

FORWARDMAGAZINE

FEBRUARY 2015 - MARCH 2015

VineBaptistChurch
Sevenoaks



SEEKING TO BE THE HANDS AND FEET OF JESUS IN THE COMMUNITY

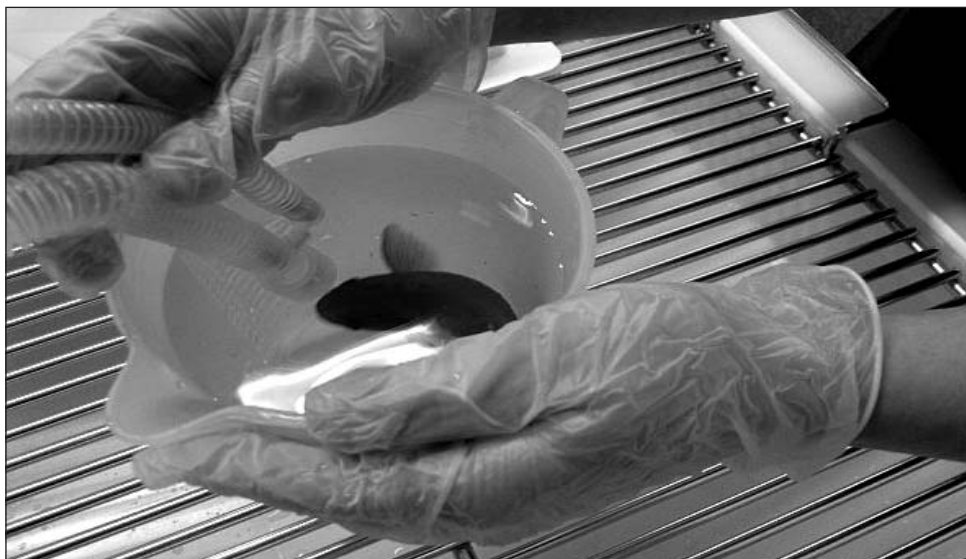
PASTOR'S PIECE

It must be true ... 'cos I read it in the tabloids: 'A pet owner from Norfolk spent £300 to have his goldfish cured of constipation. The unnamed man took the two-year-old fish to his local vet in North Walsham when it seemed to be ailing. Vet Faye Bethell worked out that there was a blockage in the fish's bottom – and warned him that without surgery, it would die. Initially, he balked at the cost of the treatment, but ten minutes later, he changed his mind and the hour long operation went ahead. "There was nothing special about the fish. He just liked it a lot." Bethell said.

This month we celebrate Saint Valentine's day – a time, when the cynics say, the card shops make a lot of money! However, the romantics

among you will say that it is a day when you get to express your love for the person who is 'special' in your life! As I read the above story, I was reminded that when we look at our own lives, we may be inclined to say 'there is nothing special about me', and yet, that cannot be further from the truth. The Bible tells us that we are so special in God's eyes, that out of His love for us, He sent His Son to die for us. And surprise, surprise ... God likes you a lot!

That's why we sometimes sing the chorus, 'I'm special because God has loved me.' It reminds us that no matter what others may say or think, we are very special in God's eyes. He created us as unique human beings so that we may respond to His love and worship



Him with our lives. And that's what true love does.

In the New Testament we read the story of Mary and how she showed her love for Jesus, in Mark 14 and in John 12. She broke an alabaster of pure nard and poured it on Jesus. According to John 12 the whole house became filled with the fragrance of it. Her costly perfume was gone forever, but her love for Jesus lasted forever!

You know something? It's easy for us to look at others and say 'There's nothing special about them.' And, perhaps in human terms that may be true – they don't stick out from the crowd; maybe they will never win 'Britain's Got Talent' – but then, ask yourself, "Why should God love me?" After all, we have all sinned; we have all messed up God's beautiful world – but His grace means that he doesn't treat us the way we deserve to be treated. Instead, he lavishes us in His love – He pours out His most expensive perfume on us. He gives us Himself in Jesus. And, in response, He invites us to treat other people in the same way. To love one another – not just on Valentine's Day, but throughout the whole year.

Of course, as parents we know that acting in love doesn't always mean approving of their behaviour; it doesn't always mean being 'nicey, nicey'. Love sometimes requires firm action – but what love does is it always strives for the best, the most positive result. And also, we can act in love, and the person may reject our hand reaching out to them. We can't be responsible



for how others respond, and in the end they will have to give account of themselves to God. But, the bottom line is this: 'If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone' (Rom.12:18). Did you notice those words: 'If it is possible' – in other words there may be circumstances where it is not possible. BUT, as far as it depends on you – do everything within your power to live at peace.

