



Poole Christian Fellowship

www.poolechristianfellowship.org

THE BULLETIN

November 2009

Believe and Be Baptised!

We are delighted to be opening up the baptistry for the first time for a while on November 1st.

At Poole Christian Fellowship we find baptisms a time of great joy and of encouragement. It is useful to use this slot in the bulletin to explain a little about what we do and why we do it.

The word "baptism" in the bible is an un-translated Greek word meaning "to dip" or "to immerse". That is why we practise baptism by completely immersing someone into the water.

And **who** do we baptise? In the New Testament everyone who had believed in the Lord Jesus was a candidate for baptism. The invitation given by Peter on that great day of Pentecost was "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call." The call to be baptised was made at the same time as the call to repent and to turn to Jesus. It happens in the Bible right at the start of someone's Christian life.

So we can say that to baptise those who have not yet themselves had the opportunity to turn to Jesus (eg very young children) is not appropriate. But it IS appropriate to baptise anyone who has genuinely turned to Christ in repentance and faith.

Baptism has been described as the "badge of discipleship". It is the outward sign that someone belongs to Jesus and has committed themselves to following him. It is not a sign of maturity or progress in the Christian life - rather it is the outward declaration that someone has started on the path of following Jesus.

In the water the person being baptised identifies themselves with the death and resurrection of Jesus and says, in effect, "this applies to me".

We look forward to opening the baptistry on many more occasions, as more trust in the Lord Jesus, and take the first step of obedience to Him.

"Believe and Be Baptised"

Who's next?



"The Holy Spirit and You"

We are now well into our Thursday evening series on the Holy Spirit and You. These have been well-attended and have generated a lot of good discussion and encouragement.

There are two more sessions this year on 12th and 26th November respectively, starting at 8pm. On the 26th we will be looking at how the Holy Spirit makes us more like Jesus. The 12th November a key evening when we will be considering how the Holy Spirit baptises and fills Christians.

As a taster please consider the following quote from that great 20th Century prophet A.W Tozer:



" I want here boldly to assert that it is my happy belief that every Christian can have a copious outpouring of the Holy Spirit in a measure far beyond that received at conversion."

(A.W. Tozer "The Divine Conquest")

John MacDiarmid

Eldership Matters

At the Church Members' Meeting on 20th October both Nigel Green and David Foster indicated their intention to step down from their roles as Elders of Poole Christian Fellowship at the end of 2009. A few words from each of them appear below where they say a little more about their decision.

There will be plenty of opportunity to honour their contribution and to express our appreciation, probably in early January. But let us now briefly note our thanks and our respect for the years of service on the eldership that both David and Nigel have delivered. Strong churches are built on the lives and contributions of men like these and we look forward to expressing our appreciation fully in due course.

As was pointed out at the members meeting, there is no set number of elders that a church needs to have, and the eldership of Nick May, Richard Miles and John MacDiarmid (serving full time) will oversee the church from 1 January 2010 onwards. This is God's provision of eldership for the church for the next phase of our lives together. We know that God will continue to raise up people for service as the work moves forward.

We now also have a group of "retired" elders. David and Nigel join Malcolm Lamb as former elders whose advice and support will prove so valuable as we move forwards as a church. *John MacDiarmid*

Minutes available to members from Linda Rose

From Bournemouth University Christian Union

Thank you so much for the donation (£250), we are so grateful to you for all your support in both prayer, financially and practically.

Thank you for opening up the church when we were welcoming the students to Corfe house and for providing so much great food and drinks! We greatly appreciated all your support, and was a great encouragement to us having the church with us...it makes such a difference!

Thank you very much for your generous donation, we have a houseparty (6th-8th November) and a mission's week coming up (16th—20th November) and that will be such a massive help in putting on the events and publicising them! Thank you! - *Lucy—BU Christian Union*

"The Messiah"

If anyone would like to attend Handl's "Messiah" at the Lighthouse, Poole on Wednesday 16th December, please see Stephanie Lafferty for tickets as soon as possible.

A Time for Everything.....Under Heaven!

