

Sevenoaks Christian Counselling Service: Annual Open Meeting on Wednesday 25th May 2005 at St.Mary, Kippington. The guest speaker will be the Rev'd. Andrew Walker, Director of the London Centre for Spirituality, who is also a psychosynthesis counsellor and supervisor, and an experienced spiritual director and retreat giver. His talk will be on 'Spirituality and Counselling.' All are welcome to attend this meeting.



London City Mission: we are looking forward to welcoming Steve Downe, from the Mission's West Croydon Christian Centre, for the first time. He will be in the congregation at the 9.30 a.m. Family Service on 5th June: do join us if you can and then talk to him over refreshments after the service.

What can you do?

If you want to know more about mission activities in the parish or would like to offer your help, please contact Anne Fleetwood, on 01959 523582. If you are interested in the work of the organisations we support, the link people are named below:

International:

CMS - David Casiot
 Crosslinks & Msalato - David Matthews
 FEBA - Ruth Barclay and Jenny Bromley;
 The Bible Society - Alison Walters

National:

Children's Society - Sylvia Grafton
 London City Mission - Jenny Bromley
 Scripture Union - Anne Fleetwood.

Local:

Burrswood - Sue Twallin
 Sevenoaks Christian Counselling Service - Susan Reid
 Sevenoaks Area Youth Trust - Dawn Hallam;
 Churches Together in Sevenoaks Literacy Project - Colin Fleetwood.

If you have any contributions for the next edition of Newsletter or views you would like to express in it, please contact: David Matthews on 01732 462485 or at matthews.dg@lineone.net.

Dates for your diary:

- ◆ **25th May:** Sevenoaks Christian Counselling Service Annual Open Meeting. St Mary's Kippington
- ◆ **14th June:** SAYT Annual Open Meeting. St Luke's Hall, Eardley Road 8.15pm
- ◆ **11th July:** Burrswood Friends' Fellowship Day. 11am-6.30pm. Programme offers coffee, lunch and tea. Guest speaker: Martin Cavender, Director of ReSource, which focuses on renewal for mission and recognizes the powerful link between healing and evangelism. Booking forms are available.
- ◆ **18th September:** John Bartlett Chief Executive, FEBA UK will preach at 9.30am at St Bart's
- ◆ **16th October:** Sue Wilmot, S.E. Regional Representative for the Bible Society will preach at 9.30am at St Bart's
- ◆ **10th November:** Churches Together in Sevenoaks AGM. St. John's URC. 7.30 for 8pm. More details on their website www.ctsd.org.uk
- ◆ **12th November:** Christmas Market



May 05

St Bartholomew's Church, Otford

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Barbara Williams, our CMS partner, teaching in Sri Lanka, has written about the effect of the devastating Boxing Day tsunami on the girls of her school: "Here at Ladies' College we lost 2 girls out of 165 staff and 1600 pupils, which was sad but amazing when you consider that many of those head off for the coast at Christmas. The College held a memorial service for the two families. Many of the girls who knew the victims are still sensitive and most need prayer to overcome the residue of the shock and the uncertainty caused by the sea being less than 1 km away." People in Colombo, who are grieving, have been using Barbara's internet and research skills. She sends her thanks for our prayers and for the wonderful hamper sent at Christmas, as well as for David Casiot's regular e-mails.



Items for praise and prayer can be found on page 3 of Barbara's January 2005 newsletter in the church, as well as a summary of the CMS response to the tsunami.

Please pray for Barbara and the people of Sri Lanka

A huge thank-you to all those who have donated money to the 'away-giving' section of the Church Extension Appeal. This has enabled us to send £13,000.00 to Msalato Theological College for the building of family accommodation for students at the College.

Bishop John Ball, Chairman of the Friends of Msalato, has thanked us " for this generous gift which will be such a help in development of the College." Earlier he had written: "How amazing! As soon as I sent my-mail to you with the photos of the building of the new accommodation blocks, so I received your news of the gift. What a great answer to our feeble prayers." He went on to quote from Isaiah: 'Before they call, I will answer: while they are yet speaking (or e-mailing!), I will hear.' He knew that there would be great rejoicing at the College.



The money will pay for a block that will house two married couples and children: each family will have a sitting room, toilet, store, kitchen and two bedrooms. See the photograph in church of the foundations of such a block being laid.

