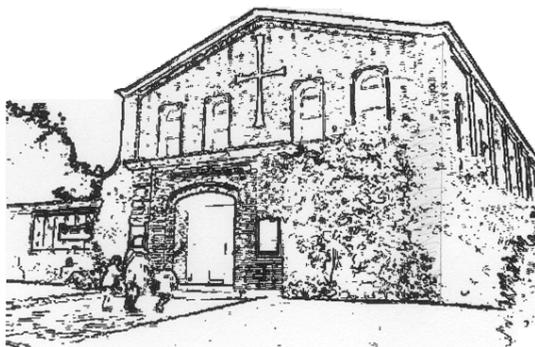




FOCUS



ISSUE NUMBER 107
FEBRUARY & MARCH 2014

www.st-georges-urc-hemel.org.uk

CALENDAR FOR FEBRUARY & MARCH 2014

Sat. 1st Feb.	6.00 – 9.00 p.m.	Barn Dance – Tickets £3 from Karen Southwood – all welcome!
Tues. 4th Feb.	8.00 – 10.00 p.m.	Women's Ministry Book Club – see separate announcement
Sun. 9th Feb.	After morning Service	Church Meeting
Wed. 12th Feb.	8.00 p.m.	Street Pastors' Information Night (see separate announcement)
Sun. 16th Feb.	3.30 – 6.00 p.m.	Messy Church
Wed. 19th & Thur. 20th Feb.	Afternoon	<i>Awakening Hemel</i> , a 3-day youth event for those in school years 7 upwards.
Fri. 21st Feb	Afternoon & Evening	<i>Awakening Hemel</i> , a 3-day youth event for those in school years 7 upwards.
Tues. 4th March	8.00 – 10.00 p.m.	Women's Ministry Book Club – see separate announcement
Fri. 7th March	TBA	Women's World Day of Prayer
Sun. 23rd March	3.30 – 6.00 p.m.	Messy Church

Dates for your diary

Church AGM - is now 28th April, not 21st which is a Bank Holiday

Holiday Bible Club: 28th July – 1st August – to all my wonderful helpers – please mark the dates in your diary now – **Jane**.

Mission Direct: Mission trip to Kenya 17th – 31st August

SUNDAY SERVICES

DATES	TIME	SPEAKER AND NOTES
2nd Feb.	10.30 a.m.	Jane Wade – Anniversary Sunday
9th Feb.	10.30 a.m.	Angela Such Church Meeting after Morning Service
16th Feb.	10.30 a.m. 3.30 – 6.00 p.m..	Kevin York – Half Term Messy Church
23rd Feb.	10.30 a.m.	Jane Wade
2nd March	10.30 a.m.	Ruth Robinson – SAT7 - Communion
16th March	10.30 a.m.	Jane Wade
23rd March	10.30 a.m. 3.30 - 6.00 p.m.	Jane Wade Messy Church
30th March	10.30 a.m.	Jane Wade – Mothering Sunday

No p.m. services except where stated

The Minister's message

Dear Friends.

STOP – just for a moment – and rather than rush through reading this letter, take your time. Let these words from 1 Corinthians 15:58 soak in for just a moment...

“My dear, dear friends, stand your ground. And don't hold back. Throw yourselves into the work of the Master, confident that nothing you do for him is a waste of time or effort.”

Did you get that? Nothing you **ever** do for Jesus is a waste of time or effort.

Everything counts! Everything matters! Every minute you pour in to the lives of people – even those who seemed to have walked away! **Every pound** you've invested in the Church – or given to support the charities we sponsor – even in moments when you wondered if you should've bought a coffee instead! **Every prayer** you've ever prayed – even when it felt like Heaven was silent.

Nothing you do for Jesus is a waste of time or effort! So this letter is simply to say THANK YOU. **Thank you for all you do for Jesus, for children and young people, the folk in our Church and the community we are set in.**

And...**WELL DONE.** Well done for keeping on, keeping on – you could've quit by now BUT you still keep giving!

And...**KEEP GOING.** Because Jesus isn't finished with you yet! You and He make an awesome team – a formidable team - a life-changing team.

In light of all this, don't hold back. Throw yourselves in to the adventure of 2014, being confident that **you** matter to God – and what you do for Him will make a difference.

