

## CHRISTIAN ESCAPES

I have often come across many stories of how the Lord has set people free from their despair. Like Nou in the following story, he found freedom when hearing the Good News about Jesus on his local radio :

Nou had always felt like he didn't quite belong in his clan. Like most Hmong people, Nou's life was organized around the life of his large clan. Despite being constantly surrounded by family, Nou was plagued with feelings of loneliness.



He was the middle brother in a family of six boys. Throughout his childhood, he was frequently forgotten by his parents and bullied by his older brothers.

When he reached an eligible age for marriage, Lia had high hopes that life would begin to become better. Wanting to please his elder brothers, Nou married their choice for his marriage, Lia. Unfortunately, Lia made Nou's life even more difficult by openly disrespecting him and constantly complaining about Nou's humble income. Oftentimes, Nou yelled at God, angry that He would put Nou in such miserable circumstances. Feeling beaten down, lonely, and worthless, he contemplated taking his own life. Days before he was planning on following through with his suicide plans, Nou heard the Good News. He tuned in to an FEBC (Far East Broadcasting Company) broadcast on the internet and it changed his life. After so many years of being fed lies about himself, Nou heard the Gospel and knew it was the truth he had been longing for. He understood that he was chosen by God, saved by grace, and was to respond by living a life of worship.

Nou wrote into the FEBC Broadcast staff in Vietnam thanking them for their ministry: "Your program is so helpful to me," said Nou. "Many times I have wanted to end my life because of a difficult family situation. I was very angry with God. But when I listened to your programs and heard the truth about the Good News, I was so happy. And truly when I understood about salvation, it changed everything."

On visiting John Haynes in hospital over the past couple of weeks, he's been sharing with me some of the horrors of being poorly and not being of sound mind. He told me he had dreamt about trying to escape hospital and how it had become an obsession to get to St Jude's Church at all cost. He dreamt about how he could get passed the security guard on the desk by killing him with a knife. Sadly, John has discovered that his attempts to escape in his dreams were actual reality caused by his confused state of mind due to an infection. This has really frightened John to think that he would even be thinking such things. How fragile the mind is and how easily it is unbalanced. I must admit to being amused by John's story, but then horrified (like he is) that he could even think of such things. Please continue to pray for John. He hope to be home by now but the infection has returned. With my weird sense of humour I couldn't help taking a picture of the cafe in New Cross with the 'Escape'. John did find it amusing.



The days of stereotyping colours and genders is long since gone. We sang two songs—Welcome to the Family

## PRETTY IN PINK!

It was Paige Kathlynn Emily Morris's big day last Sunday when she was Baptised at St Andrew's. Here she is with her brothers and mom and dad. And what a lovely picture it is too. The church was packed with over a hundred guests. Pink is obviously in for the boys and why not?



and He's got the whole wide world, in His hands with the third verse changes to—"He's got tiny baby Paige, in His hands..." Bishop Paul looks forward to adding to his supply of Baptism cake. Notice, we even co-ordinated the flowers for the occasion too!



## COFFEE & CHAT—FREE

The Coffee & Chat Shop will be open for business as usual tomorrow and every Monday.

Come and enjoy a chat and a specialised coffee or the best Bishop's Brew in Bentley! Toast is always available. The kitchen staff have stickyfuts to prove they can produce quality toast with jam and marmalade or just butter.

This is a free community project compliments of St Andrew's Church and you will, as always, be made very welcome.

# ST ANDREW'S CHURCH

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## CHURCH WARDENS

Colin Hunter & Mark Spiers BA(Hons) 1st Class

01902 601656

01902 632750

## LAY READERS

Paul Reynolds, Colin Hunter and Mark Spiers

## SUNDAY SERVICES

10am ~ Morning Service

11:30am ~ Family Praise

6pm ~ Evening Prayer

Holy Communion 1st am & 3rd pm Services

## Mid-week activities:

- **MONDAYS** 10am to 1pm Coffee & Chat
- **TUESDAYS** 9:30am BWS Ladies Group
- 10am to 1pm Bishop in Denom. Office
- 7:00pm Bible Study
- **WEDNESDAYS** 7:30am Prayer Group
- 12:30pm Luncheon Club
- 2:00pm Friendship Club
- 7:00pm Youth Club
- **THURSDAYS** 11:00am Holy Communion
- 10am to 1pm Bishop in Denom. Office
- **SATURDAYS** 10:00am Saturday Workshop

MORE CHURCH CLEANERS REQUIRED (See +Paul)

## NEXT CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

This will be held on Thursday 29th May at 7pm.

## LESSONS LOG

11th May—Psalm 23; Acts 2:22-47  
Nehemiah 9:6-15; 1 Peter 2:19-25; John 10:1-10  
am Bishop; pm Bishop

18th May—Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16; Acts 7:55-60  
Deuteronomy 6:20=25; 1 Peter 2:2-10; John 14:1-14  
am L-Colin, P-Paul; pm L-Mark, P-Mark

## NEW CONFIRMATION CLASSES

These will begin after Convocation, so if you are interested, please speak to Bishop Paul as soon as possible.

