

Annual Review 2012—2013



thornhillchurch

THORNHILL CHURCH
MINUTES OF THE 2012 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

*held in The Thornhill Church Centre
at 8:00pm, 26 September 2012*

Present: 52 members, 2 non-members

Introduction – chaired by Tony Down

Tony introduced the meeting and opened in prayer. Graham Davies then led a time of worship. In introducing the next section, Tony thanked Roger Prosser and Dave Bevan for all the work they do on the finances.

Finances – Roger Prosser

Two sets of accounts were presented, one for the Church [the Trust] and one for the Centre [the CIC, i.e. Community Interest Company].

The Church

The giving via Gift Aid has decreased last year [2011/12] by approximately £6,000 from the previous year [2010/11]. There are three reasons for this:

- (1) we have lost a few members from the Church;
- (2) some members have had to reduce their giving due to personal circumstances; and
- (3) a few donors have changed from Gift Aid to Give As You Earn (which is one of the reasons why non-Gift Aid giving has increased).

It was stated that for higher rate tax payers, Give As You Earn is advantageous to the Church because it receives a greater tax rebate directly from Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs.

The Gift Aid refund has also decreased by approximately £4,000. The reasons for this are:

- (1) the Chancellor has reduced the percentage of the refund from 22% to 20%; and
- (2) the change to Give As You Earn by some (as stated earlier).

'Ministry Subs' are monies collected from Tots 'n' Toys, First Time Mums, Meeting Point and so on. The entry 'Other Income' is mainly from youth and children's events. The salaries (ca £77,000) are very similar to the previous year's figure; these relate only to the pastoral staff.

The 'Grant to CIC' item relates to a calculation that the Church should contribute £2,000 per month to the Centre to cover such costs as utility bills, stationery, cleaning, administration costs and so on. This year, the grant has also paid for a new video projector and the lighting in the main hall.

The figure also includes a sum of money paid under an employment compromise agreement to a member of staff. That agreement includes a confidentiality clause which prevents us from providing further details. The agreement was reached in the light of professional advice received and the need to steward resources wisely, and to achieve a conclusion that was in the best interests of the Church and its staff. The sum paid was the lowest cost option and no liability was admitted. The Trustees' duty of care with regard to stewardship of Trust funds was achieved by this agreement.

The expenditure designated 'Other' in the Annual Report primarily covers costs associated with youth, children and adult ministries, and gifts to visiting speakers.

Looking ahead to 2012/13, if we had continued with similar income and expenditure, there would have been a deficit of approximately £17,000 in the Church finances.

Questions were invited.

In response to a question, it was confirmed that the employment compromise agreement concerned someone employed in the Centre rather than the Church.

The Centre

There was an overall loss in 2011/12 [year just ending] of approximately £4,000. Before 'depreciation' is applied, there was a small surplus (£830).

The Coffee Shop takings are considerably lower (£14,899 lower) than in the previous year, mainly due to a decrease in the number of business seminars, the recession and a small decrease due to Sainsbury's opening a restaurant.

Results for the Nursery, despite concerns with Thornhill School opening a nursery, have been excellent, and the nursery has been virtually full all year.

The Centre takings are also down in 2011/12 (by £17,374) for the same reasons as for the Coffee Shop. The 'Income' entry for the Centre also includes the grant from the Church.

Questions were invited.

There was an observation, rather than a question, that the Centre is looking very 'tired'. It was suggested that we need to spend money, particularly on the Coffee Shop to make it more presentable. Also, the general image of the Centre needs to be strengthened. Finally, we need better communication between the people who are working in the Centre and the people who are leading it; this is a priority.

Roger responded: I think that is being dealt with and, obviously, we've waited until Phil Marshall has arrived, so we can talk to him about these sorts of things, as to how it is done in the future.

It was asked how the grant to the CIC was distributed between the Coffee Shop, Nursery and Centre. The £23,000 grant to the CIC is money that has gone out of the Church into the Centre (i.e. forms part of the £60,000 recorded as income for the Centre in the Annual Report). It is not a guessed figure: it has been calculated through quite a complicated exercise, on the basis of how much the Church uses the building and how much the Centre uses it.

In response to a question, it was confirmed that, in past years, the Council has given the Church a grant for particular youth work (around £2,500 in round figures), up until the year before last. We did not get one last year, presumably due to Council cutbacks. We have applied for another one, this year, and we will have to await the outcome.

Referring back to the projected £17,000 deficit (had no action been taken), it was confirmed that it is currently anticipated that there will still be a deficit for this year [2012/13] because of the redundancy package that has been agreed for Carl Coupar. In this year's accounts, there will be a special item for the redundancy payment. If that special item were removed, the £17,000 deficit would change to a position of almost breaking even. Furthermore, it should be noted that in ministry terms, the Church is not going to realise any savings from the redundancy for possibly about 12 months because the redundancy payment was made from the Church's reserves and it is anticipated that it will probably take the best part of 12 months to replenish those reserves. When that has been achieved, "all things being equal" (which is a huge assumption in itself) the Church should start to see some additional resource for ministry.

The Budget Challenge - Paul Clarke

The challenge has largely been caused by the declining income. The total income for the Church Trust has fallen from £142,558 in 2010/11 to £131,176 in 2011/12. For the current year [2012/13], we are predicting an income of £113,540. It can be seen that there has been a large drop in income over the past few years, for the reasons given by Roger earlier.

That is clearly a matter that needs to be brought before the church, and, of course, we would ordinarily do that during the stewardship session which really should be taking place about now. However, because Phil Marshall has only been in post for about 26 days and he's going to be a large catalyst in the stewardship process, in terms of helping to form, deliver and communicate a vision for the Church, the Elders has decided that the stewardship session will now take place in the new year [February 2013]. It is acknowledged that communication of these matters to church members could be better and it is hoped that the planned special termly Fellowship Evenings, where issues such as

these could be discussed, will help in this respect. Copies of the budget will be available to anyone who would like one.

Tony Down thanked the non-Elder Trustees, Paul Clarke, Justin Render and Graham Davies, for supporting the Elders with the financial work. Tony gave thanks to God in prayer.

