

Dear Friends,

A number have visited the Tower of London and have had the remarkable and moving experience of seeing a sea of almost 900 000 ceramic poppies laid out in its moat. Each poppy represents the life of a British and Colonial soldier killed during WW I. Millions have visited the Tower to see what has been called an amazing tribute and architectural monument. But what is it a monument to?

Fallen men

The primary purpose of the poppies is to present a powerful and poignant monument to the death of so many on the battlefields of Europe. In other words to remember those who gave their lives. However, the total deaths of both military and civilians from both sides has been estimated at 16 million. Whilst it is right and proper to remember the men who died, so that peace might be secured, let us never forget the death of so many others as a result of WW I.

We thank God that through the death of millions, in world conflicts, many nations enjoy a measure of freedom and democracy that would have been denied them if radical imperialism and nationalism had won the day. We need to remind ourselves, and our children, that the measure of peace and freedom we enjoy today has been won at such a tremendous cost and seek to uphold those institutions and values that maintain peace in our society and world.

Fallen nature

The Lord warned that before his return there would be *'wars and rumours of wars. ... For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom'* (Matt 24:6-7). Whilst this prediction has been manifested in all the wars and aggression since it was spoken they are part of a continuum of conflict that has occurred from the time man sinned against God and are a monument to man's fallen nature.

The phrase, about WW I, as a 'war to end all wars,' though now used disparagingly, when voiced was somewhat idealistic. It was thought, by some, that when the enemy was defeated universal peace would prevail. Yet, 21 years later WW II commenced claiming millions, both military and civilian.

Most desire to see peace prevail in the world, and though a laudable objective, it will always remain an idealistic and forlorn hope. Though nations have been and are at war the reality is that people in society are in conflict also. Though individual animosity does not cause such catastrophic destruction as national conflicts the root cause is still the same - people are sinful. They want their own way.

Not only are nations and individuals in conflict but we are all in conflict with God. We have turned our backs on him with all its consequences - separation from him now and in eternity. Only when Christ returns as *'the Prince of Peace'* (Isaiah 9:6) to establish his everlasting kingdom of love and righteousness will wars cease and true peace prevail. However, even now in this world it is possible, amidst all the manifest conflicts, to know *'the peace of God, which passes all understanding'* (Phil 4:7). God has made it possible to be reconciled to him; to be forgiven and receive eternal life, through the death of his Son, Jesus Christ, who suffered on the cross of Calvary for the sins of all who come to him in repentance and faith. **What a monument to God's justice, love and mercy.**

RS

An Update from James Kight

This is just a quick update on how things have been going since I moved to London to train as an Apprentice at Christ Church Mayfair. Thank you all very much for your prayers and support!

My time is mostly split between children's work and student work. For the children's work I help to lead the Sunday School, where we have a small group of 5-9 year olds. As the church is quite young there aren't many children, and the oldest child we currently have is 9! It has nevertheless been wonderful teaching through the book of Judges this term, and seeing how each of these judges point us towards Jesus as the perfect Saviour. Please do thank the Lord that these children have been taught faithfully at home by their parents, and pray that those leading Sunday School would be able to support the parents as they raise their children in the fear of the Lord. In addition to Sunday School, I also help to lead a Mums and Toddlers group each week, where we get mums (and nannies) from the church and the local area bringing their children. As there are a number of non-Christians coming along, we also have a Friday morning Bible study that they are invited to, and it has been good to see some interest shown in that. Please pray that those parents who aren't Christians would want to come to this Bible study, so that they can hear about Jesus.

For many people, being a student is a crucial time, because it shapes the direction that the rest of their lives take. It is therefore a privilege to be able to help the students see how knowing Jesus affects every area of their lives, and setting in place a foundation of Biblical truth. Alongside the Sunday services, we encourage the students to come along to a midweek meeting each Tuesday. The meeting begins with a talk that addresses a particular topic in the Bible, for example last week we looked at what the Bible teaches about sin. We then have a meal together, before splitting into smaller groups to have an interactive Bible study. I'm leading one of these Bible study groups, and for the whole of this year we are working our way through John's gospel. It has been a highlight to see the students looking closely at what a passage is saying, and seeing how Jesus is the Christ, and that we can have life by believing in His Name. You could pray that this would be used to bring the students to increasing maturity.

