



Poole Christian Fellowship

www.poolechristianfellowship.org

THE BULLETIN

January 2010

“Jesus Christ: the same yesterday, today and forever”

I don't know what your emotions are as we start 2010. The new year always brings with it a mixture of feelings, often depending on our circumstances. These can range from excitement to fear, with everything in between.

It may be that 2010 promises to be a year of great excitement and opportunity for you. Or it could be that fear of the future, changing situations and uncertainty are producing a sense of deep anxiety. As Christians we are not immune from such things.

The answer? "Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, .." (Hebrews 12 v 2)

Whatever the changing circumstances of life, Jesus doesn't change. His word is as true as it ever was. As we commit ourselves to him for a new year of challenge and opportunity let's remember that, whatever 2010 holds, He is with us, and He doesn't change.

Eldership Matters

As has been already announced David Foster and Nigel Green stood down from day to day eldership responsibilities at the end of 2009 and the eldership of PCF now consists of Nick May, Richard Miles and John MacDiarmid, who serves the church full-time. Both David and Nigel are, of course, staying with PCF and will continue as active members and as trustees. They also join Malcolm Lamb in the ranks of "retired elders", whose advice and wisdom will be so welcome and so needed as we move forward together.

At our "Bring and Share" lunch on 3rd January we shall be formally thanking David and Nigel for their work as elders, but it is appropriate in this edition of the bulletin to say a few words of appreciation.

Nigel has been at PCF since its inception in 1989. He was a part of the original leadership team and has served on the eldership from those early days. In 2007, when Nigel and Ruby obeyed God's call to go to Greece, Nigel told us that it was not practical for him to continue in his present role of elder. He graciously agreed to defer his exit until the matter of full-time ministry was resolved and implemented.



The time has come now for us to release him from the weight of eldership at PCF to the work to which God has called Ruby and himself in Crete, where they will continue to spend a proportion of the year.

Nigel's contribution to the development of PCF has been too large to document. His integrity and whole-hearted commitment to local church life and the kingdom of God has been a joy to work with over the years. Many also will testify to the quiet pastoral care which he and Ruby have given to so many. It is difficult to imagine the leadership without him.

David joined PCF in 1998 with all his years of experience gained largely from his lifetime of missionary service in Zambia. We welcomed him onto the eldership in 2001. I remember well discussing the possible appointment of David to the eldership with Paul Newberry (then in Maidstone) who replied: "No problem at all with David. He's an exemplary Christian" Those words have been shown to be the case again and again as David has shown outstanding commitment to the Lord and to the people he served. His individual care to people in need has left many people in his debt and been an example to all of us. Having recently turned 70, David has felt that the time has come to lay down day-to-day responsibility. His input into the eldership will be greatly missed - but, like Nigel, his role at PCF will continue. By the way - there will never be another notice-giver like David - so we're not even going to try and follow him!



The final verdict on anyone's service rests with the Lord. None of us has yet finished the race that God has called us to. But in the meantime to these two outstanding servants of God and their wives we say "thank you...and well done"

To the rest of us we reflect on Nigel's and David's service in the light of God's instruction in Hebrews 13 v 7

"Remember your leaders, who spoke the word of God to you. Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith"

John MacDiarmid

Praying for the Work of the Kingdom

One of the pleas at the end of April 2009 was "what a great month of prayer - can we do it again?"

So - here we are again: a month of prayer starting on 3 January and finishing on Friday 29th January.

With changes afoot in eldership and in housegroups it is the right time to commit ourselves to pray, pray and pray for the work of the kingdom of God.

We will launch the month of prayer at 7pm on Sunday 3rd January at our "Prayer and Praise" evening, and finish with a day of prayer on Friday 29th. There are many elements of the month of prayer - here are some of them.

1. Prayer triplets

We would like to encourage everyone to be a part of a "prayer triplet". Basically this means that you meet at a time of your choosing once a week during every week of the month. You set your own agenda and meeting time. Some may feel that they would like to re-form the triplet they had in April. Some may like to change - and for those who are new in the last year you will of course be doing this for the first time.

2. Prayer Times

Early morning, morning, afternoon and evening prayer times.

Each week there will be at least one early morning prayer meeting, one morning, one afternoon and one evening.

3. Final week

In the final week we build up to a crescendo with evening prayer times every day and a day of prayer on the final day, which we would also like to designate as a day of prayer and fasting.

"Explore" the Bible Together

About 90 of us have signed up to participate in the "Explore" Bible Reading program.

This means that all of us using the programme will be reading and thinking through the same passage each day. There is also the option to read through the bible in a year.



