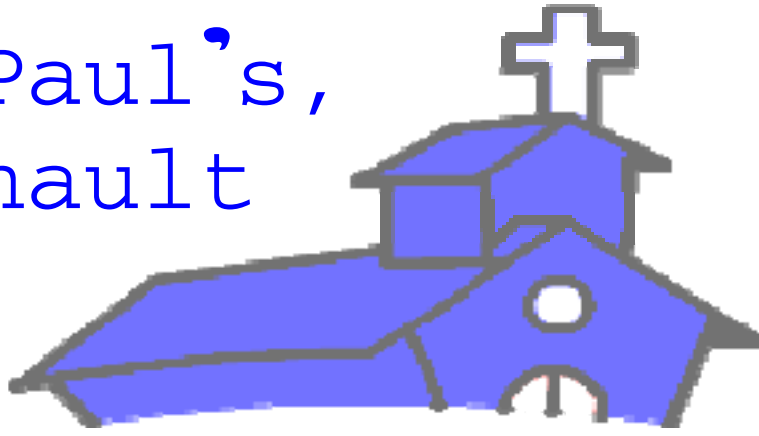


St Paul's,
Hainault



the Big Question



The feedback for the magazine was minimal to say the least, but that just means we must be doing everything right! People were fond of the name 'The Big Question' so we have decided to stick with that. So it is official, the magazine has been named.

We thought it would be good to tell you a little bit about where we see this magazine going, what our hopes are for it; a kind of mission statement.

When we heard that the magazine was in need of a new editor and that there was a possibility it might stop, we were devastated. Just think about what the magazine does:

- Lets people who may not be able to get to church regularly still know what is going on.
- A simple thing that you can send people that are away from home to still feel a part of the church.
- Lets you see other people's ideas and thoughts that you may not normally talk about on a Sunday morning.
- Something that many people can contribute to.

We feel passionate about getting people to contribute and feel a part of something. So help keep this magazine alive! We need your support. Any ideas for articles – please let us know!

Jamie Taylor and Nicky Cleaver

SUNDAY SERVICES – MAY

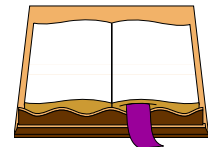
Sunday 6th (5th of Easter)	8.30am 10am	Holy Communion Morning Praise
Sunday 13th (6th of Easter)	8.30am 10am	Holy Communion Family Service
Thursday 17th Ascension Day	9.30am	Holy Communion
Sunday 20th (7th of Easter)	8.30am 10am	Holy Communion Morning Praise
Sunday 27th (Pentecost)	10am	Holy Communion

SUNDAY SERVICES – JUNE

Sunday 3rd (Trinity Sunday)	8.30am 10am	Holy Communion Morning Praise
Sunday 10th (1 st after Trinity)	8.30am 10am	Holy Communion Family Service
Sunday 17th (2 nd after Trinity)	8.30am 10am	Holy Communion Morning Praise
Sunday 24th (3 rd After Trinity)	10am	Holy Communion



There is also a service of Holy Communion or Morning Prayer each WEDNESDAY at 9.30am followed by coffee shop until 11am



There is a prayer meeting at 9.30am until 9.40am each Sunday. Everyone is welcome to join us as we pray for the main service

THE WEEK AT ST. PAUL'S CHURCH

Sunday	8.30 am 10.00am	Holy Communion (not 4th Sunday) Morning Service (every week) including: Players for Jesus (0-6's) Rock Solid (7-10's) in term time Highlanders (11-18's) in term time
Monday	1.30pm 8.00pm	Homegroup – 7 Stoke Avenue (alternate weeks) Joan Lingwood ☎8500 5178 Homegroup – (alternate weeks) – phone for details Jill James ☎8501 1162
Tuesday	9.15am	Prayers for the Church in the Side Chapel
Wednesday	9.30am 10.15am 12.30pm 7.30pm	Holy Communion Coffee Shop in the Hall Wheels and Squeals (Carer and Toddler Group) Highlanders Group meet in the Church Hall (alternate weeks)
Thursday	8.00pm	Homegroup – (alternate weeks) – phone for details Jill James ☎ 8501 1162 & Helen Duke ☎ 8500 6678



PRAYER CHAIN

The Prayer Chain is organised so that prayer can be offered quickly for an individual or a particular situation. Ring the first person on either or both the lists. If they are not in, then ring the second and so on. Make your request clear and straightforward. The members of the chain will then pass on your request to the others and commit themselves to pray.

Chain 1

1. Maggie Sansom 8500 2341
2. Charmaine Andrews 8500 0164
3. Joan Lingwood 8500 5178
4. Joanna Cant 8500 3366

Chain 2

1. Beryl Gough 8550 0957
2. Sandra Lee-Down 8262 4494
3. Kathy Habberley 8501 1386
4. Will Davies 8551 3620

Deadline for the JUNE edition of The Big Question:
Sunday, 13th May (please put material in the tray at
the back of the church)

The Vicar's Letter

The New Carbon Currency

Until very recently the only cost we really took into account when deciding whether or not to do anything we had in mind was the financial cost. Now we are hearing more and more of the environmental cost measured in terms of our carbon footprint. How many tonnes of CO₂ are we releasing into the atmosphere?