Christ Church Mayfair is part of a network of churches across London called Co-Mission, and each Wednesday morning all the apprentices from all the churches meet together for some training. This training is given by senior members of the pastoral teams at the churches, and covers a range of different topics. This term we have had sessions that range from learning how to preach from various types of Old Testament books (narratives, prophets, Psalms etc), to learning how to apply the Bible when we preach, as well as learning how we can counsel members of our congregations using the Bible. Each week we are also reading through a chapter of a Systematic Theology, and having the chance to hear feedback on talks that we've written. This makes for a very busy morning, but one that is brilliant for equipping all the apprentices to be more effective gospel workers. It is a great privilege to be able to learn from people with years of pastoral experience who have much wisdom to pass on.

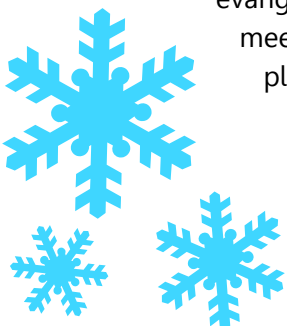
Overall it has been great to be involved in various ministries whilst also getting trained, and I'm very thankful for all the people who have been praying for me and supporting me.

James

DBC Christmas Invitation Cards

This year we are again producing a DBC Christmas Card with an evangelistic message and an invitation to all our Christmas meetings and services. We will be printing them on request, so please use the form on the vestibule Notice Board to order as many as you are able to deliver to your neighbours and local roads. Please indicate against your name the number you want and the roads you will deliver to.

Help us to give this Christmas message and invitation to as many people in Dunstable as we can. Thank you.



Bookstore Update

The Winter season is a very busy time for the bookstore, staff (John & Bev) and the volunteers. We are very thankful for all your prayers and messages of support. We have been travelling a lot and working a six day week for awhile now. We are very thankful for all the volunteers stepping in to keep the bookstore open whilst we travel. The Lord has been very gracious with extra sales, selling through the Christmas stock and our ability to sell through stock we have on the shelves.

Christmas Book Fair

At this time of the year we host a lot of Christmas Book Fair's at churches throughout the Chilterns area, and some further afield. To date we have completed seven book events and have four more to host. Most of these occur with churches that possess a book agent working with Christian Books, and it is our way of helping them by taking the bookstore to their church for a one day event. Some churches treat the book fair as an outreach event by inviting people in from their community and they use the event to reach out. It has been really heart warming to see church members getting alongside visitors to the book fairs and chatting with them. So far we have travelled to:

- ✓ Five Ashdown Chapel, East Sussex
- ✓ Akeman Street Baptist, Tring
- ✓ Limes Avenue Baptist, Aylesbury
- ✓ Alexandra Road Congregational, Hemel Hempstead
- ✓ Limes Avenue Baptist, Aylesbury
- ✓ Potton Baptist, Potton
- ✓ Welwyn Evangelical Church
- ✓ Grace Baptist, Isle of Man (we supplied books for a woman's conference)

To get a flavour of what we do, why not visit our Facebook page to see some of the photos and comments of each book event. Also, we have the following four events planned:

- > Newtown Evangelical Church, Chesham
- > Flitwick Baptist Church
- > Great Whyte Baptist, Ramsey
- > Preaching Pure & Simple conference, Stuart Olyott, Grace Baptist, Edlesborough

Christmas Shopping Nights

A new venture for us is to host some Christmas shopping nights at the end of November and early December. We want to help the local churches who support us all year round, so we have planned three late night shopping events in the bookstore.

- ★ Monday 24th November
- ★ Monday 1st December
- ★ Wednesday 3rd December

We have invited six local churches and we have received tremendous support from all the churches, who will actively promote this new venture within their church. To reward anyone who attends these late night shopping events we are giving away 20% discount on any items purchased during the event + free mince pies, Christmas cake, biscuits, and coffee/tea whilst you browse. We plan to open at 6pm until 9:30pm, to allow those who work regular daytime hours to visit the bookstore + free car parking outside the bookstore. The idea is to enable folk to browse and buy some Christmas presents, and hopefully buy some good Christian books and Bibles.

Christmas Window Display

We have now installed our window display with a book Christmas stable nativity scene, displaying the events leading up to the birth of our Saviour Jesus Christ. The stable scene comes from within a book that folds out from Candle Books.

Cont...

We have red baubles hanging in the window to represent all the temporary glitzy things we fill our lives with that can easily overshadow the true meaning of Christmas - the birth of Emmanuel, the King of Kings, well that's my interpretation (John). This year we have a small sustainable Christmas tree to keep the traditionalist feel of Christmas within the shop.

