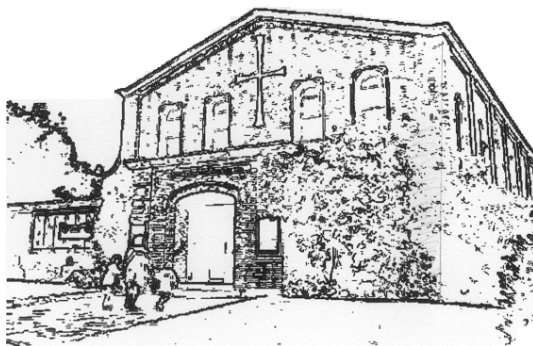




FOCUS



ISSUE NUMBER 108
APRIL & MAY 2014

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

CALENDAR FOR APRIL AND MAY 2014

5th – 9th April		Spring Harvest
Mon. 7th April	7.30 p.m.	Elders' Meeting
Fri. 18th April	TBC	March of Witness
Sun. 20th April		Sunrise Service - TBC
Wed. 23rd April	6.30 – 9.00 p.m. but drop in any time	Women's Ministry – Time & Space to Pray – Church Hall
Mon. 28th April	8.00 p.m.	AGM
2nd – 5th May		Church camp - TBC
Sat. 17th May	7.30 p.m.	Women's Ministry – Pamper Night – Church Hall
Sun. 18th May	3.30 – 6.00 p.m.	Messy Church

Advance Notice.....

Messy Church – Sunday 8th June – please note change in date

NO Messy Church in July and August, but children currently in school years R – 6 are invited to join us from Monday, 28th July to Friday, 1st August from 10.00 a.m. – noon for “Monsters Stink” Holiday Bible Club (suggested donation £5 for the week).

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

SUNDAY & EASTER SERVICES

APRIL & MAY 2014

DATE	TIME	SPEAKER AND NOTES
6th April	10.30 a.m.	Jane Wade – Communion – no Junior Church
13th April	10.30 a.m.	Angela Such – Palm Sunday – no Junior Church
18th April	a.m.	March of Witness – details to be confirmed
20th April	10.30 a.m.	Jane Wade – Easter – All Age Service
27th April	10.30 a.m.	Jane Wade
4th May	10.30 a.m.	Barry Dore - Communion
11th May	10.30 a.m.	Angela Such
18th May	10.30 a.m.	Jane Wade
	3.30 - 6.00 p.m.	Messy Church
25th May	10.30 a.m.	Gill Griffin – half term holiday

No p.m. services except where stated

The Minister's message

Dear Friends,

As I write this message we have just enjoyed several days of welcomed sunshine and warmth following a cold, wet and dismal winter. I love Spring, when all is new again, the leaves returning to the trees, the daffodils and tulips wake up from their winter slumber, the grass is growing, green and tender. The air is fresh with fragrant blossoms awakening all your senses. The earth springs to life again with all its beauty and wonder.

What more beautiful time to celebrate Easter, to remember its true meaning, as the beauty and newness of nature is springing up around us?

Sometimes people grumble and say what have daffodils, lambs, chicks, eggs and baby rabbits got to do with the real meaning of Easter. To those 'Easter Scrooges' I would say, surely the newness of nature each spring after the bareness of winter allegorically echoes the joy and newness of life of Easter day after the darkness and grief of Good Friday.

Easter is a time of joy and celebration!

Easter is a time to boldly, loudly, passionately, gladly, and publicly proclaim that:

"Christ has risen, he is risen indeed. Hallelujah!"

Easter is a time of remembrance and reflection on the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. His death as payment for our sins and His resurrection as the doorway to the gift from God the Father: everlasting life through Him.

Easter is a time of thanksgiving, for our Lord Jesus died so we could live, He rose again so we would believe.

His resurrection is the renewal of life.

Happy Easter!

Jane

A Tribute to Puppy Walkers

“How can you give them up?” you cry
With horrified gasp, or a tear in your eye.
You look at the pup with the cute button nose,
And you just don’t know how the story goes.
You just see the love and the care,
Then the pain...
Of never walking that pup again.

But wait!
Think of this.
It’s not all bad – no!
Let me tell you, dear friend,
How the story will go.
This is the job of the puppy walker
And you, passing by, the well-meaning gawker
Will never know the work they do.
The morning wees, the midnight poo,
The wiping of bums and eyes and paws
The chewed up shoes, the scratched up doors.
You ask “How could you
Let them go?”
But listen close, and in time, you’ll know.