Be assured of our support and prayers in all you do, and if there's anything we can do to better equip you, then don't hesitate to ask.

We're all in this together, right? Huge thanks and even bigger blessings,

Jane

Do you find it difficult to praise God during your prayer times? Why not play

ALPHABET ADORATION

Each day take a new letter of the alphabet, and think of one attribute of God starting with that letter. For example:

- A. - Almightyness**
- B. - Blessings**
- C. - Control**
- D. - Direction**
- E. - Everlasting**
- F. - Faithfulness**
- G. - Goodness**
- H. - Holiness**
- I. - Immenseness**
- J. - Justice**
- K. - Kingship**

When you have thought of the attribute, try to think of at least 10 ways you see that quality in action and just praise God.

If you get some down time during the day, such as when you are waiting in a queue, you can take the opportunity to add to your list.

**DEADLINE
FOR
APRIL & MAY 2014
ISSUE OF FOCUS
WEDNESDAY 19TH MARCH**

Ideally send contributions to
watson@melsted16.co.uk
but hand-written articles given to Judy are
also very welcome!



THE PRAYER DIARY

Are you using the St George's Prayer Diary?

It comes out monthly by e-mail or weekly in the Church Newsletter. It is a great way to pray for each other and for the events that are happening in our Church.

Each day there is one Church family and one activity for prayer. A suggestion is that we pray each day for one family for one minute. If we all did that, think how many minutes of prayer that would make altogether. All church members are mentioned at least once every three months, so one day, everyone will be praying for you.

One minute is not a long time. There are 1440 minutes in a day. Could you spare one of those minutes to pray for your church? Together, we can make a difference.

Remember:-

**ONE DAY
ONE FAMILY
ONE MINUTE**

Gill Griffin



RBC Ministries 2014 London Bible Conference: Encounters With Christ

Saturday 8 March 2014. 10:30am – 5:00pm.

Westminster Chapel, Buckingham Gate,
London, SW1E 6BS

What will be studied?

Session 1: A Roman Centurion (Matthew 8:5-13)

Session 2: A Gentile Woman (Matthew 15:21-29)

Session 3: A Woman in Sin (John 8:1-11)

Session 4: A Man Born Blind (John 9:1-6)

For further information see:

www.rbc.org.uk/conferences/upcoming-bible-conferences/



As you may know I am Church representative for Release International. As so many of you either have Release International, Open Doors or Barnabas magazines there seems to be little point in me reinventing the wheel, so I hope that you will not mind some personal sharing.

North Korea

1 Kings 11:43: .Then Solomon rested with his fathers...And Rehoboam his son reigned in his place. *1Kings 12:4*: Your father made our yoke heavy: now therefore, lighten the burdensome service of your father.

1 Kings 12: 5 to 14 continues the story of how the new king talked with both his father's old advisors and the young men he grew up with. He Rejected the advice of old advisers and become harsher. Verse 15 tells that 'this turn of events was from the Lord'.

When Kim Jong Il died and his son Kim Jong Un took over the leadership of North Korea, as a group of us prayed, it was felt the Lord was showing us the above verses were applicable to the new leadership. in the months following it seemed to friends who visited that a lot of good things were going on in various ways i.e. buildings that had stood half completed were being finished. Tour guides told of their apartment blocks being upgraded. More traffic on roads. We thought we had misheard The Lord but it now seems that there was much white-washing going on to fool overseas investors

Seven older men who were compatriots of Kim Jong Il started as Kim Jong Un's advisers. Following a very public show trial and the execution of Jang Song Thaek, who was reported to be a reformer, only two remain. A press statement gave details of various crimes supposedly committed by Jang Song Thaek, including gambling, womanising, not standing up fast enough, and not clapping with sufficient enthusiasm, but in particular plotting against Kim Jong Un.

Jang Song Thaek has been airbrushed from photographs and one can but wonder if he knew too much about both Kim Jong Un and his wife's decadent life styles – she was formally a member of a music group who were all publically executed last year after making comments relating to her behaviour when she was one of the band, amongst other accusations.

Executions in general are reported to be up in numbers on last year and public ones in particular. Remember North Korea punishes three generations in the family line from grandparents to babies of any criminal. Relatives have to watch executions, even young children.