Over the past 15 years I have both put down and taken up a number of different responsibilities and work loads. For eight years, since I was asked to join the eldership team at PCF, it has been a privilege to serve the fellowship in that capacity. Thank you all for the love and patience and support you have shown to both Pauline and myself—there is no doubt at all that God has graciously allowed us to work as a team.



I have felt for a while, that reaching the allotted span of three score years and ten (that's 70 for the younger folk!) would be an appropriate time to think about my on-going involvement in the future leadership of the fellowship., I have been sharing this with the other elders and more recently at the membership meeting on 20th October. From the end of the year I shall be stepping down, I will no longer be taking my share of the day by day regular eldership responsibilities.

But.....you won't notice too much difference! I shall still be around, attending as many of the church activities as possible, helping with transport, visiting and taking care of people where I can. I shall not however be a part of the eldership team in quite the way I have been; nor shall I be giving out the notices each week! However, I do not think one retires from being an elder—the heart for pastoral care is still there. Rather it means that my close involvement in an on-going, daily way is laid down. We have no particular number of elders at PCF there will still be three and John is in full time ministry in the church. But we can pray for the Lord to raise up and show any whom He is preparing and calling for that future responsibility.—*David Foster*

....And a Season for Every Activity!

As outlined at our recent members' meeting, I will be stepping down from formal eldership responsibilities at the end of this year. When the church was informed of our plans to spend more time in Greece this step was foreseen but without a particular time frame. It proved important to continue serving in the difficult period after our sad loss of Paul Newberry and during the time leading to the release of John MacDiarmid into full time ministry, but the governmental aspects of eldership are not sustainable long-term when Ruby & I are away nearly half of the year. We will be returning to Greece in January (DV) and so the end of this year marks a good time to lay those responsibilities down. We are in the enviable position of feeling completely at home, both here and in Crete, but obviously it is not practical to be involved in the day to day decision making as a serving elder at PCF. I intend, of course, to be available to John and our other elders for as much help and support as they deem desirable and Ruby & I will continue to be connected to the ongoing life of PCF and its activities.

I'm taking this this opportunity to commend my fellow elders to you for your continued prayer and concern so that their labours might be as full of joy as mine have been....precisely because of the the wonderful level of prayerful support over the years. I have to say that the long period which has elapsed since the first leadership team was established at PCF has been characterised by very few disappointments, a few sadnesses as we remember those who have gone to be with the Lordand many joys. There is a wonderful sense of church life here, expressed in the mutual care and support of PCF's members .

Almost finally, I want to thank my lovely wife, Ruby . Her unwavering love and support has been incalculable and she has stood alongside me and shared so faithfully in all aspects of my time as an elder . Finally I thank the Lord who is the One we serve in whatever capacity He has called us....ultimately all that any of us do is for His glory and honour.—

Nigel Green



“Continue in Prayer” - Col. 4:2

It is interesting to remark how large a portion of Sacred Writ is occupied with the subject of prayer, either in furnishing examples, enforcing precepts, or pronouncing promises. We scarcely open the Bible before we read, “Then began men to call upon the name of the Lord,” and just as we are about to close the volume, the “Amen” of an earnest supplication meets our ear. Instances are plentiful. Here we find a wrestling Jacob—there a Daniel who prayed three times a day—and a David who with all his heart called upon his God. On the mountain we see Elijah, in the dungeon Paul and Silas. We have multitudes of commands, and myriads of promises. What does this teach us, but the sacred importance and necessity of prayer? We may be certain that whatever God has made prominent in His Word, He intended to be conspicuous in our lives. If He has said much about prayer, it is because He knows we have much need of it. So deep are our necessities, that until we are in heaven we must not cease to pray. Does thou want nothing? Then, I fear thou dost not know thy poverty. Hast thou no mercy to ask of God? Then, may the Lord’s mercy show thee thy misery! A prayerless soul is a Christless soul. Prayer in the lisping of the believing infant, the shout of the fighting believer, the requiem of the dying saint falling asleep in Jesus. It is the breath, the watchword, the comfort, the strength, the honour of a Christian. If thou be a child of God, thou wilt seek thy Father’s face, and live in thy Father’s love. Pray that this year thou mayst be holy, humble, zealous and patient; have closer communion with Christ, and enter oftener into the the banqueting house of His love. Pray that thou mayst be an example and a blessing unto others, and that thou mayst live more to the glory of thy Master,. The motto for this year must be, “Continue in prayer.”

