

Supporters Newsletter - Nov 2017

Apologies for the long gap between this and our previous letter, however we have been a tad busy, refurbishing the church building ready for the launch of the new FLAVOUR coffee lounge. The concept is that this is a “soft entrance” for people outside the church to engage with the church, and an opportunity for the ministry team to engage with them, chat to them, and pray with them.

I had one bloke say to me that “I wouldn’t be seen dead in a church”, Avoiding the obvious answer “I bet you will one day!”, I said to him, “but would you go into a coffee lounge?” to which he answered “yes”.

That’s the nub of it, coffee houses are increasing in our towns and cities but very few offer the facilities we offer;



Taste and see that the LORD is good.

Incidentally on a Sunday morning we have seen the **numbers growing**. Partly due to people who engage through **Flavour** then come along, and partly through new people becoming Christians. One family initially came to **Sparklers** (our bible based parent & toddler group), then did a **Freedom in Christ** course with a couple from the church, during which they both became Christians, they are now attending the **Alpha** course and one of them plays Bass in our budding worship band.

The children’s work is growing as there are now 6 under sixes and two teenagers in church. They are reaching an age where we need a separate crèche during the sermon (as they toddlers are too active and too noisy). The older kids are happy to sit at a table and do colouring or other activities related to the sermon series.

We are very excited about our current **Alpha** course. Meeting in the evening we have 16 people attending. We start with a meal and were using the new Film series as the discussion starter. There are several folk who appear to be very close to making a commitment. It’s the alpha away day this Saturday (at Buckfast Abbey) and we are expecting great things.

We provided most of the band for the annual **regatta praise** in August. It was a blustery affair, poorly attended due the horizontal drizzle driven by the swirling wind. In the end we put the congregation in the band stand and the band turned through 180 degrees to face them. The LORD was praised. We discovered a trombone player who can bring you to tears with his beautiful



timbre and phrasing, and the local lady Vicar delivered an uncompromising message. During the regatta the **Flavour coffee lounge** was open serving cream teas in addition to the usual fare. We had many appreciative visitors, glad to sit down, and rest, away from the crowds and the noise of the fun fare.



Our annual **Bread of Life** competition is becoming an integral part the Dartmouth Food Festival. It was the first thing we did when we arrived in 2013, and we felt God say that this will put the Flavel Church back on the map – the following year the map of venues for the Food festival had Flavel Church as venue #1. We are not sure how many visitors are conscious of the scriptures we have posted above the bread but we pray that the message will come across.

We invited Melanie Otto, who is currently doing her curacy in Westbury, to preach last Sunday. Word got around and Mick and Jill Jones (now living in Torquay) decided to pop across and see her. Peter Law (former vicar of Chineham) was visiting them that weekend, so it turned into a bit of a **Basingstoke reunion**. It was great to see them all, and we had an uplifting day together.

We thank God for His provision both individually and as a church. Since Karl lost his job in January we have seen amazing things happen month by month (cheques in the post, replacement car, some people we don't know gave us a short hotel break in North Devon! etc ..) it is a real test of faith, and very humbling. There have also been some amazing donations to the work of the church. (the £28k for the coffee lounge refurbishment was raised in a week !)
We are feeling very blessed and grateful.

We thank you for your continued support, without you we wouldn't be able to continue this amazing work.

Every blessing

Karl and Deb xx

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...the heart of the community

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4 PEOPLE HAVE NOW BECOME CHRISTIANS ON THE ALPHA COURSE – HALLELUJAH!!