure that it is relevant and helpful to everyone though.

Next month's passage is Philippians 2:1-18.

As mentioned earlier, this is a trial so please give the trustees feedback on how it is working.



Building Fund Update

Thank you to those of you who have been giving into the building fund through various avenues. We are now up to £27,599. Please keep praying and if you have any ideas for fundraising speak to Dave.

Reminders for your diaries

Rotas - Please sign up on the relevant list in the foyer if you are able to help.

Maintenance day- 19/5/18

A.G.M.- 8/7/18

Outing to St Albans – 21/7/18

Bonnie and Donnie will be visiting the area in the first week of October, they will speak at Xplore, Cameo and an informal Saturday evening event.

Spring Harvest – My First Time Experience

Chris Bateman (Liz's mum)

I've long wanted to go to Spring Harvest, but as a mother and then as a carer I didn't get a chance. Now 20 months down the line from bereavement, I was free to do what I wanted. My head was becoming clearer and I was looking for answers to questions – where to next? What line to take? Spring Harvest could possibly hold the answers.

On arrival at Spring Harvest, Minehead, the place was teeming with people, yet the atmosphere seemed different from the usual busy camp sites. No shouting parents or children, no children running riot. As the week went by I also noticed the lack of swearing and smoking. Friendliness all around and no doors slammed in faces and apologies if it happened.

There were all ages, babes in arms to the elderly. Disabled scooters, people with disabilities of all sorts. Hearing loop was available in some venues and in the Skyline there was sign language, mostly at evening celebrations.

The morning Big Start was mainly aimed at children, but good for all ages. Several action songs, I couldn't get up to speed, Saltmine theatre productions and animation films. Still in the Skyline, that was followed by Bible Teaching and boy! Was Simon Ponsonby good! He had us thoughtful and laughing all the way through. I had to get the cd's.

The afternoon programme was good and divided into 3 sessions of approximately 45 minutes each. Patrick Regan ran a very good series on mental health called Honesty over Silence. There was a seminar on Mindfulness – such a buzz word – I had to find out about it from a Christian point of view.

Let's not forget the wonderful Jonathan Veira. A wonderful baritone voice, able to sing most styles, who arranges/composes old hymn words to easier to sing music. He was also a great comic and many of us were laughing to the point of tears!

The evening celebrations were brilliant! New songs – lots of them – and old ones and some excellent speakers. Then there were chats in other venues after hours. I was too tired to manage those. We were warned of sensory overload and Butlins other activities were available if wanted.

Sometime along the way I was expecting to 'breakdown', I was eying the Pastoral Care area all week, instead my role turned out to be one of advisory and exploration.

I felt God's leading in all the preparations and in my time at Spring Harvest, seemed like He had gone ahead of me and paved the way. Would I go again? Your bet!

Did I get the answers to my questions? Not entirely, but ideas are forming in my head. One thing did happen to me though: I am Mrs Average British, I do NOT raise my hands in church. You can if you want, it won't bother me. Yeah, well, before the week was out I was, and felt a rush of release as a warmth spread through my body and a tear in my eye.

Alesia Alblas

Spring harvest was challenging.

What I took from it was that the church (western churches) has become like the world and is comfortable being how it is and not changing.

If you are comfortable in the way you are with God then you are not doing enough. You should always be growing with God and facing new challenges.

How many people outside of church have you told about God and Jesus ?

Does being a Christian show in everything you do?

Do you want to save others by sharing the Good News?

Or are you just comfortable with you knowing God and being saved and keeping it to yourself because you lack confidence to tell others?

God is your strength. He didn't give you strength and the chance to be saved so that you do nothing.

We are not of this world but we are on it for now and we need to spread God's love and save others.

Yes, you will face opposition, He never said it would be easy. We should be saying : "I want to serve the purpose of God in my generation. I want to serve the purpose of God while I am alive. I want to give my life for something that will last forever. " as written in a song by Mark Altrogge.

Heather Alblas

Spring Harvest was a great blessing but also a time of equipping for us to go back out into the world and be more effective Christians.

It was great to spend lots of time with like-minded people (it was good to have others from our church family on site at same time) worshipping God and with lots of opportunities to study his word and learn more about him. God blessed us in lots of ways - getting a better apartment than we paid for!, getting to know the 2 ladies we shared with better, receiving Bible studies by Simon Ponsonby, hearing other great messages, being able to watch 'Mary Magdalene' at the cinema in Butlins, watching an episode of the National Geographic film on the work of Mercy Ships and seeing and hearing from Hae Woo about North Korea amongst others!