As we show the love of Jesus through our lives, guess what? ... the whole house will be filled with the fragrance of Jesus!

Dear church family

In the course of getting to know you all over the past few months I have begun to put names to faces and to connect members of families to each other! Recently I have been challenged by the following youtube clip that I have seen and would like to share it with you at:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=h4ZQU-f18AA

In my work with the families and young people in the church I realise that we do not have a huge number of children/youth. This does have an impact when some are away and can be disappointing for the few who are around.

I would love to see our childrens work grow and for our children and youth to be challenged to bring friends, and make decisions to follow Christ as their Lord and Saviour.

We are blessed with leaders who do have a heart for working with the youngsters and who prepare week by week for them.

But how can our numbers increase without laying this important area of our church at the feet of Jesus and ask Him to show us the way in which he would work in our church?

I would love to lay a challenge out for you all. For the next four weeks (from Sunday 18 Jan.) I would love that we make a conscious effort to stop each day and pray for our young people and the families that they represent. We pray for the leaders of the groups and we pray for our church as a whole family. Let's pray that God will multiply our numbers and challenge us as part of the family to show our youngsters what it is to live as christians.

With love and may God bless you all.

*Helen
Gathercole*





MISSIONARY UPDATE

Elizabeth Broomhall writes:

Praise God for two more steps forward in the translation of Bena Acts. The translators were able to successfully test Acts 15-28 in the Bena community. They said the text was well received and people are hungry for more Scripture in the Bena language. This is a big encouragement. We will hopefully be able to deliver the publication of Acts in the new year. Also consultant checks of chapters 8-28 was recently completed. We were able to chip off more chapters than expected because most of the issues raised in the consultant's notes had already been resolved prior to his arrival.

London City Mission are now well into their 180th year. They ask: "Please pray that we would continue to know God's will for us as an organisation, being certain of His good purposes for London and its City Mission. Pray for the people He has planned for us to meet during 2015". London City Mission are preparing a special prayer diary for Lent. We plan to obtain one for each of you - starting on Ash Wednesday - 18th February.

Middle East & N. Africa Challenges for the future for the Church in the region include: identifying and training leaders, building and maintaining good relationships between the traditional churches and the new movements, and developing a strong second generation. BMS says "Let us keep interceding".

A big thank you from Tearfund
More than 600 churches held a Silent Night carol service. Together with those who contributed towards their Ebola appeal, nearly £50,000 has been raised. Thank You for your part in this.

HELPING HANDS

Leprosy is a disease of poverty. It can impact on every area of a person's life: health, education, employment, marriage prospects and relationships with family and community. The Leprosy Mission helps to restore lives destroyed by leprosy by providing the rehabilitation, schooling, job prospects, housing and sanitation required to lift a person from poverty and enable them to be self-sufficient.

In many parts of the world today the disease continues to carry a great stigma. Many people with leprosy-caused disabilities suffer terrible discrimination. They can be regarded as 'cursed' and forbidden from collecting water from the common tap. The Leprosy Mission works to educate their communities, teaching them that leprosy is a mildly-infectious and curable disease and not a curse for life.

For many people affected by leprosy, rebuilding a broken life feels like climbing Everest. For this reason they are asking us to be part of their Helping Hands challenge. Draw around your hand, cut it out and write a prayer on it for leprosy sufferers. Put your 'hand' on the mission table in the foyer plus £1 in the bowl towards the care of patients at Anandaban Hospital in Nepal. (Paper and pens are also on the mission table)

BMS Birthday Scheme

Feb 27	Margaret Rattray
Mar 4	Miller Lang
Mar 7	Shirley Lang
Mar 11	Richard Marchant

FEBRUARYPRAYER DIARY

“My House will be a House of Prayer for all nations”

(Mark 11v17)

Sunday	1	Youth Service 4pm
	2	Tony & Lizzie Bourne
	3	- Aaliyah & Abigail
	4	Solo's Lunch out
	5	Felicity & Alan Boyden
	6	Helen & Alwyn Brice
	7	- Charles & Emma
Sunday	8	Church Cleaner
	9	Elizabeth Broomhall
	10	Andrew & Susan Brown
	11	Luncheon Club 12.30pm
	12	Mick & Jennifer Brown
	13	Christopher Chattell
	14	David & Jenny Checkley
Sunday	15	Church flowers & distribution
	16	Lucy Christian
	17	Gus & Jenny Copeland
	18	Rascals
	19	Jim & Sylvia Crockett
	20	Ken & Bernice Das & Michael
	21	Gary & Wendy Day & family
Sunday	22	Church garden
	23	Clive & Ruth Doubleday
	24	Girlfriends
	25	Bert & Hazel Elliott
	26	Helen Ellis
	27	Nick & Michelle Ellis
	28	- Calum & Niamh

