

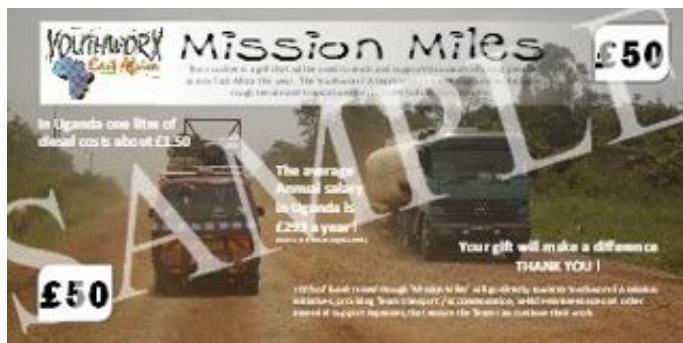


Many of you will have enjoyed reading Heart of which is the local Christian newspaper aimed at distributing as much information as possible about what is going on in the Christian community in your area, to promote activities Christians are engaged in, to discover individual and corporate giftings and the ability to be able to draw on these and share the wonderful diversities of the local Church in partnership

with one another. Whilst this has been free for a number of years the paper will be introducing a small charge to cover its costs.

If you would like to buy the paper in the future it will be available from Opengate at a cost of £5 for a year. If you would like to take up this offer place your money, in an envelope with your name, in the offering and a copy will be ordered for you and you pick it up from the church.

The paper can also be viewed online at www.heartof.org.uk



If you are looking for a last minute Christmas gift there is still time to buy some Mission Miles for YEA. Available from Janet Vince.

Pastoral Breakfast – Saturday 25th February, 8.45 – 10.00 a.m.

We are holding another 'pastoral breakfast' for all those actively involved in watching out for and caring for others in our congregation or the wider community. We will be sending personal reminders nearer the time but, if you came before in September, or felt you should have done, then you are invited. Our purpose is to support and encourage one another as well as to share ideas and learn. There will be two five minute presentations from 'guest speakers'. Derek & Miranda

The Ron Hellyer Foundation is planning a fundraising event on 28th Jan to support our work with Maranatha Missions in Romania. The event will include a meal for which tickets may be purchased, and there will be a presentation of the work in Romania.

Church Directory Copies of the November 2011 directory are now available on the welcome table. Directories are free to members, however, you are welcome to make a donation of £1 to cover the cost of printing.

Services

Sunday 18th December

Morning Service 10.15
Let there be Light service 6pm

Sunday 25th December

Christmas Morning Service 10.00
followed by lunch at 12 midday

Sunday 1st January

Morning Service 11am

Sunday 8th January

Morning Communion Service 10.15

Our Christmas Day and our New Year's Day morning services will start at 10am and 11am respectively.

Morning services starting from 9.45am with a time of fellowship over a cup of tea and coffee and sometimes accompanied by a piece of toast or a croissant will begin again on January 8th

Evening Services: There will be no evening services during January. There will be an OpenHeart launch and celebration on Sunday January 29th in the evening

January

- 16th Prayer at the Police Station
- 22nd Joint Church service at St Wilfrids 3pm
- 26th Churches Together AGM at Our Lady of Sorrows Church 7pm
- 28th Romania Fundraising Evening
- 29th OpenHeart Celebration event 7pm

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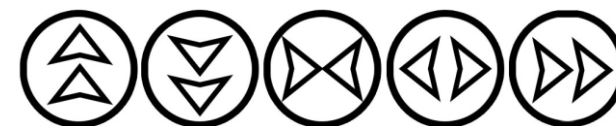
Web Site: www.opengate.org.uk

Language School Tel: 863739

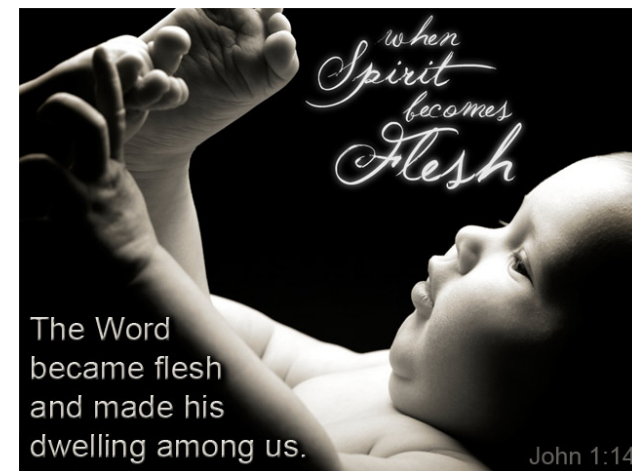
Treasure Box Nursery Tel: 868823

Pastor: *Graham Banks* Missionary Pastor: *Marcelo Guimarães*

Administrator: *Julie Passmore*



Becoming Church: Five Ways



Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

18.12.11

to

07.01.12

Welcome

The universe was pregnant with anticipation, something of infinite magnitude was about to happen. It was written in the stars. The heavens and the earth were unified in summoning worshippers. The Alpha and Omega was getting ready to have a finite human experience.

“We saw His star and we have come to worship Him” Matthew 2:2b

Are you looking for the star?

How far are you willing to travel to follow it?

