

# *New Road Baptist Church*

The Church in Bonn Square



*praying and working  
for the peace of the city*

**CHURCH MAGAZINE**

SEPT-OCT 2015

## PEACE to the CITY

is

The vision and prayer of New Road Baptist Church, Oxford

Located in the centre of the city, in Bonn Square,  
this congregation is committed to

praying and working  
for the peace and well-being of the city  
through worship, witness and service .

This vision and mission is based on the Good News that "Christ is our Peace".

In Christ

a new relationship has been opened up between humanity and  
God

breaking down the wall of contempt between people  
and all things in heaven and on earth are being reconciled into  
God - who is the source and end of all life.

Practically this means that in this place, where a congregation has  
met for over 350 years:

The peace of God, Father Son and Holy Spirit,  
is explored and experienced in worship  
is celebrated and deepened through life together in  
community and  
is lived out in costly acts of compassion and hospitality

All are welcome.

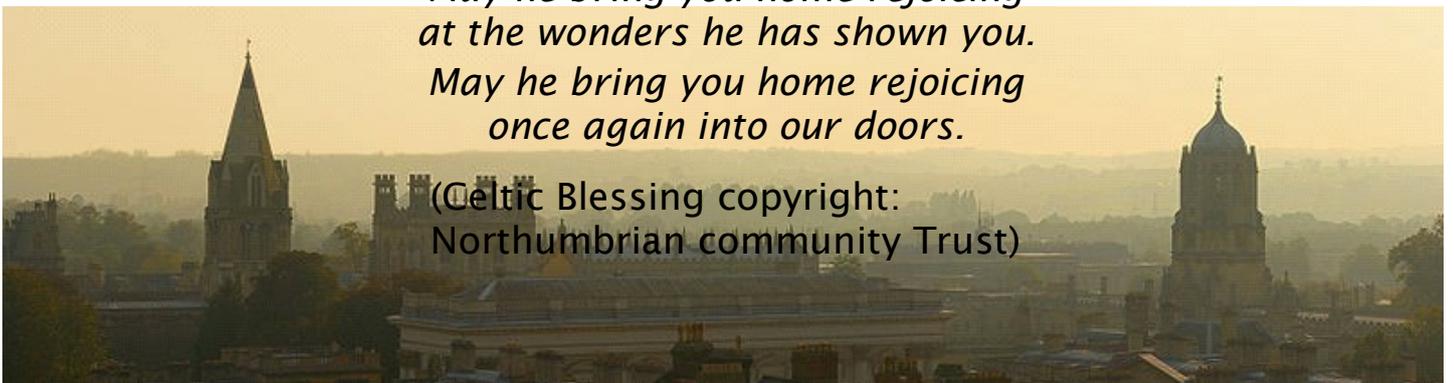
*May the peace of the Lord Christ go with you  
Wherever he may send you.*

*May he guide you through the wilderness  
protect you through the storm.*

*May he bring you home rejoicing  
at the wonders he has shown you.*

*May he bring you home rejoicing  
once again into our doors.*

(Celtic Blessing copyright:  
Northumbrian community Trust)



## This issue

Peace To The City	2
Message from Paul, Editor	3
Lee Isaac talk in Abingdon	4
Baptist World Congress	5
Table Fellowship Meeting	6
Popcorn and Terrorism	7
Cracking Wheeze	8
James and Grace photos	9
Ride and Stride 2015	10
October Diary dates	11

From Paul Hernandez

Dear Friends, welcome to the September-October copy of the church magazine. Over the summer, there were a lot of events taking place. There is a short write up on the Baptist World Congress which took place in July 2015 in Durban, South Africa. Roger Tatton has kindly written a couple of interesting articles.

As we move into the autumn, the kids have returned to school and students have returned to Oxford for their academic studies. We are thinking and praying for them as they settle into new routines.

We had the annual Stride and Ride on 12th September 2015 with a piece from Phil Raven. It's my prayer that you will experience God's peace and blessing as we count down to final months of the year.