This window display has already prompted folk to stop and browse the window, even saw one dad talking with his young son what the stable meant. We had one local school teacher come in to buy a copy of the Christmas stable book for her class school children, so she could explain the story behind the birth of Jesus Christ.

Thank you for all your support, in what has been a very testing year as we continue to see the Christian book trade struggle in the wake of the banking crisis led recession. We have seen major suppliers and distributors close down, and Christian publishers struggling to keep themselves going. We have realised that to keep the ministry of the church bookstore going we are having to do more external book events to develop a wider customer base and hopefully allow these new customers to buy online with our new Amazon style web shop, www.christianbooks.uk.com.

Conferences for 2015

We are busy organising for the first of three conferences for next year with the three day Carey Conference held during the first week in January for pastors and wives at Swanick, Derbyshire. We have also been invited to host bookstalls at the three day Grace Baptist Assembly and at the three day Grace Baptist Partnership summer conference with Mark Dever. We feel really privileged to be serving the wider reformed church with the opportunity to sell good trusted books to like minded believers.

John & Bev Keble

Shoebox Appeal

Thank you to all who contributed to this year's appeal. 31 Shoe boxes were collected for this very worthy cause.

Many thanks
Steven Dawkins



Christmas Cards



This Christmas, instead of giving individual cards to others in the church, you are invited to sign on the large 'Card' on the Notice Board or pin up a card of your own. It is suggested that the money that would have been spent on cards, could instead be donated to Caring for Life based in Leeds. The gifts can be placed in the box by the door (please use a brown envelope marked with CFL).

Military Intelligence Museum Visit

At the end of October another group of 18 went to visit the museum at Chicksands. After braving the security checks we spent a couple of hours in the museum hearing and seeing the history of military intelligence guided by two experts from the museum. After managing to get past security again on the way out some of the group stopped for lunch in Shefford followed by a walk around Rowney Warren in the warm sunshine. Thanks go to Peter Woodruff for organising the return visit.



Christian Heritage London

Keith Berry and several others have recently established Christian Heritage London, which builds upon the London walks and tours that Keith Berry has led for a number of years, as well as being similar to the work being done by Christian Heritage Cambridge that is based in the Cambridge Round Church. I was able to go to the official launch at St Botolph-without-Aldersgate Church in the City of London on 17th November 2014. The well-attended evening started with a musical recital by 'Piano À Deux' pianists Robert and Linda Ang Stoodley. We then heard from members of the team and were introduced to the work by Keith, as well as hearing a lecture on 'Communicating Christ in a Post Christian Society' given by David Robertson from Dundee. There was an opportunity to look around the church at the new displays that tell the story of London's church history through the centuries, which are based upon similar displays by Christian Heritage Cambridge.

Christian Heritage London has a number of aims:

- Walking tours of sites of historical and cultural interest
- Tours of museums and art galleries
- A visitor centre at St Botolph-without-Aldersgate
- Talks and courses on various aspects of Christianity
- Concerts and cultural events
- An education programme for churches, schools and other organisations

Please see the website (www.christianheritagelondon.org) or collect a leaflet from the vestibule for more details. We intend to arrange a group tour during 2015.

Peter Woodruff

STUART OLYOTT

PREACHING

pure and simple

Thursday, 4th December 2014

11:00am - 4:00pm	7:30pm
A day with Stuart Olyott for pastors and preachers. Lunch and free book included.	Open meeting with Stuart Olyott preaching.

Grace Baptist Church Edlesborough, Moor End, Edlesborough, LU6 2HN.

Image: <https://i.c.x7p/01.gsk6>

Year Book and Rotas

Please let me know if any of your details need changing for the 2015 Year book.

Also, thank you for all who have been involved in any of the many rotas during this past year. I trust that I can count on your support again for the coming year and if anyone else could volunteer I would be very grateful. There is always a need for stewards, security men, car drivers, prayer time leaders, tea ladies, flower providers, cleaners – **is there a spot that YOU could fill?**

Brian Rigby

Special Church Members Meeting

There will be a special Church Members meeting on Saturday December 13th running from 9.00 – 11.30am. Bacon rolls and other refreshments will be provided on arrival along with tea and coffee. Please do come and join us. If you haven't received an email or letter in connection with this, let me know as soon as possible. Please can you also confirm your attendance.