What do you need to leave behind?

What do you need to embrace?

News and prayer

Pray for Margaret Edwards who is in hospital

Cassia has written to thank everyone for the card that we sent. She says “What a wonderful surprise to see your card and all signatures ... **It made our day!**

It is very precious for us to know that we are together... This year was very difficult. Raise a baby in this area is not easy, of course, I thought it would be easier, but it is not.

We plan to move to other area where I will feel secure to go out with Hadassa ... You know this is a human traffic area... So in 9 months I never went out by my self what is very tiring to Sandro and most of the time I stay at home what is not healthy and is boring.

Weekends we work at church where I am so happy then. The work there is great, we have the opportunity to share with many deaf boys from different backgrounds.

Thank everybody for us, for all your love
Cassia”

A prayer meeting, to pray for people and events connected with the church, is held every Tuesday from 8-9pm. Everyone is welcome.

Prayer Corner

If, for any reason, you would like someone to pray with you at the end of our Sunday morning services, please make your way to our 'Prayer Corner' in front of the Projector Desk. We have 4 people set aside every week who will quickly rearrange the chairs and be ready and willing to spend time with you.



On 9th January 2012, as part of a small team of Christians, Judi Mentasti will travel to Southern India to Chennai (formerly called Madras). After a week there, the team will travel up to Manipur, in north-east India, where it neighbours Burma. This is an area where various different tribal peoples live, and where some people are already practising and believing Christians – this number is estimated to be

about 34%, and is growing. She will come back home on 23rd January 2012.

Judi will be part of a small team led by Rod Greenwood, Pastor of Elim Church, Hayling Island, with whom she has worked previously on a “Jesus Heals” mission trip to India, led by Ron Hellyer. The team have been invited to visit by Pastor Sunny Abraham, who leads a Christian church and Bible college in Chennai, and a Christian school in Manipur.

(1) The church works within the slums of Chennai, where up to a quarter of the city's inhabitants live in terrible conditions of poverty. There is a bible college attached to the church, and ministry to women and children forms an important part of the outreach.

(2) In Manipur the church has built and is running a Christian school, but still struggles to supply it with all that it needs. The school is trying to raise money to have a more permanent building structure, and for a generator to supply electricity, which it does not have at all at the moment. The work here particularly tries to reach the Dalits, the “untouchables” caste, to tell them of how much Jesus loves and cares for them. The aim is that Christian education can free and empower these massively-underprivileged people.

How can we help at Opengate Church?

1. She asks for ongoing prayer support for herself and the team while there.
2. Could any families who wish to do so please bring in signed Christmas cards each, so that these can be distributed to the children and families there, as signs of friendship, love and fellowship.
3. If possible, please could donations of money, be put into the Christmas card envelopes. English cash could also be given separately to Judi, with or without the cards. Cheques are also welcome and should be made out to MRS J MENTASTI, so that Judi can take them as cash with her on the trip. The cash will be given to Pastor Sunny for the needs of the school (particularly for the building fund and generator), to distribute to the poorest of families in need, and to buy Bibles for the church.

During both parts of the trip, there will be opportunities to share the gospel, and to pray for the needs of the people and their healing. Part of the team's mission is to show solidarity and support as part of the Lord's worldwide body of believers. Two years of prayer from Pastor Sunny Abraham support the trip. Thank you to everyone who wishes to support this in any way and with their love and prayers.



Prayer in the Police Station Over 40 people met in the police station on 21st November to pray for the police as part of the Roc initiative. The next meeting will be on 16th January from 6-7pm. Please arrive promptly as the police station closes at 6pm. If you were unable to attend the meeting but would still like

- to pray for the police the main prayer points from the meeting were
- ! a 5% reduction in crime in Bognor
 - ! Op Trek - theft of pedal cycles
 - ! Op Shadow - burglary of non-dwellings (garages, sheds and business premises)
 - ! Op Scenic - theft from unattended motor vehicles
 - ! Op Tinsel - shoplifting and purse dipping

There are several vacancies coming up for teachers and others next summer in Murree Christian School, Pakistan (where Grog and siblings were educated). As visas may take several months to process, one needs to apply soon. Details from Ralph, swralphheaton@talktalk.net or phone 822824.



A big thank-you to everyone who gave donations for the shoeboxes. Abi was able to take 41 boxes to the drop off point in Chichester. A total of £135 was given which was enough to cover postage and enable to few more gifts to be brought. Next year we are hoping to send even more. If you spot something in the January sales that would be suitable for a box and want to buy it, bring it in and we will store it in the church until next November!

Gift Aid envelopes and declarations can be found on the welcome table. If you are a tax payer and would like to make regular Gift Aided donations to the church please speak to Julie Passmore. If you would prefer to donate online details can be found on our website www.opengate.org.uk

Notes and podcasts of the Sunday Sermons are available, from Monday mornings, on the website www.opengate.org.uk. If you miss the talk and are unable to download the podcast from the website then Steve Copeland can transfer it into an mp3 player for you after the service or email the office for a CD.

There is a loop fitted in the Church. If you are using a hearing aid please switch it to T and sit away from the white lines on the floor. If you would like a large-print copy of song words or this news sheet please ask a member of the Welcome Team.