How **do** we pray? We can be sure that this turn of events was permitted by The Lord Our God. We need to seek Him as to how we should pray, but one thing we know - it is not Father's will that any should perish. Let us pray for all those in North Korea who will be living in fear and terror of the knock on the door. Pray that at this time they might know that the God of Israel, He is Lord and not Kim Jong Un as their leaders would have the people believe. Pray for miracles of salvation of which we know our God to be capable

The book '**The Night of a Million Miracles**' tells the inside story of Project Pearl in which one million bibles were smuggled into China in one night, But there were many other miracles related to the delivery.

Chaoyang, China 1981: Pastor John Chow was met on the street "Have you heard the news?" "Last night thousands of Bibles landed on the beach!" "The authorities are furious" "Determined to trace every last Bible and jail every person who even touches one" The Pastor didn't say anything as he had ten thousand Bibles hidden in his house. After prayer and with help, the Bibles were buried in a field.

The Pastor soon found himself in police custody. How could he give his alibi of preaching at an illegal house church meeting and endanger his flock? He refused to talk, "To be quite honest, I had gone through similar problems during the Cultural Revolution and I knew how to handle this kind of interrogation. You just shut your eyes and pray". John's serenity under pressure had not gone unnoticed. By this time the investigators were becoming increasingly desperate. Beatings could not help either. He was a frail, elderly man and quite unafraid of dying.

He was taken into a courtyard of the prison and made to stand upright on a tall wooden box about four feet high and very narrow with only room for his feet, A noose was put around his neck and tightened, the rope being fixed to a beam above him. "We give up on you. The moment you sway or your legs collapse from tiredness you will hang yourself". The two policeman assigned to watch him played a gambling game at his feet. He felt a surge of power knowing what Christ felt on the cross as He looked at those indifferent to His suffering. Knowing the end was not far away Pastor John began to witness to the policemen, telling that he was not afraid of death because of what Jesus had done for him. The men laughed at him.

The hours and days passed in unimaginable tiredness, hunger and leg cramps and swellings as blood pooled in them, the only relief being when the rain fell and washed his body and he was able to stick his thickened blackened tongue out to get a few drops of moisture. When God wanted to take him, he was ready, but refused to have his death classed as suicide. Word was getting round the prison. No man could survive that long. It was impossible for him to still be alive. Finally a huge thunderstorm struck. Through his delirium he vaguely heard the crash of thunder, cracks of lightening and he pitched forward. The noose tightened. Oblivion.

But he was being revived in frantic fashion. Water splashing over his dry, cracked lips. Someone rubbing his wrists. Legs propped up and blood flowing back into his torso. He could do nothing but cry from the pain. He became aware of who was working on him. The two policemen, but why? "Don't die please. We want to know your saviour Jesus" They were trembling. "But why?" "Because He saved you. A flash of lightening cut the rope above your head just as you fell. Don't tell us that's just a coincidence!"

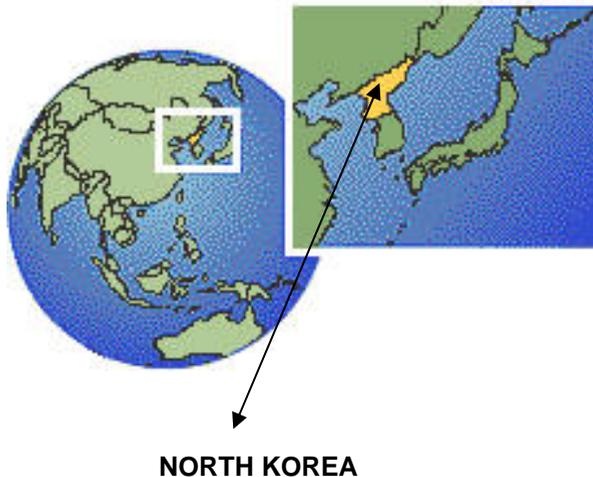
Pastor John was released more out of indecision than anything else. The story had passed round the prison and other prisoners held him in awe. The investigators had no stomach to question him again so they let him go. Pastor John recalls a strange disappointment when released. "I had looked forward to death" "I am glad that my living brought salvation to others" (condensed excerpt from book).