Jeff Hewitt



Festive Football New Years Day 2015

It's that time of year again! We will be having another match and, depending on numbers, we might just manage another Young versus Old match. The details are as follows;

The Date:

Thursday 1st January 2015

The Time:

10.45 for 11.00 kick off

The Venue:

Manshead School – Dunstable

Can you please let me know if you are able to play or sign up on the list on the notice board.

Jeff Hewitt



DONATIONS

During the last month gifts have been sent (or are awaiting being sent), from those received and from church funds, as follows (Note: gifts to the four main missions are not included but will be reported when the totals are available, in the January Newsletter):

Barnabas Fund help for Ebola Crisis	(from church funds)	£500
Barnabas Fund help for Ebola Crisis	(from gifts)	£516
Caring for Life	(from church funds)	£100
Caring for Life	(from gifts)	£190
Grace Baptist Mission – General Fund	(from gifts)	£62

Thank you for your gifts, please continue to pray for all those we support.

Grace Baptist Mission Annual Meetings – Saturday 25th October 2014

A number from the church were able to go to the Grace Baptist Mission meetings held in the newly refurbished Friends House, Euston, London. Around 800 were present altogether.

Business Meeting

Chris and Jenny Jacquier and myself attended the business meeting. Following the opening devotions led by Graham Field the elections of Officers and the Council took place and the Annual Report was presented. Copies of the combined 2015 Handbook and 2014 Annual Report are available. The Finance Report was presented showing a healthy surplus as a result of legacies. The final major item of business was a resolution related to the transfer on 31st December 2014 of the assets and activities of Grace Baptist Mission to Grace Baptist Mission CIO (CIO = Charitable Incorporated Organisation; which is a corporate body with limited liability). This was passed.

During the day there a number of missionaries giving presentations of their work. I went to the following two meetings:

Maciek & Mary Stolarski

They began by telling us of the origins and growth of GBM's literature work; the production of simplified Christian Classics and their translation for use overseas, and the courses of study papers for pastors that are published and sent out. Last year over 12,800 booklets were sent to 58 countries – large shipments went to Nigeria, Kenya and the Philippines. Now with rising production and postage costs Maciek and Mary have looked into new ways to equip pastors using the internet. They introduced us to Kester Putman who has been appointed as GBM's new Literature Co-ordinator, following their retirement. This is resulting in the literature work moving from Southport to the GBM Mission Centre in Abingdon. He will also progress new methods of communication using the internet and smart phones. Please pray for Kester as he takes this work forward, and also handles the day to day correspondence with over 12,000 contacts worldwide.

Daniel Cabellero

A native of Peru (born in Lima), Daniel has a desire to share the Gospel and to preach in his home country. He has already spent three years at LTS and is studying for an M.Th. at the John Owen Centre. He spent six months recently in Peru training pastors in the vast shanty towns around Lima, as well as working in the high Andes and the Peruvian jungle. Following these meetings in London he was leaving to teach in two Bible colleges in Lima, and also in mobile seminaries in the Andes and the jungle. He will be back in December 2015 to finish his Master's studies. Please remember Daniel in your prayers.

"Fruit that will Last"

This began with a multi media presentation on "Fruit that will Last". A number of missionaries then explained the challenges of making disciples and growing churches that last, whether in a jungle tribe (Jason Murfitt), an African village (Graham and Sally Jones), a Polish town (Andrzej Kempczynski) or an Asian megacity.

Worship and Ministry

This was led by Trevor Condy, GBM Council Chairman. Fiona Steward read from 1 Corinthians 2. Farewells and thanks were given to Fiona Steward, Sukesh & Jenny Pabari, and Matt Gamston who have left GBM to move on to other ministries. A welcome was given to the new Literature Co-ordinator Kester Putman who has moved to Abingdon from London. Maciek & Mary Stolarski were thanked on their retirement for all they have done with the literature work.

Sukesh Pabari, completing sixteen years in Kenya and now pastoring a church in Clevedon, North Somerset, brought a final message. This was based on 1 Corinthians 2:2 – "For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified". Sukesh is the first converted Hindu to preach at this event, and preached through tears on the centrality of the cross. He had come to know the Lord nearly 30 years ago after reading Romans 1-7 before he had been inside a church.

David Woodruff

You can listen to a recording of the meeting by going to <http://www.gbm.org.uk/annualmeetings.html>