The theme of Spring Harvest 2018 was 'Only the Brave - Determined Discipleship'. Luke 15: 12-19 says:

12 "But before all this, they will seize you and persecute you. They will hand you over to synagogues and put you in prison, and you will be brought before kings and governors, and all on account of my name. 13 And so you will bear testimony to me. 14 But make up your

mind not to worry beforehand how you will defend yourselves. 15 For I will give you words and wisdom that none of your adversaries will be able to resist or contradict. 16 You will be betrayed even by parents, brothers and sisters, relatives and friends, and they will put some of you to death. 17 Everyone will hate you because of me. 18 But not a hair of your head will perish. 19 Stand firm, and you will win life.

Hae Woo being able to come to Spring Harvest and speak to us was a great example of how much we must continue to be salt and light in whatever situation we find ourselves .

The challenge is that having encountered God in many ways at Spring Harvest that we go back to our churches inspired and empowered to bring transformation to those around us locally, nationally and globally!

Worth a 'google' (Tim)

If you've ever wanted a way to explain what the Bible is like to others, look up "An architect's view of the Bible". It really helped me to see the links between the different books as corridors linking the different rooms.

Here is a link to it - <https://tinyurl.com/mmavotb>

Ruth Marshall (and Tim)

Spring Harvest really blessed me; giving me space to encounter God through the meetings and giving time for prayer and study. It also really blessed James. The Bible passage we were studying was James and our James really enjoyed his time at nursery learning about God each day through play. He enjoyed clapping along in the all age meeting which was also a good memory aid for me to what we learnt in the main meetings. The main themes were: 'Be Brave', 'Face it', 'Live it', 'Tame it' and 'Finish it' complete with actions.

The main theme was 'Be Brave' which looked at what being a true disciple was like according to the book of James.

Face it - we need to look at ourselves honestly in the mirror and see how we stack up against God's standards. (They used the discipleship shape tool at 'www.wereamakingdisciples.com' to allow us to see how we measure up against being a disciple of Jesus. If you want a paper version ask Mike and he'll copy you one in the vestry.)

Live it - the Christian life is not always easy and following God should cost us.

Tame it - we really need to watch what we say and make sure we're using our voices positively.

Finish it - we need to keep on persevering to make sure that we're living our lives as a true disciple when we're judged by God in Heaven.

Spring Harvest - Liz and Mike's best bits.

If 2 years ago was an introduction to Spring Harvest for Mike and a refresher course for Liz, then this year was a journey in blowing preconceptions out of the water and busting stigma whilst we were there.

Not surprisingly, Liz was vibrating with excitement to get into the worship again, and headed to 'The Hub' at the earliest opportunity to stock up on the New Songs CD and music book. Mike was pleased to see Karuna Coffee (Ending poverty through compassion) present again, and was delighted that Liz had managed to bag a free sample with 2 Spring Harvest travel mugs. Mike picked up further information and is still deliberating a monthly subscription.

Simon Ponsonby led the main Bible study sessions, but he does not fit the image of an 'average church leader'. Visually, he looks like a distant brother of the hairy bikers. He didn't come to faith until his late teens, but this is clearly a man that has immersed himself in the Bible and everything it means and successfully makes it sound like the best manual on life that you will ever read. He delivers the advice

with such conviction, expertly blended with a very down-to-earth sense of humour.

After the Bible study sessions, we headed to 'Encounter the Theme' for a slightly less formal look deeper into the theme for the day. Led by Cris Rogers (wearemakingdisciples.com) and Nicki Sims (Skylark church, Chelmsford), we delved deeper into the book of James for thought-provoking, heart-touching, and humorous moments, delivered with honesty, practicality and some fantastic (if a little 'on the edge') examples and demonstrations.

Patrick Reagan OBE delivered an excellent series of 3 sessions, entitled 'Honesty over Silence', tackling some of the common mental health issues. Patrick should come with a warning label for his refreshing honesty regarding his own personal issues with anxiety and depression, and his passion for his new charity Kintsugi Hope. Kintsugi Hope's tagline is 'Discovering treasure in life's scars' and uses a broken pot to symbolise that the cracks and repairs shouldn't be something to hide but can be seen as something completely unique and special. The charity aims to create 'safe and supportive spaces for those experiencing mental and emotional health

issues.' Liz and I both really learnt a lot from these sessions and came home with several books to read. CWR has published a series of books titled 'insights into' (anxiety/depression/anger etc).