Since August 2006 I have been following the adventures of Barbara Haddrill who has been travelling to Australia and back for the wedding of her best friend without using the easy option of flying. She calculated the overland route only released 1.4 tonnes instead of 3.7 tonnes by flying. You can read about her journey by train across Russia and China and down to Singapore from where she took a freight ship to Australia. Total travel time: 45 Days! The web address is: babs2brisbane.blogspot.com/



Coming back Barbara found the only way to get from Darwin to Indonesia was to take the plane and so to make up for it she is cycling the last stage of her journey from Paris to Wales. She certainly deserves a hero's welcome!

Calculating our own carbon footprint is not easy. What we cannot do is pretend we don't have one. Everything we do involves release of CO₂ into the atmosphere – the average person in the UK releases over 5 tonnes per year. Every one of us is contributing to the build up of greenhouse gases which will change our planet for ever.

This week I was able to see: 'An Inconvenient Truth' in which Al Gore presents the magnitude of the problem of global warming in a very helpful way. I am hoping we can show the film in St Paul's Church one evening in May.

There are so many things we can do to look after the environment. Avoid wasting heat; recycle as much as possible; avoid unnecessary car journeys; do what the Bishop of London has done and avoid flying altogether. (Easy way of feeling self-righteous if you never fly anyway!). 'Live simply so that others can simply live'.

As Al Gore says – 'There are a lot of people who go straight from denial to despair without pausing on the intermediate step of actually doing something. Future generations may have occasion to ask "What were our parents thinking? Why didn't they wake up when they had the chance?" We have to hear that question from them now.'

As Christians we know that we are not left totally alone but nor can we sit back and wait for God to sort it out. We pray and ask Him to give us the courage and the motivation to make real changes to our lifestyles so that we become positive contributors to restoring the balance of nature.

Christopher

May 2007

Tuesday	1	7.30pm	Prayer Meeting at 7 Bearing Way
Monday	7	8pm	Homegroup at 18 Ascot Close
Wednesday	9	7.30pm	Highlanders
Thursday	10	8pm	Homegroup
Saturday	12	10-1pm	Working on Sensory Garden
		7.30pm	SatNav
Tuesday	15	7.30pm	PCC Meeting
Wednesday	16		Banner Group
Thursday	17	9.30am	Ascension Day Holy Communion
		7.30pm	Prayer Meeting at 7 Bearing Way
Monday	21	8pm	Homegroup at 18 Ascot Close
		8pm	Commissioning of Hilary Musker as Deanery Youth Worker at St Laurence's
Wednesday	23	7.30pm	Highlanders
Thursday	24	8pm	Homegroup
Friday	25		Half Term Begins
			Highlanders Boating till Monday
Sunday	27	3pm	Global Day of Prayer
Wednesday	30	7.30pm	Prayer Meeting at 7 Bearing Way

Holiday Club 2007

Planning is already underway for this years older holiday club. This year it will be led by the lovely Rachel Thorpe and the delightful Nicky Cleaver. They are really passionate about the youth work at St. Paul's and this year promises to be bigger and better than ever. The theme is still top secret at the moment, but the pair are trying to make it as accommodating as possible. Over to Rachel and Nicky:

"We really want to encourage young people who have perhaps only recently started coming to Sat Nav or Youth Alpha to come along, but we also want the old faithful Highlander members to have a really exciting week. There is a fun-packed programme, as well as some challenging teaching from the Bible.

To make it work, we will need lots of enthusiastic leaders, as well as prayer and resources! We have approached some people individually and will be approaching more, but if you want to be involved in any aspect and to any level, please get in touch. Also please pray for us as we plan.

*Finally, **please save corks** and leave them in a carrier bag at the back of church. Nearer the time we will probably ask to save more things!*

*Thanks in advance,
Yours excitedly,
Nicky and Rach"*

You can contact Rachel on rht28@cam.ac.uk / 07743537510
Contact Nicky on mpacp.net@gmail.com / 07716330575 or
speak to him at church.

Spring Harvest 2007

Yet another Year has passed and Spring Harvest follows on with its three year journey; after learning about One God last year, One People became the topic of 2007 at Skegness and Minehead. However people that hadn't been the year before weren't put off by the three year programme and all ages had a place to go.



St Paul's group arrived at Spring Harvest on the 10th of April in sunny Skegness and was an experience never to forget. Different people have written articles on different days to get more varied opinions about the week:

Day 1 - Arriving at Spring Harvest

from the point of view of Stacey Coughlan

On the day of traveling up to spring harvest every one had to meet at St Paul's to set off at 9:30am. It was going to be an experience for me as this was going to be my first time going. As I arrived there was only a few people there already, by the time the mini bus came every one had arrived. The atmosphere was buzzing as every one was happy and ready for the trip. When we all got on the mini bus and all the bags had been put on I found that there wasn't much room for moving. Then we were off and raring to go, there was talking and laughter in the mini bus. I decided to just relax and read a book while listening to my music, some people fell asleep or played hand held games. It was a bit warm in the bus and the window got opened and closed so many times I lost count.

On our way to spring harvest the driver pulled into a service station and everyone got something to eat and got to stretch there legs. Many people were making there own ways to Spring Harvest and we saw a lot of people at the service station. After eating we all bundled back into the bus and we were on our way (yay) I mainly listened to my music this half of the trip as I'm not very good when it comes to traveling on mini buses. The traffic was not that bad and we arrived at the site, everyone bundled out and took our things to the chalets. I ended up putting my bag in Sarah's room because I didn't know who I was staying with at first. It was nice where we were as it was next to



everything. For the rest of the day I stayed around Lisselle and Sarah as they knew what they were doing. They took me around the site and it was a great experience being around so many Christians, especially in the Big Top that evening (it holds more than 2000 people!) The worship was great there, but I can't really remember much about the talk, oops. After Big Top I decided to get to bed early so that I could be ready for the days of excitement ahead.