Thank you, Father, for all the Bibles which are taken safely over the borders each day. Please protect the carrier and bless the receiver. Amen

China today A December Sky News report showed a church where the Pastor and members of the officially sanctioned congregation were taken away and their whereabouts were unknown. As a news team entered the church to speak with lawyers, the film crew came under bombardment, having to barricade themselves into the church for protection from local Chinese people thought to be under orders from the Public Security Bureau.

Imagine what is happening to our brethren now. How **do** we pray? "O Lord, come!" (1Cor.16:22) is in Aramaic *maranatha*. In the Lord's prayer we pray "Your kingdom come" (Matt.6:10) and the apostle John prayed, "Even so, come Lord Jesus!" (Rev.22:20) Believers should long for His coming not just because we want to escape the trials of life but because we love Him and want to see Him face-to-face. (*With the Word, Warren Wiersbe*)

Lynne Wilsher
01442 244598



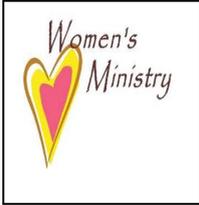
***Seen in the doorway of the 12th Century parish church of
St. Mary's, Brampton, Oxfordshire***

Hints to those who worship God in this Church

1. Be in time
2. Go straight into Church
3. Kneel down on your Knees
4. Do not look round every time the door opens
5. Join in all the Prayers, and the Singing, and Amens
6. Stand up directly the Hymns are given out
7. Do not whisper to your neighbour
8. Keep your thoughts fixed
9. Bow your head at the Most Holy Name of Jesus
10. If you bring Children, see that they kneel too
11. Makes Alms giving a regular part of your Worship
12. Pray for those who Minister

When the CHOIR and CLERGY enter, or leave, the CHURCH, then STAND up in a body. When they have passed by, kneel down in Prayer, for them and yourselves.

St George's Ladies Book Club



STARTS FEBRUARY 2014

1st Tuesday of every month

40 Roseheath, Hemel Hempstead, HP1 2LT

8.00pm – 10pm

4th Feb

4th March

1st April

6th May

3rd June

1st July

Summer Break

7th Oct

4th Nov

2nd Dec

Meeting each month in a relaxed setting we will have refreshments and time to chat together then we will review and discuss the book that we have all read before we choose the next book to enjoy together.

All ladies welcome

If you would like to join the book club or would like any further information please speak to Angela Such

Angela.such@sky.com Tel: 07941534123

A NIGHT IN HEMEL WITH THE STREET PASTORS

Skeletons, Vampires, girls with zombie eyes,

Police, atheists and kids telling lies,

Birthdays, paydays, or meeting with a friend

All kinds of reasons to be out on a spend.

People who were “up for it”

Spoiling for a fight.

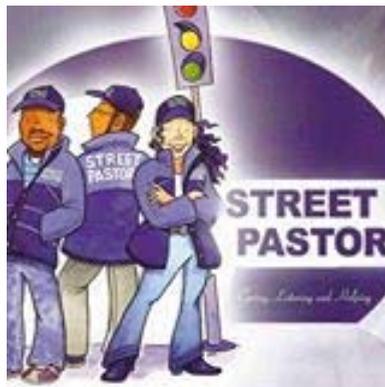
Just another typical Street Pastor night.

Flip-flops, lollipops, we cope with “whatever”.

See it all next week

Whatever the weather!!

Kerry-Anne Cooper





Caring
Listening
Helping

Have you got what it takes to be a Street Pastor?

We are now looking to recruit new Street Pastors for Hemel Hempstead! Do you have a passion for the people of Hemel? Are you a Christian and part of a local church? Do you want to have your faith challenged and pushed? Then maybe being a Street Pastor is for you. We are looking for people who can commit to one Friday or Saturday night a month, between the hours of 10.00 pm and 2.00 am. Full training will be given but ultimately a heart to show love to anyone you encounter is the key. **We are holding an information night on Wednesday 12th February in the downstairs coffee area at South Hill Church, starting at 8.00 pm.** Come along and enjoy a coffee, speak to some of our existing

Street Pastors and get a feel for what it really means to be a Street Pastor. If it's for you, you'll be asked to take away a registration form.

We are also looking for Prayer Partners who are committed to praying for our Street Pastors. This role is as vital as the people actually going out and we would love to be able to prove you with prayer requests and information of a regular basis.