The pup at “Big School” will study the craft
Of how to choose the safest path.
They’ll learn to lead, they’ll learn to guide,
They’ll learn to take care of the dodderly eyed,
How to cross roads and take stairs,
How to lend
Their eyes and skills to a lifelong friend.

Then to the trainer, the GDMI
Who’ll work with the pup and attempt to try
To find their strengths and habits and quirks
How quick they walk and how fast they work.
And then they are given to someone
Like me
For the princely sum of fifty pee.

Yes, fifty pee is all that's required
From a guide dog owner – that's it, the dog's hired!
But a partnership rare and priceless, in fact
That returns to us those things we lacked
Independence and pride,
- cos that's where it's at.
And who could levy a price on that?

I walk down the street without a care,
I have no worries, I have no fear,
Of wheelie bins and telegraph poles
Of broken kerbs or treacherous holes.
My truest love
My faithful guide -
She will always be by my side.

So don't question the ones in the early days
Who teach the pup the foundation ways
How to sit, how to stay, how not to beg
How not to "bother" the vicar's leg.
They do it for love,
They do it for free.
And all of them have heartfelt thanks, from me.

By a Guide Dog owner, and her Guide Dog
Kindly provided by Julia Brown



**DEADLINE
FOR
JUNE & JULY 2014
ISSUE OF FOCUS
SUNDAY 18TH MAY**

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



Focus on the Home Groups - 2014

◆ 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.

Guide Dog Pup Updates...

As most of you will already know we now have another Guide Dog puppy, our fourth, called Hooch (we don't name them). Hooch at the time of the magazine being published will be 5 months old and he is a German Shepherd Dog and is getting very big.

Hooch came as a surprise to us just after Christmas and we entered the challenge with some trepidation. We had been told a lot of different things about training German Shepherds and we were very wary of what we had let ourselves in for.

Roy had told our Supervisor that we did not want to have another puppy until the Spring as we had some projects in the garden to finish and we also wanted a break. Roy told her that he would take one on only if it was a German Shepherd and as these are in the minority we thought we would stand a good chance of having a long time in between dogs, but we were wrong!

Hooch from the day he arrived has been a pleasure to have. We have not had the sleepless nights we had with the others and his toileting has been excellent. He loves going out, although he is not very keen on going in the car and as many have heard, enjoys joining in with the singing in the morning service (only on occasions). He has his routine in the evening before going to bed and unless his hot water bottle (doggie one) is in his bed he gets quite upset and lets you know about it and if you put it in the wrong way round he will moan until you put it right. Apparently German Shepherds are always very vocal, so you definitely know that you have got one in the house, but he doesn't bark when anyone comes to the door. He, like all of the dogs, enjoys a cuddle and being made a fuss of.

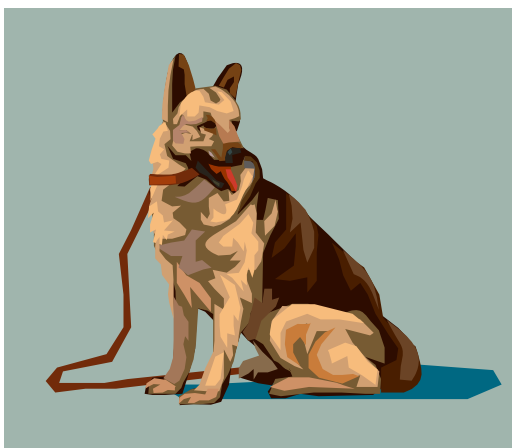
We have also heard that Fennel (our first pup) has had her second litter of puppies, four girls and four boys. Five are golden and three black and they are all being sent to Forfar in Scotland to train as Guide Dogs for people who have Epilepsy/Guiding and Diabetes/Guiding as was her previous littler, except for Badger.

Adam is doing very well with his new owner and is proving to be an excellent Guide Dog and companion and is loved very much by his owner.

Badger is still undertaking his advanced training in Maidstone, Kent and has not yet been matched with a blind person, although he is doing very well. Hopefully we will hear shortly that he has passed and we will eventually get a picture of him in harness and a certificate. We went to see him just after Christmas and he was pleased to see us and wanted to come home with us, which was upsetting. Hopefully he will find a lovely new home and owner soon.

That is all the news to date but I would just like to say thank you again for all your help and prayers for these remarkable dogs.

**Roy and Julia Brown
and Hooch**





Thanks to everyone who came and helped out at Messy Church on Sunday 15th March.