Please pray daily for our Pastor and his wife

KIDS XTRA

Miss Useful

God wants us to be useful to Him and to other people. In the Bible God has given us lots of examples of people who were useful. We are going to think about one of them. Miss Useful's real name was Rhoda. She lived in Jerusalem, and helped in the home of Mary. Christians often met there to pray together. Rhoda did jobs about the house. She probably did some of the shopping, helped with the

dishes, and the washing and mending of clothes.

But one day something dreadful happened! King Herod arrested some of the Christians, and Peter, their leader, was put in prison. The Christians decided there was only one thing they could do, and that was to meet together to pray for Peter. So lots of people came to Mary's home to pray.

As they knocked at the door, they had to be let in, and someone was



Can you spot the mistakes? There are eleven to find, then you can colour in the picture.

needed to look after that. Who do you think had that task? Yes, Rhoda, or Miss Useful. Backwards and forwards she ran, opening the door and letting people in to join the prayer meeting. 'Lord, please save Peter,' they must have prayed.

But while Peter was in the prison, an angel of God came to him and led Peter out of the prison! Now there was one place he had to go to straightaway. Can you guess where it was? Yes, it was Mary's house, for Peter knew that Christians would be there praying for him. He arrived at the house, and knocked at the outer entrance. And, of course, it was Rhoda who went to the door.

"Who is it?" Rhoda asked. 'It's Peter!' he replied. When Rhoda recognised Peter's voice, she was so excited and glad that without opening the door to Peter she ran back to where all the Christians were, and shouted, 'Peter is at the door!' The other Christians didn't believe her at first, but when she kept on insisting that it was Peter, they eventually opened the door, and Peter told them of his miraculous escape!



Rhoda had been the first to know the good news! And she believed it to be Peter when others doubted. Of course, she had not been useful in opening the door to him at first, but then she had been so excited!



Even though Rhoda was only a young girl, she was useful to others. Her faithfulness in small things must have led to greater responsibilities as she grew older. The fact that her name is mentioned in the Bible probably means she became well-known among Christians in Jerusalem.

Although what Rhoda did was small, she pleased God by her faith. Are we useful when it comes to helping and serving? If the Lord Jesus has forgiven us our sins, we will be so grateful to Him that nothing will be too much trouble if we know it is what He wants us to do. That will make us useful to God and to others.

Acts 12:1-19. Based on stories from Gofors&Grumps, Day One Publications.

David & Goliath

There are four objects hidden in this picture. Can you find a harp, a lamb, a Bible, and a sword?



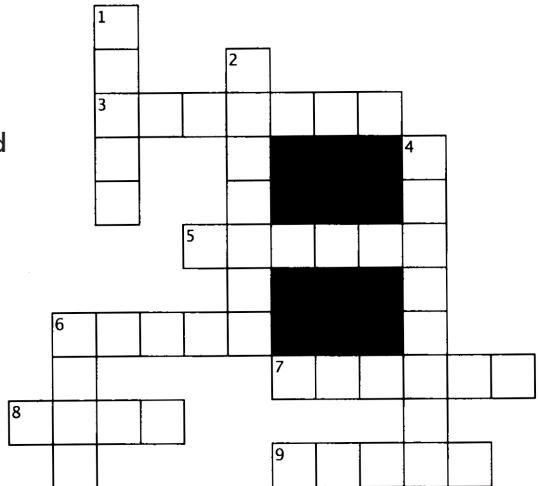
Then you can try the crossword below

Down clues

1. David's father
(1 Samuel 17:12)
2. Tall man from Gath who was champion for the Philistines
(1 Samuel 17)
4. David's best friend
(1 Samuel 19)
6. Man who commanded David's army
(2 Samuel 8:16)

Across clues

3. David and Bathsheba's son
(2 Samuel 12)
5. Prophet who helped guide David
(2 Samuel 7)
6. David first became king of this land.
(2 Samuel 2)
7. David married this daughter of Saul (1 Samuel 18)
8. King Saul had David play this soothing musical instrument
(1 Samuel 16:14-23)
9. David killed the giant with this weapon (1 Samuel 17)



ANSWERS

Feeding of the Five Thousand: Two suns, can of drink, boot, three loaves, apple, picnic table, girl bringing food, butterfly's wing, boat's reflection, watch, three fish.
Crossword: 1. Jesse, 2. Goliath, 3. Solomon, 4. Jonathan, 5. Nathan, 6 across. Judah, 6 down Joab, 7. Michal, 8. Harp, 9. Sling