Prayer Partners are also welcome to join us at the Salvation Army prior to the Street Pastors heading out on to the street.

Twenty Seven Million Slaves in the World Now

About ten years ago I began writing a novel about sexual slavery and because I have a long standing connexion with St Georges I thought you would be glad to hear about it.

The initial inspiration for the book came when I attended a lecture given by a Non-Governmental Organization entitled ECPAT. [End Child Prostitution and Trafficking] Up to that point I had not given the subject of sexual slavery much thought as I wrongly assumed that it might be a problem in other countries but not in mine. I came away from that day angrier than I ever remember being before and desperately frustrated at not being able to do anything to address the problem practically apart from giving money.

It was born in on me over the next few weeks that one way of helping would be to write a novel describing what it might feel like to be taken from your home and made to work as a prostitute. My hope is that anyone who reads the book will travel down this pathway of empathy and so be moved in their turn to think of something creative they can do to help right this dreadful evil that inflicts every corner of our globe.

I also felt that in some respects an imaginary story would do the job of engaging the emotions of the reader better than a factual first person account, as in a novel it is possible to describe in a deeper way the effect of prostitution on a child's body and personality and also the repercussions on their families and friends. In addition the book tells the story of a young British couple which serves both to provide a positive storyline for the book and also to show the contrast between the normal expectations of the average woman and those in all societies who are enticed or sold into sexual slavery often because they are poor or deprived in some way.

The more people who understand this evil and do something about it, the better, so I would be grateful if you could buy and read the book and then recommend it to your friends and family, both here and abroad. In this way we can all join together to fight this evil. If you have any contacts with people who run local magazines of any sort who would be prepared to run an article about this book as a tool to raise awareness of this problem please send their contact details by email to:

debvaren@gmail.com.

We would also like to hear from you at this address.

It may help to visit my blog where further details of the project can be found:

<http://debvaren.blogspot.co.uk>.

If you visit this blog you will also find various suggestions as to what you can do personally to help and also further background to some of the characters in the book. We would welcome your feedback.

ALL profits from the sale of the book go to four charities who are working to rescue such boys and girls, young men and women. Details of these charities are at the back of the book and they all provide further factual information.

Book Details:

Title The Garden of Sparkling Delight

Author Deborah Varen

Blog <http://debvaren.blogspot.co.uk>

e-mail -debvaren@gmail.com

Availability Worldwide from Amazon. Hard copy postage and packing free, and Kindle.

If after you have read the book you could write a positive review that would really help. Deborah Varen is a pen name which reflects the fact that many people have given and are giving their time and expertise to this project. Thank you so much.

Your friend,

Deborah Varen.



2014

Women's ministry includes a selection of events and activities that are open to all women and are planned with the purpose of helping the women of St George's grow closer to one another and closer to God.

With a range of events including social evenings at the pub to prayer breakfasts, the hope is that we will be able to share the highs and lows of life together and support one another on the journey.

Everyone is welcome; why not mark these dates in your diary now?

More details about these and other events for 2014 will follow nearer the time.

If you have any suggestions for future events please do speak to me.

Blessings

Angela Such

07941534123

Angela.such@sky.com

Tuesday 4th February: - Ladies' Book Club starts

Friday 7th March: - Women's World day of Prayer

Wednesday 23rd April: - Ladies' Night (Details to be confirmed)

Saturday 28th June: - Midnight Walk for Hospice of St Francis

We hope to have a pamper evening in **May** – details to be confirmed.