C.H. Spurgeon—“Morning and Evening” January 1st. Contributed by Nigel Green

Please Pray for the Aberystwyth Christian Union house-party 6th—8th November. John has the privilege of speaking four times during the weekend on the theme “Alive in Christ”.

Church Weekend Away

We have booked a church weekend away together on Friday 25th June untilk Sunday 27th June 2010.

This will be a great opportunity for everyone associated with PCF to spend quality time together in comfortable and beautiful surroundings enjoying the Lord and enjoying each other’s company.

The venue is the Sidholme Hotel in Devon. More details are available at www.christianguild.com



As far as cost details of the programme and facilities are concerned more details will follow later. However, this weekend is open to everyone associated with PCF, members or not, young and old, and the hotel has facilities to handle those of all ages and in all situations. It is also worth saying at this point that we are determined that no one involved with church will be prevented from coming by financial constraints.

More details will follow, but in the meantime put in your 2010 diary! It will be a great weekend—don’t be missing!

John MacDiarmid

PCF Contacts

Elders David Foster John MacDiarmid Nick May Nigel Green Richard Miles	Website Webmaster Ben Lamb
Church Administrator Linda Rose	Youth Gez Jones
Sunday School Helen MacDiarmid	Daytime Bible Study Jean Edwards
Coffee Morning Margaret May Stephanie Lafferty	Housegroups Central Jon & Lynne White East Duncan & Helen Williams North Nick & Margaret May West Jo W & Linda Rose
Musicians Caleb Green Tim Stone	Please see one of the housegroup leaders or an elder if you would like to attend

- Events Diary for November -

Sunday 1st	10.10am 10.30am	Prayer Celebration led by Richard Miles Speaker:- John MacDiarmid:- Luke 1:26-38 "The Girl who said Yes!" Bring and Share Lunch Baptisms
Monday 2nd	7.00pm	Youth Group
Tuesday 3rd	10.30am 8.00pm	Open Door House Groups
Wednesday 4th	10.00am 7.30pm	Discipleship Explored - "Righteous in Christ" Young Peoples Bible Study at Richard & Sarah Miles home
Thursday 5th	8.00pm	Elders Meeting
Friday 6th—Sunday 8th		John & Helen away at Aberystwyth University Christian Union Houseparty
Sunday 8th	10.10am 10.30am	Prayer Celebration led by Nick May Speaker—Richard Miles
Monday 9th	7.00pm	Youth Group
Tuesday 10th	10.30am 8.00pm	Open Door All together for prayer
Wednesday 11th	10.00am 7.30pm	Daytime Bible Study Young Peoples Bible Study at Matt Goodall's home
Thursday 12th	8.00pm	The Holy Spirit and You - "Baptising You and Filling You"
Sunday 15th	10.10am 10.30am 7.00pm	Prayer Celebration led by Richard Miles Speaker:- John MacDiarmid—Luke 1:39-56 "God's Plan Unfolds" Prayer and Praise
Monday 16th	7.00pm	Youth Group
Tuesday 17th	10.30am 8.00pm	Open Door House Groups
Wednesday 18th	10.00am 7.30pm	Discipleship Explored - "Knowing Christ" Young Peoples Bible Study at Nigel & Ruby Green's home
Thursday 19th	8.00pm	Elders Meeting
Sunday 22nd	9.30am 10.10am 10.30am	Meeting at Dorset House Prayer Celebration led by John MacDiarmid "9 to 5" with Duncan Williams Speaker—David Foster We will be breaking bread
Monday 23rd	7.00pm	Youth Group
Tuesday 24th	10.30am 8.00pm	Open Door All together for Prayer
Wednesday 25th	10.00am 7.20pm	Daytime Bible Study Young Peoples Bible Study at Jack and Flora Knox' home
Thursday 26th	8.00pm	The Holy Spirit and You - "Making you like Jesus"
Sunday 29th	10.10am 10.30am	Prayer Celebration led by Nick May Speaker:- John MacDiarmid—Luke 1:57-80 "A Promise Fulfilled"
Monday 30th	7.00pm	Youth Group