Child Safeguarding Policy

Background and Importance - Fariba Thompson

Fariba Thompson and Sheila Fear have been Safeguarding Coordinators since February 2012. The previous policy needed updating to bring it into line with current legislation. The new policy was adopted by the Trustees in July 2012. The policy has been lodged with the Churches' Child Protection Advisory Service (which provides guidance in child protection for churches) and with our Local Authority.

The policy is important. It helps to ensure that people working with young people, and the young people themselves, are safe: safe not just from physical and emotional harm, but also from false accusation. The policy helps us to keep everyone safe by providing a framework, so that we can train our helpers, and by setting out standards of levels of supervision. Copies of the policy, and/or various summaries thereof, are available to church members on request.

Plea For Help - Sheila Fear

All too often, the valuable gift of helping children to grow in their faith is a burden that rests on just a few shoulders. As a church family, we need to be pulling together to share the load, and it would be really good if more people could come forward, if only to help out the regular helpers on an occasional basis, to cover for holidays or sick absences.

If you wanted to get involved, you would just need to do a few sessions. There you could be trained in what's needed, we could be confident that you would be all right in looking after our children, and some paper work could be completed. Thereafter, you could be asked, now and then, to help out; but you could still say "no".

There is quite a bit of paper work involved but that is to show that we have followed the policy. For example, we *know* who is looking after the children and can prove it.

There was a passionate request for help with Holiday Bible Club, which is going ahead again in October [2012]. The Club raises our profile within the community because it attracts not only church children but also non-church children from the community.

Bryn Ennis prayed for the children's work.

The Mission Panel - Geoff Roberts

The Mission Panel has the responsibility for managing the money that is set aside by us, as a church, for giving. As a church, we can't do all that we would want to do because we have a finite income. Our giving is divided between proclaiming the gospel and social action, and there will always be a tension between these two.

A contrast was drawn between the Rainbow of Hope (Paradise Run) work, where our involvement has decreased (for example, we have not been involved directly in providing food, and people to distribute the food, for over 18 months), and the Tavistock Street Hostel, where our volunteers are now totally committed to providing a hot meal, every other week on a Monday. For the Tavistock work, there's a commitment which was felt to be much more inclusive of some gospel outreach, rather than just handing out sandwiches on the street.

Next year [2012/13], we will definitely be reducing our financial support for GLO, Tearfund and Support For Romania, for example. The biggest challenge we have now is to increase our giving to Margaret Beckett, who has some quite high expenses. Our support for her is one of our key priorities because she was sent out from this church to do a very particular work in Tanzania.

Communication Evenings - Martyn Bull

To improve communication, Phil Marshall has produced a plan, starting in 2013, for a termly Wednesday evening communication meeting where:

- there will be open discussion about the issues that we are going through;
- members will be hearing about what the Elders are dealing with at any one time;
- Elders will be sharing the things they would like the church to be praying about; and
- there will be two-way communication of these things.

Each year, there will be three such meetings and an AGM for such matters.

Devotional - Martyn Bull

We've been together as a church in this place, now, for over 15 years. The Annual Report contains some great stories and real encouragements. Even more encouraging things have been happening since March 2012 (the date up to which the Annual Report covers). The grace of God is at work: people are coming to Christ, people are growing in their faith, and people worship God today who, last year, wouldn't have known Him. Lives are being changed. Is there a higher calling than being involved in what the Christian church is all about?

The video 'BASIC.Fellowship', narrated by Francis Chan, was played [viewable, for free, from <http://player.flannel.org/contents>]. The church is not a service or a building, but the people who fear and follow God, and are filled with the Holy Spirit. Fellowship, which is very huge in the Bible, is really caring for one another. Unfortunately, gangs are a better picture of 'family' than the church! We need brothers and sisters in order to show Jesus: unity is powerful to the world observing the church, and when we love, the world will actually see God. It is easier being on our own, not having to put up with different personalities, but Jesus said, "I will build my church."

Martyn then informed us that we are not going to be told the vision by the leaders of our church. We are going to gain together that clarity: what God is calling us to be and what God is calling us to do. We must be praying that God will reveal His plans and purposes for us as a church. Let's see what kind of picture of church develops as we all create that, together under God's leading.

In that context, there was a period of silence for meditating on the promises that God gives us in His Word. Martyn closed that period in prayer.

There was then a time of open prayer for Phil and Linda Marshall, and family, based on some prayer requests made by them.

Tony Down closed the meeting in prayer.

THORNHILL CHURCH

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General Report

“God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God.” (2 Corinthians 5:21)

Over the last few years, the wonderful story of our Union with Christ and our adoption as sons has been impressed upon me. If some of you find it a little sexist that ladies are being called Sons, don't forget that all the men have to get used to being called the bride! But what does all this mean? Son of the living God, the Bride of the True Son - those are titles we really have to live up to, aren't they? But I'm so rarely like the Bride, and so rarely like a Son of the living God that I can end up staring at my own weaknesses for too long.

The following comes from Martin Luther's 'Freedom of the Christian', published in 1520:

*“Who can even begin to appreciate what this royal marriage means? Who can comprehend the riches of this glorious grace? Christ, the rich and divine bridegroom, marries this poor, wicked whore, redeems her from all of her evil, and adorns her with all of His goodness. **It now is impossible for her sins to destroy her, for they are laid on Christ and swallowed up by Him.** She has her righteousness in Christ, her husband, which she now can boast is her very own. She can set this righteousness over against all of her sins and, in the face of death and hell, say with confidence: ‘If I have sinned, nevertheless, the one in whom I trust, my Christ, has not sinned. Through our marriage, all that is His is mine and all that is mine is His.’ ”*

What would be my greatest hopes for Thornhill Church at this time?

That we'd learn to love Christ better, for sure. But that we'd realise His passion, His love and His blood-spilt desire for us? Certainly. And that we would then learn to take our eyes off ourselves and indulge ourselves in the greater love of our Lord Jesus. If we constantly gaze at the weakness of our love and failings in our obedience to Him, we're doing the devil's job for him! He is, after all, the accuser of God's people, yet he masquerades as an angel of light. It makes so much sense to us, then, to despair and to look at the guilt within. Yet we're not told to stay there. Upward we look and see Him there, who made an end of all our sin.