WEEKDAY ACTIVITIES

Mondays	<u>Home Group</u> - 8.00 p.m. Leaders: Linda & Kevin York
Tuesdays	<u>Home Group</u> – 1 st /3 rd week of each month at 8.00 p.m. at Peter & Jo Taylor's home. Leader: Tracy Malan. <u>Home Group</u> – 7.30 p.m. Leaders Amanda and Dan Hobbs
Wednesdays	<u>Wednesday Welcome</u> – 10.30 a.m. in Church Hall in term time. Coffee/Tea served at 10.15 a.m. <u>Prayer Fellowship</u> : - 2 nd /4 th Wednesday of each month from 7.00 – 8.00 p.m. in the Bell Lounge <u>Home Group</u> – 1 st /3 rd week of each month at 8.00 p.m. Leader: Richard Waymark <u>Home Group</u> : 1 st /3 rd week of each month, 8.00 p.m. Leaders – Jeremy & Nicky Flynn.
Thursdays	<u>Toddlers' Group</u> - 10.00 – 11.45 a.m. <u>Pilots</u> : Deckhands – 5.30 – 6.30 p.m. Adventurers – 5.45 – 7.00 p.m. Voyagers – 7.00 – 8.15 p.m. Cell Groups. (Navigators) 8.30 – 9.30 p.m. <u>Grandparent & Toddlers' Group</u> – Weekly in term time, 1.30 – 3.00 p.m. <u>Home Group</u> – Weekly in term time; 1.30-2.45 p.m. Leader: Gill Griffin
Fridays	<u>Youth Chill Zone</u> 4 – 6.00 p.m.
Saturdays	<u>Table Tennis</u> - 9-11.00 a.m. – Church hall, Leader Dennis Chang and Gill Griffin

Music Group Practice – TBC weekly by Worship Leader

◆ **What is a home group?**

Quite simply, a group of people drawn from the St George's Family who meet together regularly in a home (or even at Church!). We have 6 groups currently, with a total membership of over 60.

◆ **What is it for?**

To enable the members of the small group to get to know and care for one another, and help each other grow in the Christian life. The groups are really appreciated by long-standing and new members alike.

◆ **What happens at a home group?**

Each group develops its own particular style of sharing and learning together, drawing on the ingredients of worship, prayer, Bible focussed study/discussion, and maybe a "cuppa". Leading is shared among those members of the group who feel happy to do so, and the subject may be of their own choosing or part of a prearranged series. Meetings typically last 1½ to 2 hours.

◆ **When and where do the groups meet?**

<u>Leaders</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Venue</u>
Amanda & Dan Hobbs 07725525176	Tues 7.30 p.m. Weekly	2a Redbourne Rd.
Kevin & Linda York	Mon 8.00 p.m. Weekly	6 Stronsay Close, Northend, Hemel
Tracy Malan HH 389022	1 st /3 rd Tues 8.00 pm	"Lauries" London Rd Bourne End (Peter and Jo Taylor)
Jeremy & Nicky Flynn HH 215268	Wed 8.00 pm 1 st /3 rd in month	4 Haybourn Mead (Jeremy and Nicky Flynn)
Richard Waymark HH 262646	Wed 8.00 pm 1 st /3 rd in month	4 Sidford Close (Richard Waymark)
Gill Griffin HH 243267	Thursday 1.30 – 2.45 pm Weekly in term time	The Bell Lounge

Can I join?

Yes! If you are interested, or would like to find out more, please speak to Jane Wade or one of the Home Group leaders.

DIRECTORY

ST. GEORGE'S URC

Minister: Revd. Jane Wade	Tel: 216597
Secretary: Jeremy Flynn	Tel: 215268
Treasurer: Brian Hardy	Tel: 266337
Focus Magazine: Judy Watson Ai Ling Chang	Tel: 261056 or Watson@melsted16.co.uk
Magazine Distribution: Alf Guilder	Tel: 256926
Junior Church co-coordinator Sharon Boyall	Tel: 213538
Pilots: Captain: Jane Wade Deckhands (Years R-2) Andrew & Yvonne Masters Adventurers (Years 3-6) Jane Wade Voyagers (Years 7-9)	Tel: 216597 Tel: 389278 Tel: 216597
Toddlers Group Carol Edgeworth	Tel: 392389
Wednesday Welcome Jo Taylor	Tel: 862754
Home Groups Revd. Jane Wade	Tel: 216597
Music Group Co-ordinator: Mark Wade Music Director: Dan Hobbs	Tel: 216597 or 07869131756 248427 or 07717201775
Prayer Co-ordinator Penny Crosswell	Tel: 211457
Prayer Chain Alistair and Joyce Beadle	Tel: 245901
Hall Bookings (<i>Church Activities</i>) Dave Greenwood	Tel: 258757
Transport Co-ordinator Denise Chennells	Tel: 246277
Table Tennis Leaders Dennis Chang & Gill Griffin	Tel: 243267 (Gill Griffin)
Women's Ministry Angela Such	Tel: 07941 534123