Visit us on the web at
www.otford.info/st.bartholomews

MORE FOREIGN NEWS

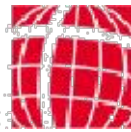


Alex Stout, our **FEBA Radio** prayer partner in the Middle East, is continuing to make good use of the 'studio in a suitcase,' mentioned in the last newsletter. Open the lid of what looks like a suitcase and you will find a mixer, computer, mini-disk recorder, CD player, microphones and speakers - in short, everything you need to produce a radio programme - and thus to spread the Word! Alex, based in Cyprus, travels widely to teach technicians how to use the case as well as supervising maintenance in FEBA buildings. A set of Alex's family photos is available: please ask Jenny Bromley or Ruth Barclay if you would like to borrow them.

Jon Hargreaves, who was once our **FEBA** mission partner and is now FEBA's international director, has also continued to travel the world, with meetings and workshops in India, Pakistan, Mozambique, the Horn of Africa and Central Asia. The intention behind all the work is to spread the Gospel in the languages of all the people in the areas covered by FEBA.

As the work develops, Jon talks of how it "give an exciting glimpse of how the Lord God Almighty might use FEBA in the coming days to make an eternal difference in the hearts of people."

Jon and Elma, Alex and Yvonne thank us warmly for our prayers and support. They ask us to continue to pray, especially for Alex and Jon's safety during the constant traveling and for the families during periods of anxiety. As Jon wrote, "As ever I'd value your prayers for strength and wisdom and especially for the family...being away so much is not easy on any of us."



Crosslinks

We have heard from our new **Crosslinks** partner, Gladys Maingi, who was born in Kenya but has spent much of her life in the Sudan. Now studying in Uganda, she says that, "I now look forward to returning to Southern Sudan and working among the women there."

She hopes to be involved in community development and offer help and ideas to projects concerned with HIV/AIDS, child abuse, malnutrition and health as well as helping to develop the education of women.

Gladys is studying at the Uganda Christian University in Mukono in order to qualify as a social worker and counsellor and is supported by us via the Crosslinks' BEST scheme (Bursaries Enabling Strategic Training).



We contribute to the literature

project sponsored by the **Churches Together in Sevenoaks and District**. Currently, this supports a 'Feed the Minds' project which enables a Christian organisation in Delhi to provide computer training for visually handicapped young people, helping them to find suitable work.

The annual general meeting on Thursday 10th November 2005 at 7.30 for 8 p.m at St. John's Hill URC. More details on their website at www.ctsd.org.uk.

Did you know that Scripture Union run holidays throughout the year as well as in the summer? This Easter Dawn Hallam joined a holiday called Chattabox, designed for 8 – 11 year olds. It is held in Moorlands Bible college just outside Bournemouth and started just last year. She writes: "This Easter saw 38 children enjoying all sorts of activities, from making clocks to the outdoor paddling pool. The idea is to give the children a great time as well as helping them develop a real relationship with Jesus. We even had Christmas day on the middle Wednesday and the look on the children's faces when they came down to breakfast to be greeted with decorations and a Christmas tree was fantastic."



Pray for these children who come from a wide variety of backgrounds that they would continue to grow in faith and learn to trust Jesus more. Every night we had a campfire and listening to the children talking was an amazing privilege as they shared with us and each other what being a Christian means to them.

Pray also for all the holiday and mission teams from lots of different organisations as they prepare for the summer. There is a lot that needs to be organised and sorted to look after so many children all around the country. Pray too for those in our congregation who will be attending all sorts of camps and holidays over the summer. It is often a time when young people have the opportunity to make real decisions in their lives and there are many who can look back at a summer camp and recognise the difference it has made to them. And finally pray for those who will lead and help at these missions and holidays, that they will see God working in their lives as they serve Him."

Many of you will have seen pictures of one of **SAYT**'s activities in the Chronicle recently. The 2 workers, Judith and Jane, have been visiting Wildernesse School and running a club for some of the boys there. It was great to see some of our congregation at the recent SAYT service held at Bessels Green Baptist Church. The church was packed and the average age of the congregation was definitely under 20.

Pray especially for the new SAYT venture of a drop in centre in town, currently open on Friday nights. It is a safe place for teenagers to hang out and talk about anything. If you want more information then take a look at the SAYT website www.sayt.org

The SAYT Annual Open Meeting is on Tuesday 14th June 2005 and St Luke's Hall, Eardley Road, 8.15pm.



Sylvia Grafton reports that 21 members of our congregation have collecting boxes for

The Children's Society and would be happy to hear from anyone else who would like to take a box. So far this year money raised from events has included £132.59 from the Carol Concert and £180.03 from house boxes while she has sold 270 re-made cards for various occasions.

Other Giving

CMS Lent boxes raised **£238.30**

In 2004 the PCC approved donations totalling **£12,779** to our eleven named charities