Amanda, our Messy Church coordinator, will be going on Maternity leave so for the next Messy Church on the 18th May and the following one on 8th June (please note date change of this one) I would be very grateful for extra help. If you know you are going to be around on either dates and can help out with any of the following please let me know so I can decide if it's feasible for us to continue with this ministry.

- ❖ Cooking.
- ❖ Making teas and coffee (setting up and washing up cups) at start
- ❖ 3.15-4.15 p.m.
- ❖ Helping out on craft tables 3.30 - 5.30 p.m.
- ❖ Setting up on Sunday morning following a.m. service
- ❖ Clearing up (from about 4.30 - 6.15 p.m. many hands make light work!)

PLEASE NOTE: There will not be a Messy Church in April, July or August.

Jane Wade

Thank you, Lord, for our local hospices

That is my heartfelt prayer and some of you will share it as a result of your own experience. In our area we are very fortunate in having such a comprehensive hospice network, providing support for those with life limiting or threatening illnesses and also end of life care. Let me briefly explain their roles.

Under the statement of purpose "Total care when time is precious" the Hospice of St Francis in Northchurch offers in-patient facilities for compassionate respite and end of life care. In a lovely modern building set in beautiful grounds the very best professional services are available, with the emphasis on patient comfort and pain control. In addition activities are offered for support and counselling for day visitors.

Rennie Grove Hospice Care was formed by the amalgamation of two organisations – The Iain Rennie Hospice at Home service, and the Grove House Day Hospice. Their work is summed up in the words "Care based around you".

The Hospice at Home service provides 24/7 support in Herts and Bucks for patients in their own homes, and often makes it possible for those who wish to spend their last days at home to do so. Regular visits are made by specialist nurses who can provide advice on medication and symptom control as well as carry out medical procedures such as installing a syringe driver or catheter. In addition there is round the clock telephone access for advice and help, with out of hours visits if necessary.

Grove House provides a range of services for those able to visit the purpose designed, welcoming centre in the grounds of St Albans City Hospital. Here care, advice, information and support are available ranging from a drop-in service on Tuesdays to a full day of TLC on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. On offer are a regular health assessment, relaxation exercises, complimentary therapies, a discussion group, three course lunch, arts and crafts, quizzes and visiting speakers. As well as the formal activities, there is the help and encouragement that comes through meeting with other patients. It's

very much like an extended family. And the care is not confined to the patients - support is also available for family members and carers.

All the services provided by the hospices are free of charge to the users. A small proportion, typically 15%, of the considerable running costs, is met by the government. The rest has to be found by an extensive range of fundraising activities and enterprises such as local charity shops. Our own Penny Crosswell, is a Community Fundraising Manager for Rennie Grove.

My enthusiasm for their work arises from the benefit that I have personally experienced – and Dilys too when she was ill. I do hope you will stop by the display and literature which will be on show in the church during May and June; also look out for the lovely greetings cards handmade by Karen and Rachel Southwood and sold in aid of Rennie Grove. Maybe there's something YOU could do to support our wonderful hospices.

Richard Waymark

Link Person for the Hospices



Saturday 17th May 7.30pm

@ St George's Church
Hall

Pamper Night



Enjoy a little 'me' time with manicures, pedicures, massage, eyebrow threading, beauty stalls, goodies and time to sit and chat with friends

Treatments will last approx 15 minutes each and will cost approx £5 - £7 per treatment. It is possible to pre-book treatments by contacting Sharon Boyall.

Tickets cost £2 per person and include refreshments and a chocolate fountain!

All ladies welcome: please do invite your friends, neighbours and colleagues.

For tickets or to pre-book treatments please contact
Sharon Boyall : Boyall@virginmedia.com / 07952510118



Is anything too hard for the Lord? Genesis 18:14

***From the lips of children and infants you have ordained praise.
Psalm 8:2***

Although the Russian government no longer persecutes Christians for their faith, some believers still suffer for confessing Jesus Christ. A twelve year old boy experienced the following:-

“I heard about church meetings on Karl Marx street and went there because I wanted to know more about God. When I was told that Jesus loves children as well I asked Him to love me too. When I told my mother, she was very upset and angry. She told me that God does not exist. I was beaten every time I went to church. But I still went. Then one day my mother decided to join me so that she could talk to the pastor and tell him not to let me go to church any more. But I took her on a Sunday so she would have to listen to his preaching first. As she sat there, something happened, she started to cry uncontrollably. She realised her need for God and asked the pastor to pray for her. Now we go to church together.”