1 Peter 5:7

HE CARES FOR YOU

MARCH PRAYER DIARY

“Devote yourself to prayer, being watchful and thankful” (Col. 4 v2)

Sunday	1	Music Group
	2	Karien & Jacobus Esterhyse
	3	- Klarissa
	4	BMS Missionaries in Middle East
	5	Chris Faircloth
	6	Ian Fielder
	7	Mike & Sharon Francis & Luca
Sunday	8	After-service refreshment teams
	9	Mervyn & Ann Gaston
	10	George & Eileen Henderson
	11	Ministry Leaders Meeting 8pm
	12	Wendy Holden
	13	WMAG meeting 7.30pm
	14	Denise James
Sunday	15	Home Group Leaders
	16	Alfred Johnson
	17	Ruby Jurado
	18	Pastoral Care Team
	19	Colin & Flora King
	20	Miller & Shirley Lang
	21	Lucy Lockett
Sunday	22	‘Forward’ production team
	23	Elis & James London
	24	- Natalie, Peter, Jonathan
	25	Annual General Meeting
	26	Colin London Latter
	27	Tim & Jennie Longthorne
	28	Myrtle Lyle
Sunday	29	Palm Sunday Service
	30	Richard & Jenny Marchant
	31	Hot Cross buns to Hollybush
April	1	Solo’s 10.15am
	2	Ruby Marchant
	3	Good Friday service
	4	Gavin & Fiona Murray & Mark

Please pray daily for Outreach through our Membership



Making a Christian Difference



by Nola Leach,
Chief Executive, CARE

As I reflect back over 2014, we have so much for which to thank God. CARE continues to bring a significant Christian influence to the UK Parliaments and Assemblies and the European Parliament.

We were absolutely thrilled that on 9 December the Northern Ireland Assembly passed Lord Morrow's historical Human Trafficking and Exploitation Bill, which included the ground-breaking provision of guardians for child victims, and tackles the crucial issue of paying for sex. CARE has been privileged to be Lord Morrow's principal advisor since 2012, and I quote from Lord Morrow's closing speech: *'I am extremely grateful to CARE for its excellent briefings and advice throughout the many years of the Bill's development. Their expertise assisted me greatly as I sought to understand the issue of human trafficking. Dr Dan Boucher, Mark Baillie, Louise Gleich and Claire Wilson-Thomas were superb. They*

were very professional, doing a mountain of research. Whatever words I might say about them here today will fall far short of what should be said.'

Needless to say we all feel incredibly encouraged and grateful for the privilege of serving the Lord in this way.

Following this success, Canada has now passed its own law criminalising paying for sex. The Irish Government has announced that it will also be introducing a similar Bill, and politicians elsewhere in the UK have also been inspired to campaign on this issue.

We've worked closely with Rhoda Grant MSP on the issue of criminalising paying for sex, and the First Minister has now announced that a Trafficking Bill will be introduced into the Scottish Parliament. We were also very involved with the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, which passed a resolution calling for the criminalisation of paying for sex to address demand for human trafficking.

CARE worked with Baroness Butler Sloss and Lord McColl in the House of Lords in April to defeat the

Government's attempt to block the provision of child trafficking guardians in England and Wales – by a resounding majority of 98 votes! This resulted in the Government including such a measure in the Modern Slavery Bill, although this is not yet as strong as the provision in the Northern Ireland Bill. To be involved in the fight against human trafficking is a privilege beyond words.

In July, after CARE's fifteen-year campaign, the Finance Act 2014 re-established the transferable allowance for married couples within the income tax system. Although very limited, this is an important first step in recovering lost ground.

CARE launched its Live and Let Live campaign in May and assisted Baroness Finlay and other Peers in the House of Lords to stand against Lord Falconer's Assisted Dying Bill. We rejoice that on 10 December the Welsh Assembly defeated an Assisted Suicide Motion in support of the Bill. In the Scottish Parliament we've worked hard to oppose Patrick Harvie's Assisted Suicide Bill - to be voted on in early 2015. CARE's ComRes poll demonstrated that when people realise what assisted suicide would look like in practice, their support for it dwindles from 73 to 43 per cent.

CARE has worked very closely

with Fiona Bruce MP on two important Parliamentary debates, one on the danger of genetically modified babies. The other was about prohibiting abortion on the grounds of gender, which thrillingly was supported by 181 votes to 1!