My Testimony - Will Davies

During my childhood I went to Ashurst Drive Baptist church in Gants Hill. During my time there I went through lots of hatred and rejection at school. Other youngsters at the church were not always very friendly towards me and left me out of their games and activities and did not include me in conversations. I feel all this helped me to make a commitment to the Lord when I was seven.

Through listening to the Christian teaching in church I thought that even if other people did not like me or include me in their games and activities, there was God to who did love me and who I was precious to, no matter what other people thought of me. The Lord confirmed his promise to me by appearing on my bedroom wall; this gave me peace and comfort. After that experience I got baptised when I was eleven.

I always hoped that when I got a bit older that the Lord would lead me to another Church. I went along to Taunton CYFA venture in August 2005, not knowing really what to expect but to my surprise everyone was really friendly and kind to me and for the first time I really started to form friendships. I didn't keep in contact with anyone from St. Paul's, but then in February 2006 I came along to SatNav, which I really enjoyed so decided I wanted to start coming along to church.

Since coming to St. Paul's I feel that my confidence has really increased and I have been able to develop the gift of prayer. I really enjoy the involvement I have in SatNav. I like the fact that I can feel comfortable talking to anyone about any problems or concerns I have.



Will enjoying himself on the beach at Spring Harvest, we all love this picture!

Day 2 - One Church

from the eyes of Sarah and Jamie

Hello! Welcome to the fun adventure of Sarah and Jamie; Spring Harvest from our perspective. Here we go...well; there was lots of fun, lots of eating... well way too much eating.

I think for us day two was our most compact day. We didn't really sit down at all, until about 12.30am at which point we realised we really needed sleep.

Our day structure seemed to consist of two meetings, breakfast and dinner... oh and lunch! And what ever else we could find to do.

We filled our day with invading Steve Muskens chalet for lunch, not eating too much of his food of course!! A few of us decided to go and play snooker in which two doubles games occurred. And yes, of course the girls played so much better than the boys. Carrie I think was the player of the day managing to jump the white ball over a group of about 5 red balls missing her shot completely, which I didn't even know was possible! The funfair was also a highlight of the day: Random play on all the rides and no, Sarah wasn't scared too much. I think she is going to stick to the carousel in future. However, some of us were a lot braver and decided to go on the fun upside-down spinning ride machine thing. (Sarah: "Yes, they are crazy").

But adding more of Jesus into the day, we took a trip to the cool jumper stool and brought some Christian jumpers, which we can see being kindly modeled by Sarah and Rosie. How cool are they!



Sarah and Rosie in their lovely jumpers

The day concerning random activities, closed with swimming pool antics, which as usual ended in a game of 'swim' outs (basically the older and cooler sounding version of tag) and the guys dunking the girls as much as they possibly could. For us though the highlight of day two



iScape for student meetings, day 2

was iScape, it was my favourite part of the whole week. iScape was the students meeting in which you could attend, consisted of your usual songs, talks and... thumb wars!!!

For us the overall atmosphere of iScape captured our fancy: with the worship band, random videos, games and talks, we really felt at home and that God was with us. In the evening meeting we were looking at Luke 5v1-11 which focused on two main points. The first being how Peter was called to come and follow Jesus; and the second to be commissioned into the work of God. As a

meeting that stuck out for both of us from the week, we want to share some main points that God spoke to us through the night.

In Peter's society he was seen as a failure and was given the job of a fisherman which showed he was a no-body. The general outline of the story is where Jesus tells Peter, after being unsuccessful in catching any fish that day to try again, and as he did he caught a great load. After, Jesus called Peter to follow him.

This really stuck out, as Peter who was seen as an out-cast, a sinner, a failure, was wanted by Jesus. Even being such a failure in everyone else's eyes and still even in the future denying Jesus 3 times, Jesus looked at him and said he wanted him anyways with all the rubbish. It was encouraging to hear this as it helped us see that when we muck up so much, Jesus still wants us just as much. He will continue to call us to him as he is calling the love and acceptance, which is in our hearts, and he simply wants us to be the centre of that love and vice versa, even when knowing all the bad stuff about us.

Jesus just says to each one of us:

"I LOVE YOU, BE IN A RELATIONSHIP WITH ME.....COME"

The word relationship is such a powerful word, as it is the heart of what God is about and what he wants from us, a relationship with him through love and coming to him with this as the focus.

Furthermore, where Peter had a purpose with Jesus so do we all. Yet God loves us and will never give us more than we can handle. Therefore we must not feel rushed to find our calling, just acknowledge he wants us to be in a relationship with him....love him.

Well we will go off now, too much talking as usual. Nothing more can really be said about the meetings. We really wanted to share those points with you as they stuck out so much for us. The worship band rocked. Spring harvest just generally rocks.

The End by Jamie Taylor and Sarah Pradella

Debate: Does your upbringing matter?

We spoke about Male vs. Female last month, and we got some good feedback from it. Many people spoke to me about the unity of man and woman and how neither could function without the other. This month we are discussing about how our upbringing affects our faith; whether our parents being Christian matters?