During this last year of change at Thornhill, I want to register my enormous thanks to Dave Tucker - for his pastors' heart and warm preaching. Having met Dave numerous times, before and after my arrival in Cardiff, I found him always to be honest and encouraging to my own ministry. On the last occasion I was with him, he assured me of something for which I am deeply grateful - he said "my prayers are for Thornhill Church".

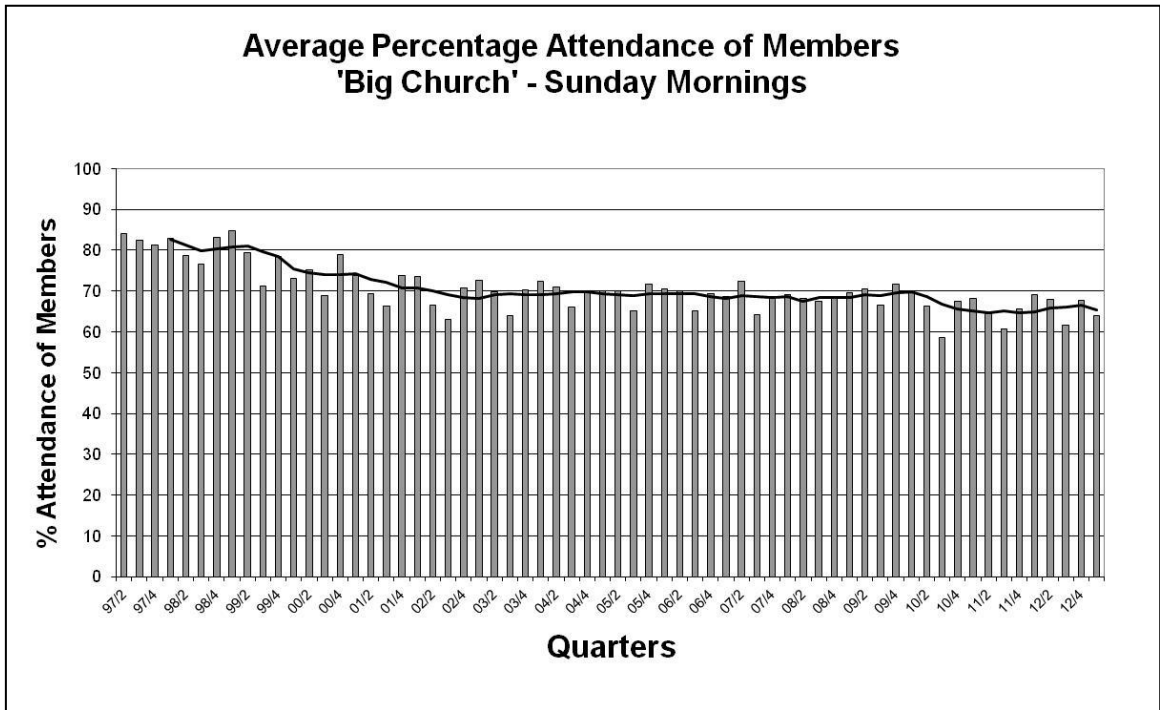
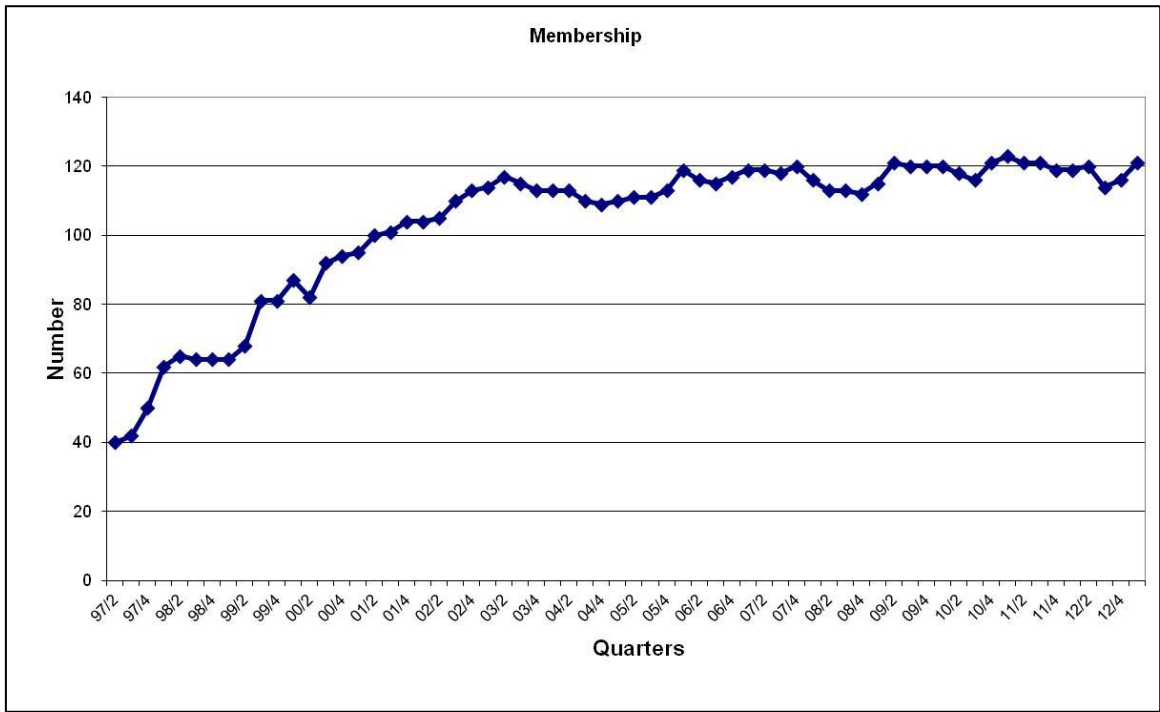
Equally I want to record my thanks to Carl Coupar and the family for their many years of service among us. I also want to thank Carl for his gracious hand-over of the midweek youth work, and for his continuing support and contribution as an elder among us.

