

FELLOWSHIP MATTERS !

THE BI-MONTHLY MAGAZINE OF
CLARE BAPTIST CHURCH

To follow and worship Jesus
and make Him known



October/November 2022
Issue No 129



Many thanks to Elsa and her willing and talented team for making our church look so splendid on Harvest Sunday. It was a wonderful reminder of the beauty of God's creation and a reminder of our stewardship commitments.

I went upstairs to get ready for my daughter's arrival. Opening the cupboard door to find a pair of shoes I wanted for a little later in the day, I realised that most of them were summer shoes. I needed to do to my shoes what I had done with my summer clothes - put them away until next spring/summer.

It took me quite a while, not because I had that many but because I keep them in boxes and each one had to be explored. Of course then, a while later, after looking through the boxes containing my winter shoes there was only just time for me to put a pair on and rush off to keep an appointment.

I was caught out; the appointment took much longer than expected. While I was waiting I thought of all the things I should have been doing and my frustration grew.

Never mind as our daughter wasn't arriving until late evening, so I just time enough to do most of the tasks. As we turned the corner into our part of Hertford road, a strange car was sitting in the drive.

Yes you have guessed, unexpectedly, our daughter had arrived early!

As I pondered on the wasted time, the distractions when I could have done the things that I had planned, I thought, how easy it is for me to get distracted from the important by trivial.

Maybe it is just me. Wasted time, putting off what needs to be done. Getting priorities skewed. Prayer times, Bible reading, writing that card or letter, telephoning...(yes I'm no use at messaging using my 'phone.) I have to admit it isn't just down to old age either, so often things that I haven't reviewed for ages suddenly take

on the importance of something that just has to be explored.

Distractions that are unimportant. Afterwards I recognise these as not being part of God's plan. How easily the Enemy susses my weakness; how subtle he is as he works in my life.

Yet I know that if I offer my time to the Lord no matter how busy the day ahead with a prayer, a time to read His word a time be with Him then my time seems to stretch, my mind becomes focussed, stuff happens in perfect order, my priorities become so clear and all gets done.

You can tell that this is not 'me' but all of Him. So why doesn't this happen every day?

Why does my focus get so flawed?

I don't think I need to say more, but maybe if you recognise a weakness in yourself, may I suggest that you seek His help for it is then that we are made strong.

Traidcraft Coffee, Cake and Christmas Card Sale

**Saturday 12th November
Baptist Chapel Hall
10a. - 1pm**

**This year the takings from the event
will be split. Money raised from kitchen
refreshments will go towards our
church's monthly donations, and all
other money raised will go to support
Traidcraft.**

Link to Hope Shoebox Appeal

It's that time of year again. Each year we support the Link to Hope Shoebox appeal. Thank you all for all the wonderful support you gave last year and we look forward to seeing you again this year.

We are meeting every Monday and Wednesday morning 10 – 12 hrs during October. Monday, 10th October is our first meeting when we will look at what we have and work out what we need.

So please come and bring your items. To volunteer to help or for more information please contact Gale Marshall on 01787 278209

More information on Link to Hope can be found at <https://linktohope.co.uk/>

Updates from HOUSE OF JOSHUA **Lifenet Children's Foundation**

Covering letter from House of Josjua

*To; Clare Baptist Church
Dear Sponsor*

Greetings of peace

On behalf of LifeNet Children's Foundation, Inc. I would like to apologise for not being in touch with you for so long but rest assured that we always remember and include you in our prayers.

Thank you so much for always being there for HOJKids, for supporting selflessly. Your generous support is vital to the ministry and in achieving their dreams especially with education. With it, kids are encouraged to continue to be helpful

Again thank you so much and you are highly appreciated

Here are some letters from the children

Hi! How are you? It's been a few years since I wrote to you. I am very grateful for being part of my r life and for the journey that you have always been there. I will always pray to give you protection and blessings every day that you need. I will never get tired for the Lord, thanking him for giving you to me,

I hope and pray that you are alright,

God bless you. Thank you so much. Xx

Dear Clare Baptist Church

Thank you for helping me not only in my education but also supporting what I need for me to be a better child. I am glad that you never stop sending your untiring support which keeps me motivated to study harder You are always in my prayers

Love Lee

Love you more

Hello this is Lee Francoin Namoc, 12 years old.

He is excited to have the face to face class this coming August 22, 2022 as a grade 5 student. This child likes to help making the firewood, helping preparing meals and has initiative to help the staff. He is competitive in playing outdoor games like “larong pinoy” and card games. The child was happy knowing the whereabouts of his mother after looking for her for more than 5 years. She was admitted to hospital because of leukaemia . His mother passed away when they were about to visit her in hospital. Despite what happened the child wanted to continue his ambitions which is to finish his studies and help his other siblings. LOFI continues to help and support the child.



Thus is Honey Jane Magto, 20 years old.

She finished the grade 10 with an honours award. Honey is happy when she is reunited with her siblings here in the shelter. She's very generous with them and guides her sister. She experienced working as a service crew for a month. Now she is planning to study a house-keeping course. LFCI will support the school experience of the client .



Unsigned and unedited

Hi! How are you? It s been a few years since I wrote to you. I am very grateful for being you being part of mu life and for the journeu that you have always been there. Thank you very much . I will always pray to give you protection and blessings every day that you need. I will never get tired to the Lord, thanking him for giving you to me. I hope and pray that you are alright.

God bless you xxx

Thank you

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This a timely communication from House of Joshua which encourages us in our decisions made at the Church Meeting to support the work of God in institutions outside out own church community.



"The Moving On group is there to give support and friendship to those who have lost family and friends I was awake one night and this poem came into my mind."