The first commandment stated in Exodus that doesn't mention God is:

'Honour thy father and thy mother' Exodus 20v12.

This is fair enough; you should love your parents for they brought you into the world and raised you since you were small. But what if they are not right with God? Can they make the right decisions if they are not Christian? I think you can respect your mother and father but still not agree with their decisions. From a personal point of view if my parents wanted me to do something that I didn't think was right, I would like to think that I could talk to them and they would understand.

Obviously being brought up in church lets you know the fundamentals of the Christian faith. Being around a loving environment will help you become a better person with God. Just think about what your life would be like if you weren't exposed to Christianity. And then think about how your parents help you with your walk in Christ?

Nicky Cleaver

What do you think? It would be great to hear your ideas about this, just speak to one of the editors or put what you feel in the tray at the back of church.



Does upbringing matter?

I interviewed two young people at St. Paul's, Rachel, who has been brought up with a Christian background, and Nicky, who hasn't.

When did you become a Christian?

Nicky: I was first brought to church by friends, I liked it so I stayed and at CYFA I was so overwhelmed by the Spirit that I dedicated my life to Christ, it was quite an immediate thing.

Rachel: It was gradual for me, obviously my parents took me to church but I had to realise for myself.

How did your parents react to that?

Nicky: Well they respected my decision, they weren't ecstatic about it but I think in some ways they saw that I was happier.

Rachel: Happy😊! I think they would've been upset if I hadn't become a Christian.

How do your parents support you in your faith?

Rachel: They pray with/for me, help me understand the bible, take me to church. All parents guide their children but because my parents are Christian, they guide me with that in consideration.

Nicky: They came to my baptism last summer, and they seem to have an interest in it which is nice.

How would you rate your childhood?

Rachel: A bazillion out of 10!

Nicky: My parents were great; I think they made most of the right choices. Being non-Christians they never had God in mind when making my decisions, but they still let me explore myself.

How important do you think it is to be brought up in a Christian background?

Nicky: I don't think it matters; everyone comes across the opportunity to be with Jesus Christ.

Rachel: I think God has different plans for everyone; it is a big blessing to have Christian parents but people can still look up to friends for advice. I think about whether or not I would be a Christian if my parents weren't, I hope so but it is hard to know.

Day 3 – One Holy Church

from the point of view from Dave and Nicky

Thursday has got to be described as one awesome day at spring harvest; the most spiritually uplifting day for the group. Even waking up to some of the worst weather during the break could not demoralise us. After having another cooked breakfast (which got kind of monotonous) a handful of us went to the morning meetings in I-Scape or the Big Top. My experience of the Good Morning Big Top during the week was that it was family based: A fun bible-based drama ending in praise and worship; 'Does the Lord make you mad? Does he make you very sad?' obviously we answered this question by shouting 'NO WAY!' It was a great way to wake up and it became an ongoing theme between the less mature members of the group... i.e. Sam Wilkes.

In the afternoon the whole group met up to celebrate the birthdays of Susie, Sam and Michael. As the group was so large we naturally dispersed throughout the week, it was incredible to see how many people actually were in our group, and it was a great time of fellowship. After a top of sugar from the local Mega Treats store at the Skyline, we had a quick visit to the beach. After getting the sand out our clothes, some more than others, we had two games of quasar which the red team won both times. It's not all about winning guys... but can I just clarify that I, Nicky Cleaver, beat everyone. Well except for Dan Cant of course.

The Evening meeting in the Big Top had to be the one of the best meetings of the whole week. Worship by Noel Robinson was so spirit lead and it was nice to get that tingle. This night it was so inspirational seeing everyone worship so passionately together. Ruth Dearnley spoke about a glimpse of hope, which became the focus of prayer for the Big Top. Paul Wragg got a picture from God; in Noah's Ark where the Dove comes to him with an Olive branch, signifying a glimpse of hope.

The meeting finished, and then the night lead to an evening prayer meeting, give thanks to God for getting us in that one room! *People present:* Nicky, Rachel, Dan W, Will, Carrie, Disney, Sarah P, Rosie,



Dave C, Steve, Wendy, Sarah CM, Emily, Kerrie, Dave L, Lisselle, Jon, Susie, Josh, Nick, Dan C and Sam.

We shared feelings we had in the meeting and it was amazing that Dave L felt a confirmation that he should give up his addiction of smoking. Many people had pictures including Dan C who saw someone in chains being restricted with their relationship with God. These topics came up in prayer; also a great sense that God wanted the church to be united so that we can do big things. I had a vision of a skeleton being chained up, not having the power to remove these chains. Then I saw the Holy Spirit coming down on the skeleton and it becoming alive and able to pull away from the chains. Dave L gave me the chapter in the bible Ezekiel 37 - The Valley of the Dry Bones.

It was amazing because I had never heard of this story before. For me it was my favourite part of the holiday, I really felt myself close to God and close to the people in my church. Sarah finished the meeting with a list of things she had noted down earlier that evening that happened to come up in the prayer meeting.

It was then when the whole Spring Harvest just clicked for me and then I could really be inspired to worship and just be in the presence of God.



Dave Carter and Nicky Cleaver

Easter Craft Activity Day

On Saturday 24th March we opened our doors for the 2nd Easter Craft Activity Day and just like its predecessor it was very successful. We sent out around 100 forms and within a week were fully booked. I try to set a limit of 50 children but a combination of post delivery and my inability to say "No" meant we inevitably had more - 57 to be exact.