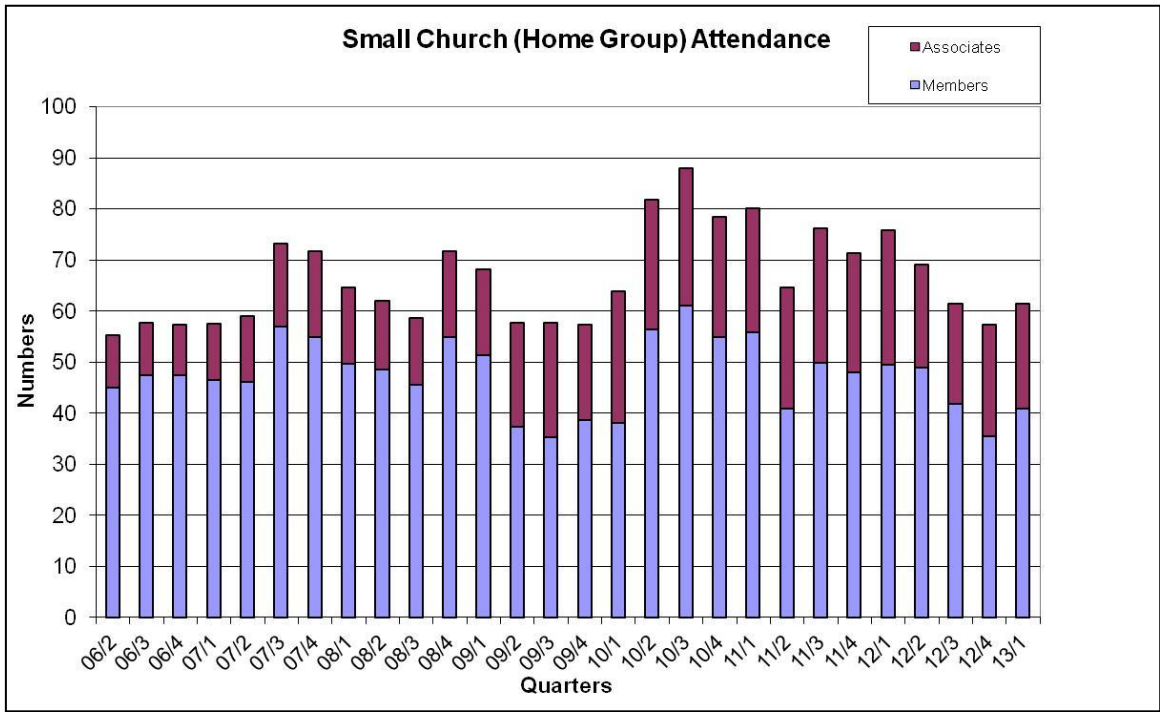
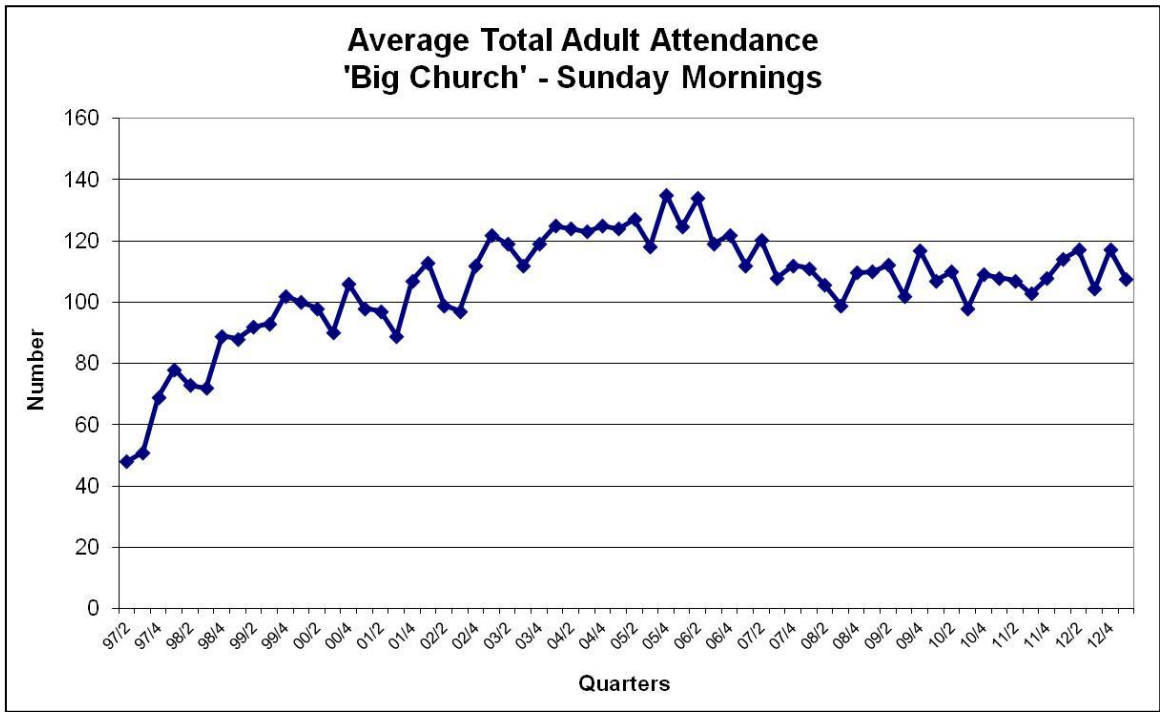
My fellow elders report to me that between April and August of last year, Dave Tucker led us through a series on Hebrews (a series I had the pleasure of starting off myself!), focussing on Jesus' superior name, ministry and way. A variety of other preachers helped the Church to understand better why Jesus came, to hold on to our hope in Jesus, and to run the race laid out before us. One highlight of that term was the baptism of Karl Baynham and Jordan Thompson in June, which was reason for great celebration. Another highlight of that term was a Holiday Bible Club special in April which I am told was typically lively!