It was said among the nations the Lord has done great things for them. Psalm 126:2+3

Some time ago whilst on Bible delivery work, we went to visit a pastor we had never met before. We had no idea of the church he belonged to, his age, or other details of his circumstance other than a need for a study Bible. We had been given his name and address, in case we thought it of the Lord to try and visit when we were in the area and had safely finished other deliveries. We arrived at the address where

the door was opened by a woman. It turned out that her husband, the pastor was now deceased.

After fellowship and before we left we gave her the Study Bible we had brought for her husband. She was delighted as she had never been visited by foreigners before but had been praying for a study Bible. She said "Today God has answered my prayer and released me from my prison of loneliness. He sent you and gave me the greatest gift I have prayed for. Thank you for coming". We left the woman filled with joy. We were there too late, and yet on time.

Tales of 'donkey carrying bread for Jesus'

We had received our instructions telling us where to meet our contact. We had no idea who he was, what he looked like, young or old. We didn't know how he would come or which direction he would come from. We had done this kind of thing before so we had various thoughts, would it be someone we had met before but whose name we did not know? But standing here at the entrance to the building as the appointed time approached we were anxious as we were not on our own. The rain was heavy and so many people had sought to shelter in the large doorway. Taxis and cars were coming and going.

We were praying under our breath and constantly looking to see who was our likely contact. Would the plan have to be aborted because of all the people? Then a miracle! The rain stopped and most of the crowd vanished. A minute later a taxi pulled up spot on time. The driver got out, came to us, picked up bags and we knew this was him. The car boot was opened, bags put in and with a quick smile and thanks he was off. We went off down the road and into the crowd wondering at the timing of the Lord.

The following story is condensed from 'The Cry of our Brothers' by Esther Davenport.

The morning was cold and dark in the wee small hours as the two of us set out to meet the rest of our group of six, who were staying in different hotels. We were from three different nations, cultures, age and backgrounds, in this country far from home but we had a common cause.

With the familiar heavy back-backs strapped to our backs and pulling equally heavy suitcases we walked at a steady pace, not rushing. We did not talk but walked silently not want to draw attention to ourselves at this hour of the morning... After a while we reached our landmark and crossed the road to a block of flats, grey and ugly. A security guard with a gun slung over his shoulder suddenly rounded the building. He was looking at us but we did not give eye contact but prayed quietly under our breath. He turned and walked into the doorway. We reached the cover of the roadside trees and waited with the rest of the group. We stood in silence, praying constantly as streaks of dawn light broke through the trees. We trusted the Lord and had to keep our eyes focused on Him and not think “what if the security guard followed us? Phoned the Public Security Bureau? Our brothers have been stopped at a checkpoint?”

Then from our leader a whispered “I think they are coming”. We could hear the sound of an engine driving slowly. And then through the gloom we could see them. Our leader stepped out of the shadows. The truck came to a halt and our leader said “it’s them”. Two men jumped out and rushed to the rear of the truck quickly lowering the tailgate. We quickly moved to the rear of the truck as hands reached down to pick up the cases, others took the loads from our backs and our loads vanished into the back of the truck with a sense of urgency..Two clicks and the rattle of chains and the tailgate is quickly back in place. A hand grabs mine, I look at a beaming face and hear “Thank you, God blesses you” from one and then another brother, and we respond “bless you”. They raise a hand in salute: turn, jump back into the truck where the engine is still running. Into gear, revved the engine and pulled off down the road. One of our number goes with them to claim the luggage as his if stopped. It is all over in seconds. We retreat to the trees to catch our breath and wonder “did that really happen?”

Our leader says “Well that’s it, breakfast time!” We make our way to where we are to breakfast praising the Father and praying for the “bread” to arrive safe

Help. Your help is needed in prayer. In the giving up of your holiday time to carry loads, in the giving of your money. Different organisations that support our brothers and sisters overseas work in

different ways but they all have one thing in common - To serve the Lord and "Give a cup of cold water" to those in need. To do this they need money – your money, time – your time. I am not going to go down the old prosperity gospel teaching of 'give and it will be given to you' 'plant seeds so you will get more back' No, I am asking you to bless our brothers and sisters not out of your spare cash/ time but to be like the 'widow with her two small coins'. To expect no reward other than your Father in heaven to see and say 'well done good and faithful servant'. . What you give may provide a Bible, feed some one, and enable them to visit a relative in prison, pay the fees of someone facing a blasphemy charge. If you decide to travel you will have the joy of paying your own costs. Being with others who know the Lord but are of a different culture age and background. You may carry heavy loads (supernaturally light when necessary) sleep in an uncomfortable bed in the same room as someone who snores, but hey, what of our brothers in prison? You will learn how to obey instructions and punctuality. You will know you have made a difference.