The children arrived at 10 and as before we split them into 6 groups and they began the day's activities. This year the children made:

- Paper daffodils in a cardboard vase
- Chocolate cereal nests with choc eggs
- Egg cup decorating
- Egg decorating
- Biff bats
- Easter cards

A good variety of crafts I think you'll agree.

We had a hot lunch of jacket potato with cheese and beans, beautifully cooked and served by Charmaine and Joanna. They did a splendid job as it's not easy to dish up more than 70 lunches in about 20 minutes, and they washed up too!

After lunch we finished all the crafts, and then we went into the church to watch a DVD about the first Easter. It was lovely to be able to use the projector as the picture is so much easier to see without all crowding around a TV screen as we have in the past. After the DVD we played a few party games and then it was 3.30 and time for the children to go home.



It was another fantastic day. I'm blessed by God for calling me to do this but also I'm blessed by the wealth of talent that we have at St. Paul's. Without a team of people helping the day couldn't be the success it was and I feel so strongly that God wants these days to happen that I pray my leaders and helpers stay as keen to take part.

This time we had 2 people who had never helped before and a familiar and very welcome old hand, but one who was totally unexpected, Pam Hawthornthwaite. By God's Grace she was well enough to come and help for the whole day - however I've no

idea what shape she was in on the Sunday!

It's not just the leaders who are exhausted though, I saw one of the little boys who came in the bakers the other day with his Mum. She told me that he had really enjoyed himself, fell asleep at 6.30 and didn't wake till gone 7 on Sunday. She gave her thanks and asked when the next one is; he's definitely coming.

Once again thank you to all who helped in whatever way and roll on Animal Crackers our Summer Holiday Club.

Ellen Hunt

Day 4 – One Holy, Catholic Church from the point of view of Dave and Lisselle

Well, being the dozy so and so that I am, I'd forgotten my phone charger, and of course as it's now day 4 my phone has completely ran out of energy and is refusing to do anything at all (much like myself and a fair few others I can imagine... as I'm sure it takes until day 4 for all your sleep deprivation to start taking a noticeable effect) so this morning was different - it was the gentle wake up call from mother... or perhaps more like her just pulling my covers from on top of me. But that's neither here nor there.

So today I went off to iScape, after breakfast (Obviously... missing breakfast that'd just be silly!) Enjoyed some really great teaching on Philippians 3 - In fact in terms of the teaching there was so much genuinely great stuff to really get stuck into and unpack. We really delved into the topic ONE CATHOLIC CHURCH. A lot of us say



the creed in church, which says that we are part of the holy, catholic and apostolic church. The purpose of the morning meetings were to break this down and actually figure out the meaning behind what we are saying. When we say we are part of the ONE CATHOLIC CHURCH, it means we are part of the universal church a body made up of all types of people; it's loving and inclusive **body**. Catholic literally means universal, whereas most of us would think of Catholic and link it straight away to a denomination: a particular type of - church the Roman Catholic Church. In fact I think a lot of people could be scared of using the term catholic out of place, purely because it has connotations of things that when you take it down to what the word actually doesn't exactly pair up.

Any Christ-following church regardless of denomination: Catholic, Church of England, Pentecostal, Baptist etc, should be Catholic in the literal sense of the term, UNIVERSAL. That's the way the Bible teaches us to be.

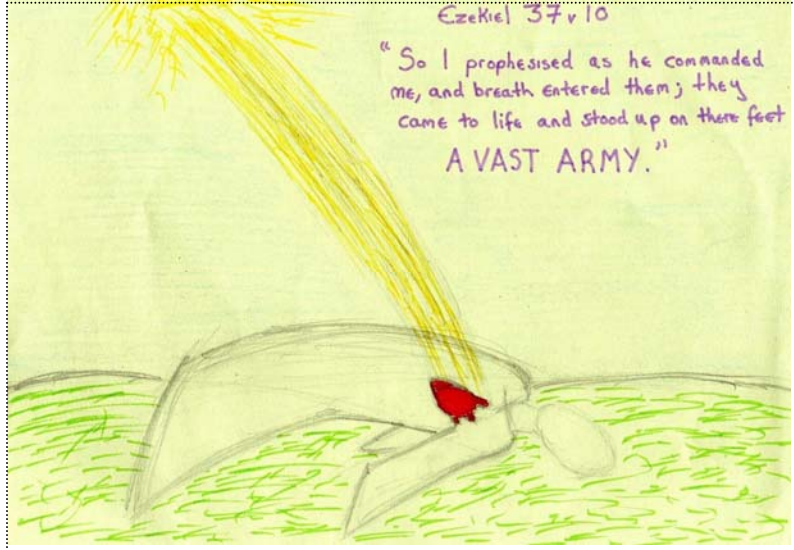
After this morning session, I met up with Dave and we went to the Big Top for some more teaching on the same passage, from a different speaker. By the way can I encourage you, if you're thinking about going to Spring harvest next year and have never been before, firstly DO IT; secondly more relevantly, if you get a chance to go to bible teaching on the same passage twice by different people, do go along. You may get an overlap of ideas here and there but this week I've found it really helpful to get two speakers teaching on the same passage, because they all manage to pick out different points. It really will never be the same, as there's just so much in there to be unpacked. It also gives you a chance to hear different styles of teaching, some of which you may find more accessible to you than others.