It goes without saying that our prayers must be for these two men and their families, that God would bless them, and lead them to the next stage of what He has planned for them.

Phil Marshall

Strategy Goal	2012/13 (2011/12)
<p>1. No. & Names of those making Membership Statement; Number at beginning and end of year; No. and Names of those leaving the membership; Attendance</p>	<p>Beginning = 119 (123) New Members = 11 (0) Members Leaving = 9 (4) End = 121 (119) Associates = 71 (57)</p> <p>New Members (11):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • David Davies (24/2/13) • Becky Gaydon (15/4/12) • Inho Kang (14/2/13) • In Sook Lee (14/2/13) • Phil & Linda Marshall (14/10/12) • Young Eun Shin (14/2/13) • Sungmin Son (14/2/13) • Alan & Pam Williams (15/4/12) • Rae Williams (15/4/12) <p>Members Leaving (9):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Audrey Barr (3/8/12) • James & Sarah Franks (9/7/12) • Jo Meecham (1/4/12) • Karl Stephens (13/8/12) • David & Jean Tucker (23/7/12) • Derek & Elaine Wood (20/6/12) <p>Attendances</p> <p>The attendances at Sunday morning services and home groups are shown in the graphs on the following pages.</p>
<p>2. No. & Names of those Baptised</p>	<p>4 (7) Karl Baynham (3 Jun 12) Thomas Mitchell (25 Nov 12) Esther Morley (25 Nov 12) Jordan Thompson (3 Jun 12)</p>





The Lord's Day – Sundays

Sunday Services

From September 2012, Phil Marshall began with a series preaching through Psalms 42-49 of the Sons of Korah. Though this series was chosen (in part) to enable Phil to have time off when Evie was born, it was a series that introduced important themes of dealing with hunger for God, frustration, facing disaster, union with Christ, being the church, and being the Sons of Korah. The series continually asked who were the Sons of Korah, before revealing that they were the people who should have experienced the judgment of God, but were shown grace. As a result of what they faced, the Sons of Korah were left with a deeply sensitive character, but were even more devoted to their God. They were people who should have been dead, but were alive. Who are the Sons of Korah? We are.

Here's the question that arises from the series - deeper obedience and sensitivity to God only comes through pain and suffering - are we ready to delight in that yet?

After that began a series on the book of Colossians - a church that had been set free by Jesus, but had got itself tangled up in relational and hyper-spiritual problems. Yet Paul, writing to them, prayed heartily for them. And he loved them because they were loved by an even better love - the life-giving, self-sacrificing love of the One through whom and for whom the whole world was made, and who will reconcile all things to Himself! And this Jesus hadn't just saved them for a spiritual future, He has saved them to live life to the full in the present. To enjoy bacon. To enjoy recreation in the physical world. To enjoy working to the glory of God. To enjoy rest. To enjoy church. What a salvation plan!

Here's the question that arises from the series - what do we think Jesus has saved us to? To live in a spiritual world where only the spiritual matters, and where we constantly fear his judgment? Or to a full-bodied world where everything matters, and we are confident because we are in Christ, and his love for us and his work in us is greater than anything we can sabotage it with?

Following on from that, we began a study watching Jesus at the dinner table. He ate with sinners, He ate with Pharisees, He ate with revolutionaries and with people who would betray Him. We see His gospel reactions in the face of a judgmental spirit, and we see the glorious welcome and promise of transformation He offers to ordinary people. Big issues are dealt with and discussed, truth is uncovered, and authenticity is forged.

And we ask the questions of ourselves: what does this mean for our own mealtimes? Mealtimes are a time of intimacy and reveal who we really are - who are we willing to eat with and who do we deny to our mealtimes? What conversations do we ignore there, and can real business with God be done at the meal table together? After all, it is His dinner table we are invited to, both now and in the future... What a gospel!

Future plans for preaching will take us into topics like 'Facebook to the Glory of God', Church as Community, Personal Holiness, our Vision and Values, and a series on What We Believe... Equally, there have been requests for series on being a Christian at work, and what the Future holds (the exciting word 'eschatology' meaning the 'last things!'). The world is our oyster, the truth is in our hands - may God bless the direction of the preaching as Christ is found on every page.

The Elders

Music and Praise Ministry

Key Purpose

To be part of the team that leads and prepares our worship services.

Objectives

- To develop our understanding and experience of God, and to use what we learn to help bless the Church.
- To empower one another to develop and use our gifts to bless God and each other.

Team Members

- Graham Davies and Helen Bull (leaders).
- Sue Kenneally (piano), Sookyi Park (piano and singer), Jacob Park (guitar and singer), Anthony Lydall (cornet and singer), James Hall (cornet and singer), Dave Sargent (cello, guitar and singer), Rhys Millin (guitar), Jordan Thompson (drums), Sam Pinches (guitar) and Emma Davies (piano and singer).
- Bryn Ennis, Maggie Powell, Kathy Davies, Helen Bodger, Lauren Riella, Rachael Macdonald and Ffion Macdonald (singers).
- Becky Bull, Katie Davies, Abi Kwan and Megan Mitchell (singers), and Mike Bull (drums), when home from university.

Review of 2012/13

The team has 19 members now, which is amazing and allows us to explore many options and variations in style and content of worship.

This year we lost Audrey Barr from the team as she moved church when she got married. We miss her lots and are very grateful for her lovely heart attitude as she led us in worship. We are delighted, though, that Jacob and Sookyi Park have joined us, and bring a richness and diversity to worship through their singing and playing.

We are also so thankful for the part Katie Davies, Abi Kwan and Megan Mitchell played in Music Team. They have now moved on to university but, along with others such as Becky and Mike Bull, are welcome back to be a part when they are home.

Many of the team regularly take the lead in our worship services. In some of our services we have been able to involve large numbers of the team to lead as a whole - singing, playing, reading and leading. This has helped us all to develop gifting, be taken out of our comfort zones and grow in confidence.