I can tell you from experience that there are many ways to travel in many different nations. Your walk with the Lord will be joy and you will know Him near you as you carry out His purposes. I have worked for four different organisations in the business of helping our wider family but as a Release representative I am appealing to you to please, please give, the work can not continue without sacrificial giving and the Lord is speaking to you now. Every little helps. All you have to do is skip one meal and give the cost and use the time to pray and seek the Lord for our family.

Have you ever sung 'Hear I am Lord, send me'? I can tell you that you will never be the same again as you go and are used to bless your family and are blessed by them as you choose to go as a 'donkey' or simply visit and take the news that folk know of their plight and are standing with them in prayer.

NB This Focus item has not been approved by Release. I trust the Lord to approve.

Lynne Wilsher

Release representative.
01442 244598 / 07847113812

THE BASE HEMEL is a local charity which aims to put the heart back into our community. Here are a few details taken from their first newsletter.

Contact us via e-mail: info@thebasehemel.co.uk

Visit our website: www.thebasehemel.co.uk

Write to us or visit us: The Base Hemel, Haven House, 389 London Road, Hemel Hempstead, HP3 9AB

Call our Community Development Pastor, Kerry-Anne Cooper 07828 918833

What's on offer?

CAP (Christians Against Poverty) Job Club: – Tuesdays 10.00 a.m. – 1.00 p.m.

CAP Money Management Course: Get control of your finances – ongoing. For details see www.thebasehemel.co.uk

Liberty Tea Rooms: Wednesday & Thursday 10.00 a.m. to 12.00 noon – Quintessentially British Tea Rooms offer a community meeting place in a lovely *Keep Calm and Carry On* vintage era setting. Prices aren't charged but visitors are asked to donate whatever they feel is appropriate. (Highly recommended by Wednesday Welcome!).

CAP Advisory Service: – Wednesdays at Liberty Tea Rooms. A problem shared is a problem halved – informal chat over a cuppa and home-made cakes with Debt Coaches.

Un:Locked Youth Club: Fridays 7.30 – 10.00 p.m. For yr 8 and above. Safe environment of inclusion for those who have individual and/or additional needs as well as those from mainstream schools. Admission £1.00.

Speak Out 31: First Thursday of each month: A support group for Parents, Carers & Families that aim to advocate on behalf of young people with individual, learning or additional needs. Meet at Liberty Tea Rooms to share life over a cuppa. *All are welcome*

Bible Gateway

<http://www.biblegateway.com/>



Bible gateway.com is a searchable online bible with over 90 versions and translations including the NIV, KJV, ESV, NKJV, NLT, HCSB, NASB, CEB, The Message (MSG), Amplified Bible (AMP) and many more. Owned by Zondervan, an international Christian media and publishing company based in the United States it has tools to help in reading and researching scripture online. The Bible Gateway app which can be downloaded from Google Play and the Apple App store, offers many wonderful ways to experience Bible reading and Bible study.

It is one of the more popular and frequently visited bible/scripture search website. What were the most-read Bible verses? What are people around the world searching for in the bible? Where are the top 10 countries visitors come from? (UK is in the top 10). Find out more from their blog website <http://www.biblegateway.com/blog/>.

What were the most-read Bible verses on Bible Gateway in 2012? Here's a countdown of the **top ten most popular Bible verses of 2012** with their versions, based on Bible Gateway visitor data:

10. Proverbs 3:6

"In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths." (KJV)

9. Psalm 23:4

"Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me." (NIV)

8. 1 Corinthians 13:4

"Love is patient, love is kind, it isn't jealous, it doesn't brag, it isn't arrogant...." (CEB)

7. Proverbs 3:5

"With all your heart you must trust the Lord and not your own judgment." (CEV)

6. Romans 12:2

“Do not conform yourselves to the standards of this world, but let God transform you inwardly by a complete change of your mind. Then you will be able to know the will of God—what is good and is pleasing to him and is perfect.” (GNT)

5. Philippians 4:6

“Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.” (ESV)

4. Romans 8:28

“We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose.” (NRSV)