Leaving time for a quick caffeine in we trotted off to a little art workshop. I love a good chance to make a bit of a mess and have a doodle, and here was the chance to do it amongst other people:

Lisselle Clarke-Moisley

I found it a really comfortable environment to be in, it wasn't at all regimented. If you didn't want to draw anything you didn't have to. Completely no pressure and you all had a chance to aesthetically voice your own ideas.

I found this workshop a very accessible and original way of expressing your relationship with God and the Holy Spirit that he has filled you with. It's a way of getting down what he's saying to you that you can't really explain in words. (Or just to explain it further). I felt the need



The picture I drew for Nicky, Ezekiel 37v10

to draw a picture for my good friend Nicky after a late night prayer session with a group of Highlanders. It was a picture of Ezekiel 37 – the story of dry bones.

We went off for an evening meal which was very enjoyable, had chill down time for about an hour or so then proceeded back to the Big Top. I was definitely touched by the Spirit during the worship, and the speaker Martin Young spoke about matters I'd never truly focused on before. It opened my eyes to the ideas of talking to people of other faiths.



Before, I'd never consider even standing outside the meeting place of another religion, for fear of... uncleanness, I suppose. Not wanting to offend God; Martin Young however spoke of embracing them, NOT compromising your own beliefs by any means, but just coming alongside them granting them the love that we are supposed to: "*Treat your neighbour as yourself*". The Bible teaches us to be INclusive, not EXclusive. We as God's people have to love people of

other faiths as they are also God's people, he made them all. And although they do not know or recognise him yet, he still knows them and loves as they were too his creation.

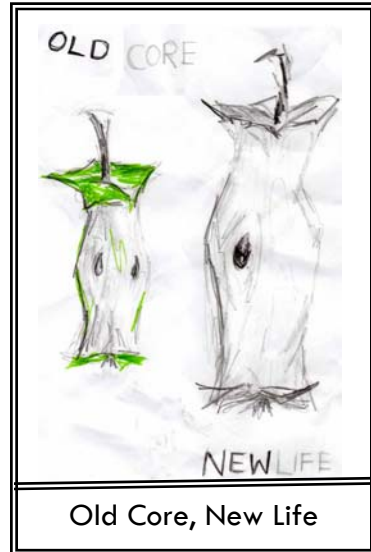
Dave Lovelock

Old Core, New Life

Coasting up the M11 doing a relaxing 70(ish)mph with Billy Talent in one ear and Super Mario Kart in the other I asked myself once again what on earth was I doing here. I'd had these thoughts once or twice in the last couple of weeks. Is Spring Harvest for me? Since it was probably a touch too late to go back I decided I had little choice.

The first night blew me away; I can't remember who spoke but the worship lead by Noel Robison was amazing, the entire tent was buzzing. I knew I'd made the right decision back on the M11.

The second day started with a bible study. I really wasn't looking forward to this: an hour sat on my bum listening to some old bloke going on when I could be in bed, wasn't my idea of a good time. But yet again the speaker was top draw. I was beginning to think that maybe I'd been missing out on something:



I was brought up in a Christian home, went to church weekly followed by Sunday school in the afternoon but I'd never really thought about whether there is or there isn't a God, it was just what happened on Sundays.

As I grew older church became a chore and slowly I drifted away. When I met Susan I had only been in church twice in the previous 5 years for the token wedding and funeral.

During the second evening of worship I found my arm rising up and my feet starting to move. Before I knew it I was dancing and praising the Lord, I couldn't get enough. I looked around and everyone was completely immersed in the glory of the Lord. I've never seen anything like it before. Bible study in the mornings was amazing, Paul's Letter to the Philippians is an inspirational book and I loved every minute of it... if you haven't read it, read it. If you have, read it again.

I began to look back at my life, like everyone I'd made mistakes, huge mistakes, but I'm still here, in good health with a superb wife. Maybe God had been planning this all along, right from the start back in Rogerstone at Bethesda Church. I took a long hard look at my life and promised God that changes would be made. I prayed to God for a sign that he was with me on this. He duly delivered it a couple of days later not in a small



way but with what felt like an explosion in my head. I don't know why God has brought me to Hainault, to St Paul's but I'm going to enjoy every minute of finding out!

Over the week I also spent a lot of time with the youth of the church. I knew most of them by sight but had never really spent a lot of time with them; that is Suzy's thing. I have never met such an inspirational group of individuals. Each one of them is superb and the Holy Spirit flows so strongly in each of them. On the fourth day Lisselle drew the picture at the top of this page. I saw it lying on the counter of our chalet and it was so beautiful and mirrored what is happening in my life so perfectly.

The future of our church is bright and these individuals can drive it forward to places that it has only dreamt about. I would like to thank them all for being totally amazing and for making Spring Harvest a Great Life changing experience.

Acquaintances have become friends, friends have become good friends and I now have a new best friend. **My old core is still here but new life has begun.**

God Bless,
John Brassey

Spring Harvest? – You Decide

There are people who wonder what all the hue and cry is over Spring Harvest. I guess I can understand that if you haven't been able to experience the event, then it must seem like one big fuss over a holiday, followed by a lot of noise and disturbance when we return. That is not the case; these breaks away are about so much more than a simple jaunt to Butlins in Skegness. Each event allows us access to world-class teaching and international, interdenominational worship that open our eyes and hearts to a much bigger picture of God and his people than anything short of a mission trip round the world. Those who go bring back a plethora of gifts for our congregation, gifts that feed and enthuse the entire church.