Some have led at other events, such as the youth weekend away and various youth-led events. They have also benefitted from attending Spring Harvest, Soul Survivor and Young Life weeks, and we have enjoyed incorporating some of the new songs into our worship together.

We have included different combinations of instruments and singers in our services this year. We have seen the brass, strings, whole band, guitar only and many other instrumental variations. The singers have sung in small groups, as a whole team, and also as solo and duets. We are incredibly blessed with such a talented and committed team, who really seek to use their gifts to honour God and to help others in worship. We are so thankful for this.

Many of us from Music Team attended a Matt Redman and Rend Collective concert in Swansea in November. This was a great opportunity to worship, be together and learn from others who have so much more experience.

All team members contribute to the monthly team meetings. We allocate different parts of the evening to individuals or groups, to lead us as they prayerfully feel led. The sections cover a devotional time, a time of prayer and a time for music led worship. This not only benefits the team but brings an understanding and experience of the time and effort needed in prayer, preparation, practice

and delivery when leading in any form of worship. We are hugely blessed by these great times of fellowship, prayer and worship together, which are a highlight for us all.

We would like to express our thanks to the audiovisual team, who help and support us each week. Thanks, too, to Justin Render and Dave Sargent.

Preview of 2013/14

We are looking forward to another year of facilitating music and worship, developing gifting and leadership skills further, and exploring new ways of worshipping together.

We are grateful to Phil Marshall as he now supports us and gives us direction for the future. We pray that, as we assess vision and values as a church, we will better understand the place of worship and be led appropriately to seek His face individually and as a congregation of His people.

We ask you to pray with us that we will continue to seek and know God's guidance as a team in how to best lead the Church to worship God in Spirit and Truth on a Sunday morning. Please pray, too, that we will continue to have wisdom and discernment in how to lead such a large team, so that everyone feels affirmed in their gifting and an integral part of the whole.

Finally, we want to thank God for all that He is doing in and through so many people. We pray that as we continue to draw closer to Him, He will lead us and encourage us to fulfil His purposes through the team for His glory.

Helen Bull
Graham Davies

Audiovisual Team

Key Purpose

The key role is to provide good and inconspicuous audiovisual (wired and wireless) support for church services and ministry functions, as well as recordings of such events. The purpose is so that everyone attending is able to see and hear well, regardless of personal circumstances or location.

Activities

- Setting up of all audiovisual equipment before a service or event.
- Liaising with chairers, speakers, musicians, and so on, on their requirements for the session.
- Occasionally making adjustments (cabling, connections, and channels) to provide for unusual requirements.
- Continual monitoring of equipment (levels, channels, recording, and so on) during an event to provide a seamless, unobtrusive and noise-free audiovisual output for both speakers (and musicians) and congregation, regardless of changing inputs.
- Sound, and occasional video (e.g. baptisms), recording of events.
- Removal and storage of equipment after an event.
- Routine maintenance and repair of equipment, and ordering of consumables.
- Maintaining a record of recordings and duplicating recordings to order - this is usually in the form of CDs (Mike Fear handles about 3 recordings a week).
- MP3s are produced each week and are available on the Thornhill Church website.
- A CD is available (in MP3 format) of a year's services on one CD. Please ask if you would like one.

Team Members

Dave Corrick, Mike Fear and Alan Kwan, with help from others as required

Review of 2012/13

The sound desk team has continued to provide audiovisual facilities for the main meetings in the hall, for Meeting Point and sometimes elsewhere, preferably unobtrusively! There has not been much

change. Sunday messages are now also available for MP3 download from the Church website (www.ThornhillChurch.org.uk). Many thanks to Mike Fear for his weekly work on this. CDs also remain available on request.

Let us pray that the Word of God be heard clear and true in Thornhill Church, be it in the services, or via the World Wide Web.

This year the services have been downloaded in Wales, UK, Europe, Africa, Asia, Australia and North America.

Preview of 2013/14 (and future wishes!)

- With additional resource (equipment, enthusiasm, energy, expertise and people!) we would like to have (recorded but possibly live video?) services and sermons streamed for registered users via the internet.
- Look to use our resources possibly to produce and provide radio programs?
- Anyone wanting to develop their gifts in this area would be welcome to join the team.

David Corrick

Wales Korean Church

Key Purpose

Playing a role of Priest and Levites, who served the Lord in the holy tent for God and for the Israelites: We pray for the direction of our Church each year. After some time of church prayer, we felt that our Church should have a role of Priest and Levites, standing between God and Welsh people whilst expecting the coming revival.

Objectives

- To keep ourselves clean like Priests and Levites: we had to try to keep ourselves clean in order to undertake the intercessory role.
- To offer intercessory prayer for the repentance of non-believers in Wales.
- To support Thornhill Church by prayer.

Activities

- Sunday service: 13:30 - 14:45.
- Sunday school: 15:15 - 16:15.
- Thursday prayer meeting: 19:30 - 21:00.
- Visiting Welsh churches (so far we have visited 38 Welsh churches since 2006).
- Prayer walk in Thornhill area.

Members

- Jacob Park, Sookyi An, Soo Man Lee, So Young Kang, Jung Sook Nam; Yeun Gu Kang and In Suk Lee (this couple joined with us in December 2012 and finished a new members' Bible study course); Carl Sung Min Son and Young Eun Shin.
- Members leaving (5): After finishing their study or sabbatical break in Wales the following five members went back to Korea: Yoo Young Kim (21 Jul 12), Wang Su Lim (5 Nov 12), Lea Kyng Kim (20 Aug 12), Jung Won Park and Ian Kang (12 Nov 12).

Review of 2012/13

- To try to keep ourselves clean like Priests and Levites, we read the Bible to examine ourselves as a church and as individuals. We kept encouraging each other to read the Bible:
 - some members read the whole Bible more than three times through the year;
 - some exchanged Bible verses from their daily reading on SMS in order to share the Bible reading;

- adult members started a Community Bible Study International (CBSI) Bible study group in Korean;
- 4 young people joined a Youth CBSI Bible study group; and
- children in Sunday school finished their study of main historical issues through the whole Bible.
- For the repentance of non-believers in Wales, we regularly prayed for people in Thornhill and Wales.
- For Thornhill Church (who, God has told us, will play a great role in the coming revival), we regularly prayed in our prayer meetings and individual prayers.