For those of you who have signed up, you should have received your January to March notes. The rest will follow quarter by quarter. If there is anyone who has missed the opportunity to join this program, the cost is £13 for the year (payable at your convenience to Linda please) and it is not too late to join.

God's people all in the word together is one of the most powerful things in local church life. Be prepared to be blessed, challenged, built up and used!

Housegroups

There was some sadness at the end of 2009 as the current arrangement of housegroups came to an end. We never change anything for its own sake and we brought the current scheme to an end because there was no other choice.

We would like to invite the church to join us in praying together for direction for the next phase of church life. There are plenty of ideas but no clear direction as to how we should proceed in dividing up the church for fellowship, pastoral care and encouragement.

A big focus of our prayer times together for the month of January therefore will be to be asking God together how we should proceed

"As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to one hope when you were called—one, Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all."

(Ephesians 4: 1-6)

A Time to say "Thank You"...

The first Sunday of the New Year will be a special day for PCF. On that Sunday we shall be having a bring and share lunch after our main meeting. After lunch we shall be saying "thank you" to our two outgoing elders, Nigel Green and David Foster.

As we have already said, this is not "goodbye", as David and Nigel will continue their service at PCF, but they are both laying down their eldership roles at the end of December 2009.

Make a note to be there - get it in your 2010 diary!



PCF House Party 25th—27th June 2010

Have you paid your deposit yet?

Remember your place is booked on the house party with a £20 deposit. Please see Linda for your booking.

Vietnam - Christian Denomination Awarded Official Recognition

The Vietnamese government has awarded official recognition to the Assemblies of God, which, for the past 20 years, was an illegal Christian denomination. The director of Ho Chi Minh City's Committee for Religious and Ethnic Affairs said, "Before the recognition it was an illegal religious organisation and we had warned them for their violations." However, the church had never been punished because Vietnamese laws were unclear on how they should be treated. It is expected that it could take up to a year before the organisation's status becomes fully legal. The Vietnam Law on Religion, which was passed in 2007, required all denominations to apply to the Committee on Religious Affairs to obtain legal recognition. The Assemblies of God has been active in Vietnam since 1989, with over 40,000 members. Without recognition under the 2007 law, Christian groups would have difficulty building churches or organising religious gatherings.



Praise the Lord for this piece of good news in Vietnam.

Pray that the authorities will be prompt in progressing the paperwork to make the church fully legal.

Pray for a complete end to the persecution of Christians in Vietnam.

Barnabas Fund—Prayer Focus Update for December

PCF Contacts

Elders John MacDiarmid Nick May Richard Miles		Website Webmaster Ben Lamb	
Church Administrator Linda Rose		Youth Gez Jones	
Sunday School Helen MacDiarmid		Daytime Bible Study Jean Edwards	
"Open Door" Margaret May Stephanie Lafferty		Musicians Caleb Green Tim Stone	

- Events Diary for January -

Sunday 3rd	10.10am 10.30am 7.00pm	Prayer Celebration led by Richard Miles “Final Notices” - from David Foster Speaker:- John MacDiarmid Bring and Share Lunch Prayer and Praise
Monday 4th	10.30am	Prayer for “Open Door” at Margaret May’s home
Tuesday 5th	10.30am 8.00pm	“Open Door” Prayer
Thursday 7th	2.00pm	Prayer
Friday 8th	7.00am	Early Morning Prayer
Sunday 10th	10.10am 10.30am	Prayer Celebration led by John MacDiarmid Speaker:- Richard Miles
Tuesday 12th	10.30am 8.00pm	“Open Door” Prayer
Monday 11th	7.00pm	Youth Group
Thursday 14th	10.00am	Prayer
Friday 15th	7.00am	Early Morning Prayer
Sunday 17th	10.10am 10.30am 7.00pm	Prayer Celebration led by Nick May Speaker:- Nigel Green We will be breaking bread Prayer and Praise
Monday 18th	2.00pm	Prayer
Tuesday 19th	10.30am 8.00pm	“Open Door” Prayer
Wednesday 21st	10.00am	Prayer
Friday 22nd	7.00am	Early Morning Prayer
Sunday 24th	9.30am 10.10am 10.30am	Meeting at Dorset House Prayer Celebration led by Richard Miles “9-5” with Ralf Buchholz Speaker:- John MacDiarmid
Monday 25th	8.00pm	Prayer
Tuesday 26th	7.00am 8.00pm	Prayer Prayer
Wednesday 27th	2.00pm 8.00pm	Prayer Prayer
Thursday 28th	10.00am 8.00pm	Prayer Prayer
Friday 29th		Day of Prayer and Fasting 7.00am 10.00am 2.00pm 7.00pm
Sunday 31st	10.10am 10.30am	Prayer Celebration led by Nick May Speaker:- Richard Miles