This year, as you have probably already read from other articles, we looked at the theme of one holy, catholic, apostolic church, unpacking each adjective on consecutive days, within the context of Peter's life and the book of Philippians. It would take an age to unpack everything that I learnt and have brought back to integrate into my faith and life, but in short, here goes.

We are called to be a people set apart from the norm, outside the constraints and pressures of everyday life, and yet to be an integral, influential force within our society. Being holy means that we march to the beat of a different drummer; respectful and within the confines of the law of the land and the structure of society, but working towards a goal that is outside the understanding of unbelievers. We look to eternity, aware that of the options are heaven or hell, and thus more concerned with how we are with God than with the general public.

Catholic means that our faith is all encompassing. As one of the speakers said, our love for Jesus is expressed in how much we love our worst enemy. Pause for thought or what?! We remain true to the Bible, being guided by the Word of God, yet showing respect for those who do not share our beliefs. Our struggle is not against adherents of alternative religions, but against the faulty precepts of those belief systems.

Apostolic? Well. Think of this. You're sitting on a full double-decker bus. That means there are about 70 people. Out of those 70 people, only 4 of them will have any kind of relationship with Jesus. Four, that's you and 3 others. The other 66 are living life in ignorance and separation from God. We, in response to our own relationship with Jesus, simply cannot sit comfortably with that. It behoves us to do something about it.

We are called to be church. Not a building made of bricks, but a living, organic system of belief, encouragement and support, carrying God's message of truth and salvation, building each other, walking beside each other, establishing an environment where the Living God is centre stage. Very challenging to someone whose idea of a good evening is relaxing on the sofa with a good book and a great coffee.



So how do we do it?

There are many ways, but the teaching team used the examples in Philippians. We stand firm on the truth we know - Jesus. We stand together, in unity (not necessarily always agreeing on issues, but being able to agree to differ), We remain constant, even

when the going gets tough. And we remember:

*⁸...whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. ⁹Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you....I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want... ¹³I can do everything through him who gives me strength... **Philippians Chapter 4***

So you make your own decision whether Spring Harvest is a waste of time, energy and finance. I'm going to be busy trying to do something about the 66 other people on that bus.

Sarah Clarke-Moisley

Day 5 - One Holy, Catholic APOSTOLIC Church

from the point of view of Wendy Thorpe

The teaching at this year was definitely the best ever for me. The Bible study sessions were explained so clearly and the teaching sessions that I went to – Radio 2 (presented by Jeff Lucas and Ruth Dearnley) were absolutely brilliant.

The middle teaching block of day 5 focussed on some myths that people fall foul of. This really helped me to refocus on how we should be moving forward as an apostolic church. I have simplified the myths and their counter arguments and hope that they haven't lost too much in the simplification.

Myth 1 - Mission and evangelism are outdated.

Wrong. If we (the Church) lose our mission focus the world loses out and the Church becomes dysfunctional

Myth 2 - Everything we do is Mission anyway.

Well you could say that but just 'doing' isn't enough!

Myth 3 - It's up to us to change the world.

Wrong. It's up to the Holy Spirit through us to change the world.

Myth 4 - Everyone must tell their friends (and passing strangers) about Jesus.

This implies it is up to us as individuals and understates the importance of us working together as a community.

Myth 5 - We must initiate every conversation about God.

Evangelism is initially often best carried out not in what we say but how we live.

Myth 6 - Just live the life and never open your mouth.

In opposition to the last statement this statement is best challenged with the following quotation, "Without action, no one listens. Without words no one understands."

Myth 7 - We need more seeker-sensitive events.

We (church) need to be ourselves. Sometimes we can try too hard at targeting newcomers trying to fit round them rather than helping them to fit in with us.

Myth 8 - Everyone needs to be dynamically converted.

Not so. For the majority of people conversion is a gradual process.

Myth 9 - The goal of evangelism is to get everyone to invite Jesus into their hearts.

Well that's a good start but Jesus calls us all to be part of the Kingdom community.

Myth 10 - We don't have to change to be effective in mission.

We need to let mission shape our church rather than fit mission into our existing shape.

Wendy Thorpe

Day 6 – And it comes to an end

As I woke up on day 6 to the realisation that our trip was coming to an abrupt end, I thought about the memories that I would keep for years to come: The kiddies worship in the Good Morning Big Top every morning, the amazingly fun Easter egg hunt around the campsite, the ability to shoot your fellow peers with lasers, and so many more.

The last day, started with a rush to the left luggage department after breakfast. Then a dash to the Big Top for the last meeting; where we had communion. Taking communion with so many people was an experience because it just summed up the teaching during the week. To be One Holy, Catholic, Apostolic church; the only way we can do that is to be a unit throughout the country, and just thinking people all over the country have come to be in the big top at that moment was mind-blowing.

The energy wasn't the same on the mini-bus on the way home. However, I was excited! Raring to go for my King, woo. Bring on 2008; if you are thinking about coming, please do, it is worth it!

More pictures from Spring Harvest 2007 are found on the church website, and many more stories shall be shared in church.

And finally, some light-hearted fun on the way back home: action shots of Jamie getting chucked in a bin at the service station:



Jamie offends Steve in some way

Moirra makes sure that she is pushed in

Sarah just laughs like good friends do

Obviously the moral of this story is not to offend Steve Musker, because he will retaliate quite badly and put you in a bin. And who is going to help you, no one!