Preview of 2013/14

We prayed again for the coming year's direction. We might be used like Daniel who revealed God's mysteries, interpreted kings' dreams and helped them to glorify God. We are not certain but we think we ought to focus on three practical things which were sought in Daniel's life:

- (1) keeping ourselves clean from sins;
- (2) being diligent in where we are called to work; and
- (3) prayer (regular, group and intercessory).

So far in our Sunday service we have studied the book of Daniel to make our vision and ministry clear.

Jacob Park

Small Groups

Home Groups

Consider Acts 2:42-47. This passage describes how the believers at that time met as church. It seems rather different to how church operates now! Being brothers and sisters in Christ means sharing life together as family, and that involves spending time together, sharing our lives and problems with one another, exploring the Bible together, learning from one another and so on. This is part of what it involves to be a member of a home group. Home groups are in many ways at the core of Thornhill Church.

Objectives

The objectives of our home groups are:

- **CARING** - To provide a pastoral care network where believers can feel supported in their Christian lives and, when problems occur, to know they are supported both practically and in prayer. Whilst the home group leaders have a key role in this, each member is encouraged to develop caring relationships inside and outside the weekly meetings.
- **LEARNING** - To learn from the Bible and to apply it to our lives, through a programme of studies and discussions that complement Sunday teaching. Members are encouraged to use and develop their spiritual gifts within the group, such as in leading Bible study, prayer, worship or serving.
- **WORSHIPPING** - To provide an informal environment to pray and express our appreciation of God. Home groups provide a great opportunity to worship in a small fellowship, in music, prayer and communion.
- **SERVING** - To reach out with practical and spiritual help to the members of our group, the wider church and the community around us.
- **DISCIPLING** - To nurture each other spiritually, to encourage each other to grow spiritually, to exercise our spiritual gifts and to serve Jesus, both inside and outside the fellowship.

The Current Home Groups and Leaders

We are very grateful to our home group leaders for their service and their desire to see growth in the lives of individuals. We now have 9 home groups:

Home Group	Leaders
1. Cherrywood	Sally Davies
2. Church Centre	Dave & Liz McNeill
3. Churchill	Bryn & Pat Ennis
4. Morganstown	Del & Sarah Wislocki
5. Ochr Y Coed	Martyn & Helen Bull; and Graham & Kathy Davies
6. Pendragon	Stuart & Katherine Parsons
7. Waun Y Groes	Damian & Nicola Gilmartin
8. Wednesday Morning Group	Dave Corrick
9. Youth	Justin & Julia Render

Review of 2012/13

For most of the year, different groups chose their own material to study. However in the Autumn term of 2012, we did home groups a little differently and the majority of the groups met in the Centre, still meeting in small groups but having times of fellowship together as a large group. We studied the lives of David and Solomon using material kindly prepared by Emyr Macdonald. We enjoyed getting to know members of other groups better and this approach enabled Phil Marshall to get to know the groups quickly, but we also missed some of our home comforts and, for the foreseeable future, we will be meeting in homes.

Preview of 2013/14

We would love to see more and more of our church family joining together in home groups, developing our relationship with God and with our brothers and sisters. We would love to see more individuals exploring their gifting in teaching, leadership and discipleship. We would love to see an increased sense of fellowship and community. And we desire to become a more worshipping, prayerful, committed, loving people of God.

Jonathan Thompson

Community Bible Study International

'Everyone in the world... in the Word'

The mission of CBSI is to make disciples of Jesus Christ in our communities through caring, in-depth Bible study suitable for all: whether you have been a Christian for years, or you have never read the Bible and want to know what it is about. It really is international, with more than 2,700 classes meeting worldwide. Our class on Saturday mornings is also very diverse. We have members from Wales, England, Malaysia, Latvia, Ukraine and Russia.

We praise God for another fruitful year in many ways:

- For God's continual faithfulness and protection.
- For the encouragement and challenge of His Word (we studied a series entitled 'God's Amazing Book' - an overview of the Bible - at the beginning of the year, followed by 'Solomon's Wisdom' in the books of Proverbs, Ecclesiastes and Song of Songs).
- For the faithfulness of our team of leaders (Dinah Ball, Natasha Doughty, Rosie Kwan, Sally Davies and Sue Bevan).
- For bringing new members to our class.
- For a new Russian speaking discussion group.

- For God's provision of the new Youth CBSI leaders (Alan and Rosie Kwan) and the young people who faithfully come to discuss the Bible each week.
- For God proving Himself Sovereign again and again, and doing His work even in spite of us.

To Him be the Glory!

Natasha Doughty

Faith in Art

"For where two or three are gathered in My name, there am I among them" (Matthew 18:20)

- We continue meeting on Tuesdays.
- New time: 10:30 am to 1:30 pm.
- Study Scripture, discuss, pray and interpret creatively.
- Use a variety of materials.
- Have enjoyed looking at the books of Ruth and Jonah; have prepared backdrop pictures for the Christmas story for City Temple.
- Current work: Galatians 5, Fruit of the spirit.
- Possible workshop events, here in Thornhill Church and elsewhere in the future.

We would like to thank the Church for allowing us the time and space, and also for contributing to art materials.

Come along and enjoy a relaxed, creative and spiritual time with us, and discover God's Word in pen, paint, collage, pastel and more.

Sarah Jones

Pastoral Care

Pastoral Carer

Key Purpose

To provide help, advice and support to church members and associates.

Objectives

- That church members and associates feel valued and cared for.
- That they may access help and support when required.
- That those in need are identified and gently offered assistance.

Activities

- Offer home or hospital visiting to those who are unwell or struggling.
- Co-ordinate and provide practical help where needed, e.g. lifts to appointments and meals.
- Ensure practical and prayer needs and requests are communicated with the Pastoral Team and, where necessary, with the church elders.
- Liaise with home group leaders.
- Facilitate Lifeline (long-term illness support group).
- Co-lead Ladies' Bible Study Group on Tuesday afternoons (began February 2013).
- Liaison role with the North Cardiff Medical Centre.

