

*WELLINGTON  
CHAPEL*

*GRAPEVINE  
CHURCH FAMILY NEWS*

*DECEMBER 2009 - MARCH 2010*

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Dear friends,

***Unless the Lord builds the house, its builders labour in vain.***  
**Psalm 127 v.1**

2010 looks like being a very exciting one for us all. With the contracts for the sale of the building plots now at last exchanged, we have every hope that by spring time or early summer the work of building the extension will be in progress. It will be wonderful to have more space for the children's and young people's activities, a kitchen large enough for us to cater for some special events, not to mention decent toilets and not having to squelch our way through mud to get from a car to the chapel entrance !

However, as welcome as all this will be, it is not the main thing and we must be very careful not to allow it to distract us from the main thing. And what is that ? Getting the Gospel out to people, young and old, and ourselves growing in faith and godliness ! A better building will only be of any value in as far as it helps towards these all important objectives. And we do not have to wait, and must not wait, until the building is better before we are whole hearted in pursuing them.

The quotation above is from a Psalm ascribed to King Solomon – himself a great builder. But this is his wise and humble affirmation. May it be ours too as we face the coming months. Even for the completion of the physical building we are dependent on God. We anticipate that there will be a very significant shortfall between the proceeds from the sale of the building plots and the cost of the extension – perhaps as much as £100,000. At this stage we do not know where that will come from; but we do know that nothing is too hard for the Lord. Years ago I was involved in another church building project where the extraordinary and timely supply of a similar amount of money proved to be a wonderful testimony, to believers and unbelievers alike, to the God who answers prayer. Let's pray it will be so in the situation we face now.

But back to the main thing ! What we are about is the building of the house of God. And no building, whether great cathedral or humble chapel, is that. God's house is His people – those who have come to put their trust in, and to love, the Lord Jesus Christ. And it is only God who can build this house whether here in Wellington or anywhere else. Amazingly we have a part to play; we are, says the apostle Paul, God's fellow workers. But, unless He builds the house, causing us to grow as believers and bringing others to faith and joining them to us, we will achieve nothing, however hard we work, except our own exhaustion.

So we need to pray. To pray seriously and persistently. To pray together as a fellowship (do join us at the church prayer meetings as often as you possibly can) and to pray in our families and on our own.

It will indeed be wonderful if, by the end of 2010, we can look at and be using a completed building. It will be far more wonderful if we can see both spiritual and numerical growth in the building that really matters.

The main thing is to keep the main thing the main thing ! Let's work with all the strength God gives us. But let's pray that God will do the work that only He can do.

Should you read this in time, Margaret joins me in wishing you a truly happy Christmas and a new year full of the blessing of our gracious God.

Peter

## **Church Programme**

### **Some special events**

**February 7<sup>th</sup>** Stephen Trump who has been a missionary in Belgium for many years will preach at our morning service and this will be followed by a church family lunch. Soup and drinks will be provided but please bring other items which can be shared. Immediately after lunch Stephen will tell us something about the church and Gospel ministry in Belgium.

**Saturday March 20<sup>th</sup> Chapel Work Day** Provisional timing: 10.am to 2.30pm. but to be confirmed nearer the date. Many hands make light work! Please reserve some time that day to help if you possibly can.

**Sunday sermons:** Except when we have visiting preachers the pastor will be continuing the Sunday morning series on the opening chapters of Romans under the heading ***This is the Good News.*** In the evenings in January and February we will continue to look at the life of Abraham and what it means to ***live by faith in a world of unbelief.***

**Preachers** during the pastor's absences:

January 17<sup>th</sup>: am & pm: Les Crosthwaite. (Challenge Church S. Hereford)

February 28<sup>th</sup> am Peter Dennis; pm John Roberts

**The Lord's Supper** is held at 10.00am each Sunday morning and is also included in the evening service on the last Sunday of each month.

**Church Members Meeting:** Tuesday January 19<sup>th</sup> at 8pm

**Prayer Meetings:** at the chapel every Tuesday evening at **7.30pm** when there is not a Bible Study or Church members meeting.

***We realise that older friends find our evening meetings difficult to attend. . If anyone would be interested in a regular day-time meeting for prayer please speak to the pastor.***

### **Bible Studies:**

We will be studying 1 Thessalonians on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday evenings in each month at 8pm.

January 12 <sup>th</sup>	at Fairacre, Canon Pyon
January 26 <sup>th</sup>	at 8 Church Road, Lyde
February 9 <sup>th</sup>	at 4 Wells Road, Credenhill
February 23 <sup>rd</sup>	at Brick House, Wellington
March 9 <sup>th</sup>	at 4 Bramley Hollow, Wellington
March 23 <sup>rd</sup>	at 4 Wells Road, Credenhill.

Outlines for the Bible Studies will be available. Please pick one up – even if you cannot attend you might like to use it for studying it at home.

**Coffee Mornings** at the chapel: January 19<sup>th</sup> February 16<sup>th</sup>, March 16<sup>th</sup> .  
Drop in for tea/coffee, cake and a chat.

**Kidzone and Youth Group:** recommence on Friday January 8<sup>th</sup> (5.30 and 6.30pm) and Monday January 11<sup>th</sup> (6.30pm) respectively.

### **Fellowship News**

We have been delighted to welcome **Amy Gregg** and **Ian and Clara Lewis** into church membership. If you would like to consider becoming a church member please speak to the pastor or to Derek or Mark.

**Alice Styles** continues to be happily settled at Field Farm House. Do not forget her in your prayers –and remember that she loves to have visitors ! Please pray for **Betty and Peggy Wall** and **Sheila Smith** in the responsibilities they carry for the work at **Marden Chapel**..

### **Building Work**

We expect work to begin on the new access road and car park early in the new year. Only after this work is finished will we have completion of the sale of the building plots. PLEASE keep children away from the area where work is being done and from the contractor's machinery. Estimates are currently being sought for the building of the extension. Do remember all these things in your prayers – not only that sufficient funds will be available but that all the work will be done well and on time and that all our contact with builders etc will commend the Gospel to them.

**If you would like to chat with Peter or Margaret Seccombe** about any issue please do not hesitate to contact them. They will be happy to arrange a suitable place and time to do so.