## WEEKLY PRAYER UPDATE

- Lord, we pray for **Pamela, Chrissie**, and great grandson **Finley**.
- Lord, we put the following friends and congregation into your hands: **Mary, Julie, Jean, Hilary, Pam** and **Elizabeth**.
- We bring **Betty & Colin** before you, Lord. Keep them safe.
- Lord, thank you **Arline** is getting much better.
- Please pray for **Iris** and **Alan** with Alan's deteriorating health.
- Thank you, Lord, **Dan's Nan, Dot**, is much better. May it continue.
- Pray for **Audrey** who finds her mobility an increasing problem.
- Lord, we pray for **Carole** as she improves following an operation.
- Continue to pray for **Mike** with his diverticulitis problems.
- Pray for **Sylvia** now in Winehala Court. She came for her lunch.
- Pray for **Doris** who continues to suffer with her sciatica.
- Remember too **Doris** (who sits with Sheila) who has been a little unsteady on her feet since her recent illness.
- Pray for morning service **Ron**, who had a slight stroke. Ron has hospital appointments to attend, but is a little better.
- Thank you, Lord, for **Nigel** and Readers **Colin, Paul** and **Mark** who look after all the services, while Bishop Paul visits other churches. Pray for them as they continue to work on their Deacons papers.
- Pray for **Jean's** husband, **Al**. He has begun his cancer treatment. Lord, help Jean to cope too.
- Give thanks that **Doreen** is a little better. Pray also for **Jimmy's family** in the Ukraine.
- Pray for **Steph, Lucy's** carer, as she is now well through her treatment of Chemotherapy. Her sessions are every three weeks. How lovely to see her and **Lucy's mom and dad** at our Luncheon Club.
- Lord, we put the family of **Margaret Phipps** to you. She passed away last week. Her funeral will take place in St Andrew's Church on Friday 16th May at 1pm.
- Remember **Mary & Les** in your prayers.
- Please pray for the family of **Pauline Margaret Marlow** who was 77 years old. Her funeral took place on Tuesday 6th May.
- Please pray for **John Haynes** (who works in the Denominational office). John suffered a heart attack and also pneumonia and is presently in New Cross Hospital. Although a little better the consultant doesn't think he can do any operations. John's breathing is better, but still a concern. Pray also for **Doreen** and all his **Church Family at St Jude's**.
- Pray for **Toni and Alex's** following their wedding last week.
- Pray for the family of **Graham Marigold** who was 66 years old. His funeral takes place in Church on Friday 23rd May at 10:30am.
- Please remember **Bishop Paul** as he still has much to do in preparation for Convocation a week on Monday. Lord, thank you for Judy's helping hands last Thursday, we accomplished a lot.
- Pray for the two visitors who came to see Bishop Paul last week - **Paul Gardiner** from East London and **Robert Boyd** from Rochdale. Pray that they are guided by the Lord to do a work for Him under the umbrella of the Free Church of England.



### STRANGE HAPPENINGS IN THE VESTRY

What kind of films do you like to watch? Comedy, love stories, adventure? Well, I know I like a good horror film because it usually ends up with good overcoming evil. But what about finding this little ghostly image in the Vestry? However, if you look very closely, I think you may recognise those rather fancy shoes. I don't think I have ever seen a ghost with such lovely glittery shoes and I think the giggles was also a big giveaway. Can you guess who it is?



gation in a hall and hopes to get more involved with the Free Church of England. Please include him in your prayers.

### BLOSSOM TIME >>>>

What a lovely picture but also what a shame it doesn't last for long.



### GOD SEES THE LITTLE SPARROW FALL

You can see from the photo below that I am enjoying the church house garden. I am amazed how many fat balls a bird can eat! I top these up every couple of days, just to keep them going. The photo below is just a couple of Sparrows but it got me thinking about what God thinks about me if He sees the little sparrow fall? I think the old hymn opposite sums all that up nicely.



### <<<<<VISITORS

Meet the Revd Paul Gardiner who drove all the way from East London to meet Bishop Paul last Thursday. Here he is with his two eldest boys Joshua and Luke. (He has another six children at home, including two sets of twins!) He runs a small (40) congre-

God sees the little sparrow fall,  
It meets his tender view;  
If God so loves the little birds,  
I know He loves me too.

(Refrain)

He loves me too,  
He loves me too,  
I know He loves me too.  
Because He loves the little things,  
I know He loves me too.

He paints the lily of the field,  
Perfumes each lily bell;  
If He so loves the little flow'rs,  
I know He loves me well.  
(Refrain)

God made the little birds  
and flow'rs,  
and all things large and small;  
He'll not forget His little ones,  
I know He loves them all.  
(Refrain)



## ST ANDREW'S CHURCH BENTLEY

## WEEKLY NEWS & PRAYER SHEET

## THIRD SUNDAY AFTER EASTER

11 MAY 2014

ISSUE 357

Visit: [www.standrewsbentley.org.uk](http://www.standrewsbentley.org.uk)



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However, if you cannot afford a donation,  
then please take one, with our compliments.