Jenny Watts

We have all been there in the shadows,
We have all felt weary and say.
At the end of the day
We have nothing to say
We forget what it's like to be glad
But we are moving on.

For companions bring friendship and laughter
And someone who knows how we feel.
Our worries don't last
We talk of the past
And we even go for a walk.
For the birds still sing in the hedgerows,

The stars still shine up above.
And we pray, Lord that we
May be worthy of Thee,
Thy patience, Thy bounty, Thy love.
Lord, we moving on.

(Editors: Jenny's contribution is again a timely one as it comes at a time when a nation mourns the death of the Queen which has reminded so many people of their own losses. The poem encourages us to trust the Lord as He walks with us we move on.)



We give thanks for the life of Queen Elizabeth



By Graeme Ross on 12th September 2022

Along with so many in our nation, we are grieving the loss of our Queen. We remember and give thanks for her life of dutiful service to this nation, to the commonwealth and to the whole world.

Queen Elizabeth lived a life of grace inspired by the example of Jesus and the faith in Him that she held so dear.

A prayer from Lynn Green,
General Secretary of our Baptist Union:

Gracious God,
We thank you for the life of your servant Elizabeth;
for her faithfulness to your gospel
through her words, example and humble service.

We remember with gratitude her gentle diplomacy,
her wise leadership and guidance in a changing world,
and the glimpses into her sense of humour.

She has been a gracious and godly Queen,
and so we commend her back to you:

May she rest in peace and rise in glory.
We pray too for the Royal Family
as they grieve over the loss of a mother, grandmother, great
grandmother,
especially for Charles as he becomes King,
and we lift up to you all in this country and across the com-
monwealth
in this time of national mourning and change.

Bless us with your peace, we pray,
today and always,

Amen.



The great finisher

Over the summer months our fields have borne more resemblance to the Kalahari Desert than the lush grass one would expect in Suffolk meadow. Our hay crop (like many others) was non-existent. A neighbouring farm spent over £6,000 on fertiliser, only for it to scorch and kill the grass because of the extreme heat and lack of rain over the summer. And yet, as I look out today, the grass appears lush and green.

Despite its delicate structure and appearance, grass is surprisingly resilient. Most types of grass can survive extended periods of drought, and although they may look dead—visibly brown, and dry—they're often only dormant, awaiting the next rainstorm; and that is what has happened. We've had a couple of heavy downpours, one of which was over 60mm in an hour, and the grass has bounced back looking greener than ever.

Pictorially, the image of brown grass becoming green is something of a vision for me of the church, in all its contexts, if we are open to the possibilities and promises of God. For the last few years, the church in its inherited form, has been showing concerning signs of decline and decay. Yes, there are examples of new growth in some places, but these feel very much reliant on significant resourcing and involvement from others. Perhaps, a parallel can be found here with my efforts to keep my courgettes alive with intense watering and feeding over the summer, whilst most of the other plants around them died through drought (and lack of attention!)

I recently read a reflection from Brian Simmons, from his book 'I hear His wisdom', in which he speaks about God as the finisher. I found this helpful as well as encouraging. I have often reflected on and been encouraged by the creative power of God; the God who begins new things – perhaps this is why I have a bias towards innovation and planting – but as Simmons suggest, we need to consider God as the finisher too; that the things He has begun, He will complete and finish even if we had previously thought they were dead.

As the recent rain has reminded me, growth can return, and plants can come alive again. I want to share something that Simmons wrote which the Holy Spirit used to grab my heart; something which I am beginning to sense is God's word to the church, so I have adapted the words to fit this context and pray that this resonates with you too.

Today you stand at the threshold of a new beginning. All that is around you will change, and all that I have planted within you will now grow and bear fruit. For I have great things in store for you, things no one has ever proclaimed to you. Many speak of the rain that will soon fall, but I say, it will be a downpour on my church! Many speak of the fire, but they have never been consumed. But with my church, my fire will rage and not be contained by the structures and theories of men.

There are many who wish for a new day, but my church will be lifted suddenly into a season beyond your imagination or your dreams. For it will be My dream that will be fulfilled in My church. Many scoffers will be swept into My presence and become believers in one day. Many doubters of My power will leave their limitations and pursue Me as never before. The time of the great outpouring upon the church is near. It will be a day of repentance and a day of gathering. Those who ignore My truth will be ignored. Those who refuse to gather themselves together will be scattered even farther. For I will be worshipped in spirit and in truth.

So, stand firm in Me until I have become your confidence. Set your eyes upon Me and don't be worried about your future and your calling, for I am the God who begins and completes, the Alpha and the Omega. You have seen Me many times as the Beginning—now you will see me as the great Finisher!

I am not suggesting that these words of hope (and prophecy?) will guarantee numeric growth and success for the church in worldly terms, nor a return to Christendom. What I do however believe, is that something fresh is breaking out, and God, through His Holy Spirit, will finish this too. Church undoubtedly will look different than before, but it will still be familiar as long as we keep Jesus at the centre, are reliant upon the Spirit for growth, and hold fast to the promises and possibilities of our Heavenly Father.

*"I pray with great faith for you, because I'm fully
The Swan*

Bconvinced that the One who began this glorious work in you will faithfully continue the process of maturing you and will put his finishing touches to it until the unveiling of our Lord Jesus Christ!"

Philippians 1:6 (The Passion Translation)

LADIES FELLOWSHIP DATES
BAPTIST BACK HALL
2.15PM

6th	October
20th	October
3rd	November
22nd	November
1st	December
15th	December



Ladies Christmas Dinner
The Swan
December Thursday 15 December

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