Jonathan Veira was again on the premises mid-week and provided an hour of music and entertainment with a zeal for audience participation. He was a bit of break from some of the serious stuff. A good singalong with a little twist of something new, and a good dash of healthy, hearty humour. Jonathan encouraged us to join in and in doing so, demonstrated how he blends performance, entertainment and worship. Jonathan gave us a run-down of several tracks from his new album 'The Hymns Project' and stated that CD'S and sheet music was available in 'the hub.' No prizes for guessing where Liz headed next!

For being only 4-5 days long, Spring Harvest is an experience that doesn't disappoint. They somehow manage to impart so much knowledge, advice and resources that just as you're getting ready to head home, they dazzle you with the plan for next year - Prayer is about to become a much bigger subject!

Tim

I gained a lot from Spring Harvest, and as you can hopefully see from the other's experiences we all learnt a great deal.

I suppose the main thing I got out of the time at Spring Harvest was around the idea of 'wisdom'. It is easy to think of this as merely head knowledge. However, we were told that Hebrew Wisdom in the Bible, referred to actually living out what you knew. And the book of James is about how you live out what you believe about God.

There's 3 main different types of faith we can possess as Christian's. The first is a 'hobby faith'. This is where we're consumers of 'Christianity', doing it because it is something fun or to do in our spare time. The danger of this type of faith is that it turns church into a theatre where the preacher and the music group are performers and the congregation are there to be critics of their performance.

The second type of faith is a 'private faith'. This isn't an insincere faith, but is one that we keep to ourselves, it is about us, in a way it is a selfish faith as we aren't actually sharing the good news with those who don't yet know.

The third type of faith, what I'd argue is the true Christian faith, is where we possess a 'Die for Faith'. When we hold this type of faith, we're reliant entirely on God and structure our day around Him. In this type of faith, to take the theatre analogy up again, the congregation are instead the actors, with the preacher and worship group being the prompters, reminding the actors

what it is that they need to do and who they're serving.

I wasn't in the main meeting as I was in the all age service with James when Hae Woo was speaking. However, in the all age (and at other points) they promoted a charity called Elam. Elam work with persecuted Christians in Iran. As we know at the Mission, those who are Christian in Iran aren't given the option of it being a 'Hobby Faith', it becomes a 'Die for Faith'.

Jesus didn't say, I am a hobby. He said 'I am the way, the truth and the life'.

At one point during the main teaching on the Wednesday morning, I was drawn to the idea of light switches. In the main, you either get simple on-off switches or you get dimmer switches. Taking this back to the point about how we should be living our lives—Christianity isn't like a dimmer switch (or at least I don't think it Biblically is). We can be lured into a sense of comfort, that we're not as bad as others or I do this bit that is good thing, so that cancels out this problem I have. When in reality, being a true disciple, is a simple on-off switch. We are either worldly (conforming to the world), or we're holy (looking like Jesus). And this shouldn't be a switch that we're fidgeting with. We're called to be disciples and that has a cost.

We have had our lives given back to us, and at times because we have it relatively easy at present with a relative lack of persecution in the UK, we can perhaps find it easy to forget the cost of us having our lives to serve God. We should be living each day with the memory of the gratitude that we first had when we were saved.

We aren't saved by the works we do—and that isn't what James is saying in his book. We are saved by Jesus' death and resurrection. But the proof of that is through the works that we then do. Our lives need to reflect, to show Jesus to the world. And James 1:26-27 tells us what that should look like. We should control our tongues, we should look after the orphans and the widows and we should be untainted by the world. I liked the fact that this seems to confirm that we're right as a church at the minute to be working through the living justly material as part of seeing what a true disciple should be doing.

As I said at the beginning, I learnt a great deal and the first nights title was 'Face it'. It is difficult sometimes in my life to actually stop and reflect on where I am with things and through the time at Spring Harvest I don't think there was a day where a different thing wasn't pointed out to me by the Holy Spirit for me to work on. One of the things I'm working on, is how I was reading the Bible. Whereas before I was reading a devotional in the morning, I wasn't really meaningfully engaging with what I was reading. So I'm now reading the Bible in the evening, generally just after James has gone to bed. I'm more awake at this time, but am also trying to write down what it is that I think the Bible is saying to me. And to start with I'm just re-reading James. I'm now on the third time through using a different version each time and getting subtly different things each time.

We aren't perfect, and James isn't designed to guilt trip us. But it is there to shine a light on what is expected of us if we're claiming to be disciples of Jesus.