Following CARE's work with parliamentarians in Westminster, the Government has now agreed to help to protect problem gamblers. There will be stronger measures to block financial transactions between gamblers and unlicensed sites, and a new 'one stop shop self-exclusion' mechanism will be developed for people who have a problem, and want help.

CARE has worked closely with Baroness Howe. Her new Online Safety Bill has resulted in two parliamentary votes, putting the Government under real pressure on this important issue.

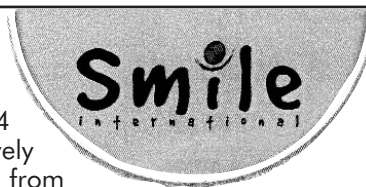
A comprehensive range of resources will be launched early next month to equip Christians and local churches plan for the General Election in May.

Do visit [u/ww.engageis.org.uk](http://www.engageis.org.uk) for information on how to be involved.

We are deeply indebted to our CARE supporters, because we couldn't accomplish what we are doing without you.

Yours in His name,
Nola Leach

Dear Jim



Thank you very much for supporting our 2014 Christmas Shoebox programme and for the lovely donation of shoeboxes and shoebox resources from our friends at the Vine Baptist Church. Please do thank everyone who donated a shoebox or sponsored a shoebox and to all those who gave a monetary donation. We really appreciate your support in helping to put smiles on children's faces this Christmas.

As you know, our first lorry of Christmas shoeboxes has now been delivered to Kosovo, where our Step Out Trip team of volunteers have been distributing them to lots of excited children! It has been lovely to see their smiling faces when they opened their boxes full of Christmas gifts. Do visit our Facebook page to check out the photos of the children receiving their boxes. We have a second lorry of shoeboxes going to Romania in the New Year and we know that there are going to be many more children with huge smiles on their faces! Thank you so much for your wonderful support which makes all this possible.

Yours sincerely
Ruth A Doubleday, Director



Thank you for helping Spurgeons to change children's lives

Thank you so much for your churches very generous donation of £312.50 in response to our Christmas appeal - we really appreciate your support.

Spurgeons works at the heart of communities responding to the needs of children who have been ignored or broken.

We're so glad that, like us, you believe that every child deserves the chance to be all that they can be.



Dear Friends

We want to say a huge thank you for getting involved in the Silent Night initiative! Your involvement has helped to bring peace this Christmas to the hearts of Syrian refugees - and those whose lives have been affected by disasters around the world.

Your gift of £300 will enable us to reach those in the greatest need, providing people far from home with essentials such as food, hygiene items and shelter. You are also enabling us to provide counselling so they can process the atrocities they've witnessed - people like Afya, who has received trauma care from our partners. 'You bring back our dignity,' she told us. 'You treat us like humans, like we have feelings.'

Thank you for giving to ease the suffering of people like Afya this Christmas.

The church magazine can only be as useful as YOU make it, so please pass on anything you think will be of interest to the fellowship. FINAL COPY DATE for the April/May issue is Sunday 22 March 2015.

So... See me on Sunday, phone me on 01732 469486

Email me at martinpalmer1@sky.com

God bless, Martin.

Vine Baptist Church
Park Lane, Sevenoaks TN13 3UP
01732 740634

Sunday Services start at 10.30 am

Grape 7 for 3-10 year olds

*Contact Sylvia Crockett 01732 452905
or Alison Saunders 01732 454455*

Soul Purpose for 13-18 year olds

**Meet Sunday evenings at 6:30 pm
in the Carey Hall**

Contact Holly 07816 955561

Rascals for pre-school children & babies

Meet Wednesday's from 10.00-11.30am

Contact Sheila Pearson 01732 454524

CONTACTS:

Rev Jim Crockett
Pastor 01732 452905

Fiona Murray
Administrator 01732 360866

Davida Woodman
Secretary 01732 459741

The church office is open Tuesday's & Thursday's 9am - 3.30pm

vinebaptistchurch@talktalk.net
www.vinebaptistchurch.org.uk

HOMEGROUPS

Did you make a New Year's resolution? More importantly, are you still keeping it! Well, either way, why not make this year special by trying one of the church home groups. Just speak to any of the group leaders below - you can be sure of a warm welcome and great fellowship. We usually meet after the 1st and 3rd Sunday's of the month.

TUESDAY

**Angie & Richard
Anstead**

Kemsing
01732 761294

WEDNESDAY

Helen Ellis

Borough Green
01732 883250

THURSDAY

Nick Ellis
Tonbridge
01732 669692

Val Pitt
Sevenoaks
01732 469486

FRIDAY

Monica Wain

Sevenoaks
01732 455356