\*

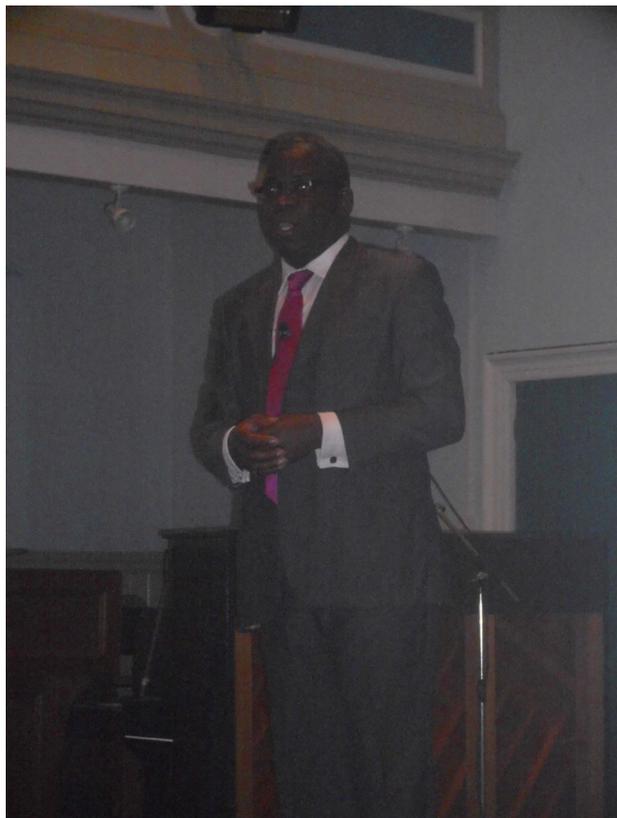
Lee Isaac Founder of Street Pastors visit to Abingdon Baptist Church.

On a hot sunny evening on 9<sup>th</sup> July 2015, I went along to a talk by Rev Lee Isaac who of course is the founder of the Street Pastors outreach programme. The evening started with refreshments. I met a couple of old faces including Ms Pearl Lewis who used to be the Street Pastors coordinator for Oxford but is now in charge of South Oxfordshire division. There were up to 40 people gathered in the church including the police, bar staff, members of various churches and Paul Sykes from the Baptist Union of Great Britain.

Lee is a larger than life character with a great sense of humour. He started off explaining the difficulties he encountered in trying to get the scheme started over 12 years ago. He flew to Jamaica back in 2002 on a fact finding mission meeting with church pastors who had prayed for a reduction in the violence and crime in a number of communities in the capital Kingston. Lee felt inspired with their approach which was to meet with the gangs and not preach to them but help look at the cause of their behaviour.

When he returned he met with his local council, the police and members of Ascension Trust. The police took some convincing and one tale was when the officers asked if they could join him in talking with some of the Afro-Caribbean youth in Moss Side. Lee said he declined saying he could speak their language (the teenagers speak patois) and joked about how he'd relate to them. This outreach started out in London, then Birmingham, Manchester and many major cities. Since then, this network has expanded with over 20,000 Christians involved in numerous towns and cities from different churches in the UK and overseas.

The latest countries to become involved are Gibraltar and Nigeria. He was very positive about the work. In fact, he gave a testimony of an ex young offender who so impressed after being assisted by some Street Pastors in Exeter, that this young man wanted to visit their church. Within months, he became a Christian and is now working and involved in a ministry helping to keep young people out of trouble.



## ***21<sup>st</sup> Baptist World Congress took place in Durban South Africa from 22nd to 26th July 2015***

The theme for this year's conference was Jesus Christ the door. This event takes place every 5 years, although there is a congress every year. Some of the keynote speakers included Reverend Anthony

Carroll is the senior pastor of Antioch Native Baptist Church in Nassau, Bahamas. Peter Chin from

South Korea, Professor Joel Gregory from the USA and who is head of Joel Gregory Ministries. You may remember Joe Gregory from his visit to New Road a few months ago. He is a member of the

BWA Commission. Pastor Dimitrina Oprenova was another speaker from Bulgaria. She is a member of the Executive Committee of the European Baptist Women's union. Many thousands of Baptist Christians met from over 80 countries worldwide to worship and pray together seeking to learn more about God who will open doors to a vibrant way of life through Jesus Christ.