3. Philippians 4:13

“I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.” (NASB)

2. Jeremiah 29:11

“For I know the plans I have for you,” says the Lord. “They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope.” (NLT)

1. John 3:16

“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.” (NIV)

The **top 10 Bible verses searched for on BibleGateway.com in 2013** were:

1. John 3:16
2. Jeremiah 29:11
3. Philippians 4:13
4. Romans 8:28
5. Psalm 23
6. Proverbs 3:5-6
7. 1 Corinthians 13:4-7

8. Romans 12:2
9. Philippians 4:6
10. Joshua 1:9

In 2013, the top **10 topical keyword searches** on BibleGateway.com were:

- | | |
|-------------|-------------|
| 1. love | 6. hope |
| 2. peace | 7. joy |
| 3. faith | 8. prayer |
| 4. children | 9. strength |
| 5. heart | 10. pray |





Wednesday

23rd April

Drop in anytime

Time & Space to Pray



From 6.30pm – 9pm there will be an opportunity for all women to come and spend some time in prayer.

Drop in for as long or as short a time as you like.

There will be a range of interactive prayer stations, space to just be quiet & reflect and a ministry team available to pray with you if you wish.



"Don't pray when you feel like it.

Have an appointment with the Lord and keep it.

A man/woman is powerful on his/her knees."

Corrie ten Boom

What do you do on a wet and windy Wednesday morning.....?



Well, 50 or so ladies from the Dacorum area have found an answer. It's called **Wednesday Welcome** and it happens every Wednesday in term-time from 10.15 to about 11.30 a.m., mostly in the Martin Whittle Room.

We're a pretty relaxed group – no joining fee, (although if people can, a small donation is welcome) no problem if you only turn up occasionally. We do try to keep tabs on who's come, partly because of our old friend/enemy Health & Safety, partly so we can spot if anyone is perhaps poorly, and of course, so that our secretary knows how many programmes to print and so on.

So what sort of person joins Wednesday Welcome? The answer is anyone who wants to. We're really for ladies, but we're very happy if men want to visit for particular events or talks, or just for the company. And we love our honorary members – the Guide Dog puppies that Roy and Julia Brown "walk"! Of course, it's part of the puppies' training to sit quietly and 'listen' to the speakers. There's an article about them elsewhere in *Focus*.

At the moment (mid March) we're just coming to the end of our Spring programme. Last week we were lucky enough to have the Wendel Singers entertain us, with songs from the shows, next week will be Easter craft and the last meeting will be a special Easter one, with coffee and hot cross buns before a programme of readings and hymns that span Holy Week.

What else do we do? Well, we very much enjoy “Sharing Lunches” – everyone brings whatever they fancy, and we have a feast – weight watchers beware! We’re very charitably inclined, especially if there’s a link to one of our members or friends. At the moment we’re sponsoring the education of two children from the outskirts of Kolkata. One of our members, Ivy Silk, as you may know, is the UK co-ordinator for the Institute for Indian Mother & Child. We also like to raise money for Macmillan Cancer Support and our local hospices, usually by holding a Bring & Buy Sale.

However, on most Wednesdays we have a speaker, after an opportunity to have a mug of tea or coffee and a biscuit – and a chat (I’m told the noise can be heard in the road). In January Emily Smith came and told us about the Ashridge Estate, where she is one of the Rangers. Ivy Silk has spoken to us about her adventures in the Andaman Islands (ask her about Sea Walking if you get the opportunity!) and Denise Chennells can always be relied on to keep us amused and interested. In addition, Jane comes and talks to us and is very popular with our members who don’t go to St. George’s – as well as the rest of us, of course!.

In fact, most of our members aren’t also members of St. George’s. Some go to other churches, some to none. It would be great to see a few more ladies from St. G’s. Although we pride ourselves on our interesting and varied programme we’d love to have fresh ideas and fresh input and perhaps a little help with the admin.

For more information on any aspects of **Wednesday Welcome**, speak to Jo Taylor, Moya Patel or Judy Watson – phone numbers below - or catch them in Church or at Church events – or just come along one Wednesday morning (10.15 – 11.30 a.m.).

Jo Taylor 862754/ 07970100214
Moya Patel 409238/ 07525726321
Judy Watson 261056/ 07763009846

Our Summer Programme will start on 23rd April with a sharing lunch, after St. George’s Day themed activities, and the new programme will be pinned up on the Church noticeboards very shortly.

Judy Watson

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

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