Why would we do that?

Nicky Cleaver

Let's get Poetic

Take A Chance

With all the rushing,
All around,
Always busy,
Always thinking,
Never standing still,
Take a chance,
Stand still. And see what happens.

Always noisy,
Filling quietness,
With noise,
Too scared,
To keep quiet,
Why not take a chance,
And be quiet awhile.

Never listening,
To that quiet voice,
Below the noise of others,
Take a chance,
Why not listen awhile,
To that quiet voice.

In the stillness,
And the quietness,
You can listen,
And hear,
That quiet voice,
Talking gently,
And softly,
In your ear.

Why not take a chance,
To listen,
And hear,
To what God,
Has to say to you,
In the quietness.

From Charmaine

This poem was read out a couple of times at Spring Harvest this year. I like Gerrard Kelly's poems. I find them thought provoking and refreshing. I like the way he uses words. I'd like to share this one with you.

Joanna Cant:

Stop the Traffic

I am a person,
Not a potato
To be picked and packaged
And sent to market
To be sliced and diced
And chopped up and ketchupped
On the other side of the world.

I am human
And I am not for sale.

I am a living conscience,
Not a cargo.
I travel passenger
Not freight.
I am not cattle,
Not contraband,
Not a catalogued commodity.
I'm not the bottom line
For those who trade in tragedy
And profit from perversity.
I am not a can
To be recycled.

I am human
And I am not for sale.

I am a thinking individual
Not a rare exotic bird.
I am your sister,
Not an inmate for your zoo.
I am not merchandise,
Not meat,
Not a meal ticket.
I was mothered,
Not manufactured,
Begotten,
Not created.

I am human
And I am not for sale.

It's time to end this trade,
In human tragedy,
To terminate this travesty
Of a global economy.
Let the red lights
Of your cities
Be put to better use
To stop the traffic.
Write it in lights
Across your seared
conscience:

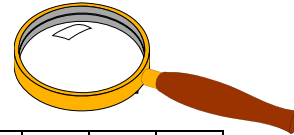
I am human
And am not for sale.

From Gerrard Kelly's new book 'Spoken Worship'



Your second chance to find the words in Psalm 95, thanks to June Clare!
 Taken from February 2005 edition of News from the Pews

WORD SEARCH



P	T	O	N	R	O	B	B	U	T	S	G
U	A	L	A	Y	O	L	S	I	D	N	D
T	H	P	M	E	S	A	D	O	I	E	E
S	W	I	C	B	R	R	W	V	S	Y	T
E	M	H	O	O	O	N	I	E	T	Y	S
H	E	S	M	L	T	G	R	R	E	O	U
G	R	R	M	R	S	T	O	X	L	J	G
I	I	O	A	K	E	F	K	E	A	E	S
H	B	W	N	G	C	S	M	C	A	T	I
E	A	A	D	O	N	N	I	W	O	B	D
H	H	N	S	D	A	K	N	E	G	L	T
T	Y	T	H	G	I	M	Y	M	O	R	F

A SONG OF PRAISE

Come, let us praise the Lord! Let us sing for **JOY** to **GOD** who protects us! Let us come before him with **THANKSGIVING** and sing joyful songs of praise. For the Lord is a **MIGHTY** God, a mighty king over all the gods. He rules over the whole earth, from the deepest caves to **THE HIGHEST** hills. He rules over the **SEA** which he made; the land also, which he himself formed.

Come, **LET US BOW DOWN** and **WORSHIP** him; let us **KNEEL** before the **LORD**, our Maker! He is our God; we are the people he cares for, the **FLOCK** for which he provides.

Listen today to what he says: “Don’t be **STUBBORN**, as your **ANCESTORS** were at **MERIBAH**, as they were that day in the **DESERT** at Massah. There they **PUT** me to the test and tried me, although they had seen **WHAT** I did for them. For **FORTY** years I was **DISGUSTED** with those people. I said, ‘How **DISLOYAL** they are! They refuse to **OBEY** my **COMMANDS**.’ I was angry and made a **SOLEMN** promise: ‘You will never enter the land where I would have given you rest’”

Psalm 95

June Clare

Christian Aid Week: You add. We multiply. May 13th – 20th



Working with the world's poorest communities, Christian Aid invests in things that multiply and provide benefits for years to come - helping people to improve their own lives, whatever their race or religion.

Volunteers are needed to do our annual collection outside Woolworths on Manford Way.

- When? Saturday May 19th from 9am onwards.
- How long? If you can spare one hour it would be great.
- What do I do? Sign up on the sheet at the back of Church when you are available.
- Who with? Get a friend to help or we will find another helper.
- Why? Each year St Paul's undertake to do the collecting outside the shops while other churches do door to door collecting.
- Is there a reward? Yes I'm sure there will one in heaven – BUT just to know you'll be making such a difference to extremely poor families who are battling with failing harvests, poor health and sanitation, and well . . . just POVERTY.

Let's do SOMETHING. Do sign up on the list if you can.

Pauline

Sunday 20th May 2007 at 12.30pm

**At St Paul's Church Hall,
Arrowsmith Road,
Chigwell, IG7 4NZ**

**Tickets £5, Concessions £2.50
(children donation on the day)
from Pauline Sheridan
8500 6450**