As with previous large gatherings, the four days consisted of bible studies, workshops, fringe

meetings along with mission and evangelism. Dimitrina Oprenova (pictured below) stated how

Baptists overcame hardship during the communist period when they had less freedom of worship.

There is a global human rights award presented at the congress and this years award was given to a Rwandan called Gato Munyamasoko. He is the general secretary of the Association of Baptist Churches in Rwanda The award was given for his role in trying to bring peace and reconciliation to his country after the horrible genocide and violence which took place in 1994.

Incidentally the first congress took place here in England back in 1905 and next congress will be held in Rio De Janeiro in Brazil in July 2020. For more details go to [www.bwanet.org](http://www.bwanet.org)



## TABLE FELLOWSHIP

This church is pleased to provide six opportunities to experience Table Fellowship over the course of the year. This involves a meal for around 8 people in a church member's home, interspersed with conversation and prayer. It is a lovely experience, warmly received in previous years. We strongly encourage everyone from the church to sign up for the last occasion this year. This take place on Tuesday 13 October 2015 at 7pm at John and Rosie Chadwick's house.



## **Popcorn and Terrorism**

A motley crew of self-selecting church members assembled at the Manse one Wednesday evening in August.

The agenda wasn't Deacons, Finance or Fabric. Instead we were there to watch a television play, "Song for Jenny." It's about a mother's struggle to come to terms with the death of her daughter in the seven-seven bombings in London. Some of us had asked to see it again with friends from church; others had missed or avoided it but now felt able to view it with the support of others.

It was pretty harrowing. We were taken through the stages of Jenny being first not contactable, then listed as missing; we went through the "we need her toothbrush for DNA" stage to final confirmation, viewing the body and the funeral.

All the more poignant was Jenny's mother's role in Church of England ministry. Curiously Bishop, fellow-ministers and church congregation never appeared and only one of these was alluded to. Instead it was the family which featured, coming together admirably. But there was desperation too. This was mostly Jenny's mother's bitter story, raw and uncensored, honest and despairing. Husband, siblings and children became sidelined, minor characters hindered from grieving for themselves by the aching primacy of a mother's loss.

For us the experience was tempered though. We were free to be openly moved and then free to reflect on the experience. Some of the events and reactions in the film had been grim, others surprising; none of them could be ignored. We suffered with the grieving, in a removed but still biblical way. And we talked about it together.

Thanks to everyone for the experience; an evening to benefit from, strangely, and mostly because of each other. Yes there had been terror and yes there was popcorn. But like a number of church events this summer, it was helpful, beneficial and heart warming.

**Roger Tatton**

## CRACKING WHEEZE, GROMIT!

### **A sideways look at building maintenance**

We all know Nick Park's animated character, the long-suffering companion with exceptional inventive skills.

But Gromit now has a rival, who most days can be found lurking unsung beneath New Road's gallery. The mechanical marvel our New Hero has achieved is pure "Open Sesame!" Sometimes the door between chapel and vestibule won't lock. Sometimes it won't unlock. (Usually both, when you're in a hurry!) Our Hero has a breathtaking solution which he achieves in the twinkling of an eye. Just like Gromit he produces a humble screwdriver, waggles it in the keyhole and the lock springs back to life, accepting the very key which moments before would no way fit.

It's a repair of jaw-dropping simplicity. Bystanders gape at its ingenuity. Who is it who achieves this minor miracle? None other than David Stevens. Three cheers for our Hero! You too can join in this interactive gaming phenomenon of mechanical discovery. Try the door lock sometime when David isn't around; the screwdriver was last seen in the toolbox in George's Cupboard. Open new worlds, begin new adventures, etc., etc. But only for a limited time. This quaint ritual is due to be retired (the door, that is, as well as David). Act now while you can!

### **SOUNDS LIKE ...**

Since the last newsletter our marvellous cleaner Claire has come and gone. She and her family have suddenly had the opportunity to move for a new life in West Sussex. Sad as we are to see her go, we quite believe in new life.

We're very grateful for the work she's done maintaining and indeed improving the condition of the building for us. She did everything well. Thank you, Claire!

Fear not. Our new cleaner is Clare. Congratulations to Kat, who found her for us. Clare has started work for us and at least for the moment is working 7.30 to 10.30 each weekday. We're sure she will settle into the church's work and community as well as did her predecessor.

Roger Tatton.

### **Faith Sharing Group,**

Following the item at the July Church meeting from the faith-sharing Group, I thought it might be good to remind friends at New Road of it's existence. We are just a small group, self-selected, who meet occasionally but regularly, and our focus is to support each other and grow on our faith journey. We have been meeting for some two or three years. It is of necessity that we are confidential group but not a closed group. If there are others who feel this might be right for them, we would be delighted to welcome them. If you would like to follow this up, then please have a word with me.

Margaret White.

## **James and Grace Wedding Celebration on Saturday 8th August 2015.**

One of the highlights of the summer months was the wedding celebration on Saturday 8th August 2015 for James and Grace Ndungu at New Road Baptist Church. This was a very special occasion for the couple who have embarked on a remarkable journey over the past several years. After service conducted by our minister Kat Bracewell, the reception took place in the main hall at Regents Park College.

Have a look at the photograph of the happy couple during this wonderful day.



And congratulations to our friend Mrs Irene Livesey who celebrated her 90th birthday in September 2015.

## Ride and Stride 2015

The annual Ride + Stride event took place on 12<sup>th</sup> September - people all over the country are invited to cycle, walk or horse ride to as many churches, chapels and meeting houses as they wish on any route of their choice. Many churches are manned for the day to welcome riders and striders to their church and tick off their church on the form. New Road are regular participants in this great event, which raises money towards the participants' church and Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust, a charity which helps to preserve some of Oxfordshire's 650 churches, chapels and meeting houses. New Road have received grants in the past towards our building projects.

A varying team of Raven family took part in the riding part of this event, some of us motivated by the generous quantities of biscuits and drinks on offer at many of the churches, and some of us motivated by the chance to race around the country lanes! A shorter family ride in the morning round all the churches in Witney was a good test for Joseph's bike skills now that he has grown out of his 'tag-a-long'. The highlight was stopping at St Marys in central Witney where they invited people to climb up to the bell tower to ring their bell!

Phil and Alexander then took to the hills between Witney, Charlbury and Woodstock, to visit as many churches as they could before their legs gave out, or the churches packed up at 6pm. It was encouraging to see how many small village chapels had opened up for the day, and we were warmly welcomed in so many places. 47 biscuits and around 35 miles later, with sore backsides and tired legs, we pedalled to our 30<sup>th</sup> church.

It is a true ecumenical event, and a great opportunity to see a few of the large number of churches, big and small, that still play an important part in our village and town communities. Thank you to those who manned New Road for the day to offer a welcome to other striders/riders and everyone who sponsored us - raising £185 for OHCT/New Road. Do take the opportunity to be involved next September, either welcoming or riding + striding!

*The Raven family*



## October 2015 Diary Dates

Tuesday 6th October Pastoral Care Group at Margaret White's house 10.15am

Tuesday 13th October Table Fellowship at John and Rosie Chadwick's house 7.00pm

Sunday 18th October Junior Church lunch 1200 noon at the Manse.

**AND DON'T FORGET SUNDAY LUNCHESES IN OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER 2015.**

With a number of new students arriving in Oxford and visiting New Road , it would be a delight if anyone can offer lunch at their home or in church.

Please speak to Kat if you are interested in doing catering on a Sunday during these months.

New Road Baptist Church  
Bonn Square  
Oxford  
OX1 1LQ

[www.newroad.org.uk](http://www.newroad.org.uk)

01865 798235

Sunday service: 10.30 am  
Crèche and Junior Church  
Tea and Coffee afterwards

Weekday Church: 11.00am—2.00pm  
Drop in for a cuppa, a chat or quiet reflection

Minister: Kat Bracewell  
Kathryn.bracewell@yahoo.co.uk  
01865 437909

Church warden: David Stevens  
(Weekdays 10.30am—5.00pm)  
david.stevens@virgin.net  
01865 798235

Church secretary: Deborah Rooke

Church treasurer: John Chadwick  
john.chadwickofardington@hotmail.co.uk  
01235 832619

Magazine editor: Paul Hernandez

Please let me have copy for the next edition by 8th November 2015