Review of 2012/13

This year has been a time of change as Dave Tucker moved on and Phil Marshall moved in! The support and encouragement of the wider Pastoral Team over the past year has been immeasurable in what can sometimes be a lonely job. I am thankful to Dave, Keith Doughty and Jacob Park for their love and care for me. I am looking forward to working alongside Phil and already see fruit appearing as we settle into each other's ways. I am also indebted to Elaine Macdonald who listens, challenges, prays and generally keeps me in line!

Opportunities for ministry

I am always happy and thankful for any offers of help, whether providing transport, preparing meals, and so on. I believe that many people across the Church are using their pastoral gifts and would encourage you to continue in this.

Preview of 2013/14

Pastoral care is like a rolling stone and I anticipate another busy year ahead. I have always believed that the wisest advice and help I can offer is to point people to Jesus. He is the answers to life's difficulties - we play a much, much smaller part.

"This is the comfort we offer people. We don't comfort them by saying that things will work out. They may not. The people around them may change, but they may not. The Bible tells us again and again that everything around us is in the process of being taken away. God and His love are all that remain as cultures and kingdoms rise and fall. Comfort is found by sinking our roots into the unseen reality of God's ever-faithful love." (From 'Instruments in the Redeemer's Hands' by Paul David Tripp, page 152.)

Helen Bull and I are planning further Parenting courses this coming year - one in April/May focussing on pre-schoolers and another in November/December aimed at parents of teenagers.

Dinah Ball

Lifeline

Key Purpose

To provide emotional support and fellowship for people living with long-term and serious illness.

Objectives

- To provide a safe place for people with long-term and serious illness to come and share concerns, and support each other.
- To be inspired and encouraged by God's Word and God's works as He answers prayer and provides all that we need.
- To pray for the needs of those within the group and for those struggling within the wider church family.

Activities

We meet on a Friday morning, every other week, in the Centre lounge between 10:30 and 12 noon (see church notice sheet for details of dates). In each session we enjoy a short devotional time or testimony, and perhaps welcome a visitor to share with us something of their journey with God or the work that they are doing in His service. In between sessions there is a good flow of information and prayer requests as people's illnesses relapse and remit.

Team Members

Dinah Ball and Sally Mitchell.

Review of 2012/13

This year has been no different from many previous as life continues to be tough for most people in Lifeline. All have struggled with their illnesses, some requiring operations and hospital admissions, others having to spend long periods housebound. These trials continue to bring us closer as a group forming almost a 'brotherhood in suffering' where, having been through so much themselves, each member is able to offer real empathy and compassion to each other. For many in the group who are unable, due to the nature of their medical problems, to attend home groups, Lifeline has become 'small church' for them.

In addition to our fortnightly devotional times, we have enjoyed welcoming several visitors on a Friday morning - Linda Alexander (Cardiff Christian Healing Ministries), Steve Ball (City Temple), Kathy Mathias, and Nikki Townsend of CASIP (Cardiff Self Injury Project). Each has shared with us inspirational and challenging insights into their mission and personal journey with God.

The Lifeline group consists mainly of people who are in fellowship at Thornhill Church but there are a few people who go to other churches within the area. The average number of people attending each session is nine. By God's grace the group continues to enjoy very close fellowship and is a place where people feel comfortable to share and 'be real'.

Opportunities for ministry

There have been times this year when, due to family or personal illness, Dinah and I have been unable to lead Lifeline. It would be wonderful to have another person on the team who felt able to come alongside those who are hurting. We are also always 'on the lookout' for individuals who are able to inspire and encourage us by sharing their 'story' - if this is something you feel able to do, please let us know.

Preview of 2013/14

The Church's vision to 'Come Closer' is very pertinent to us in Lifeline. With God's grace and strength, let us seek to come closer not just to each other but to others who are struggling with long-term and serious illness in our community. May Christ bring close to us those who do not know Him yet and may they be challenged, in their time of great need, to come to the foot of the cross and to lay their lives down before the gracious 'Healer of our Souls'. May we also seek to 'Come Closer' to our loving Father who promises to be with us, strengthening and equipping us for whatever life throws at us.

Sally Mitchell

Tavistock Hostel ('Tav's')

Key Purpose

Providing warm food to nourish the homeless and vulnerable in Cardiff, offering a friendly safe place to gather and learn about Christ, and demonstrating compassion through creating opportunities to befriend, talk and pray.

Team Members

Richard & Aimee Ward, Jo Bailey, Sally Thomas, Tim Payne, Raphael Jones, Connie Hocking, Bryn & Pat Ennis, Dave & Jan Morley, Julie Rafferty, Esther Grace, Jim Cooney, Craig Wilcox, Phil Howell and Clive Cornish. Others have come along when numbers are short.

It is essential that we have enough people (including at least three males) for each visit: to serve, cook, clean dishes, monitor/watch the door, help upstairs, sit down and eat with the guys, or simply sit down and pray/listen. This environment provides a place for conversations, a listening ear and opportunities to pray for and with people. There are endless possibilities for the future of Tav's, from meeting spiritual needs to meeting physical needs.

Gift Profile: Evangelism, giving, serving/helping, hospitality and intercession.

Review of 2012/13

Every second and fourth Monday of the month, our team has cooked and served a hot meal and pudding for approximately forty people at Tav's. There is a shower room and a lounge upstairs with donated clothes for people to take. For us as a team, it's not just about the food. The location provides the team with excellent opportunities to build relationships and trust with the people who use Tav's on a regular basis.

Clive Cornish has been coming along, at first with his cross and now with his guitar, providing music and then evangelising with a spiritual message that comes straight from the heart with wisdom and empathy. The guys love listening to him and the whole place falls silent when he gets up to speak.

One of the guys attending Tav's has been in hospital for a long time and we have stayed in contact with him. Dave has visited him and provided clothing, and so on, that he has needed. Some of the team have provided transport on a Sunday morning for him to attend Church. We are hoping and praying that the communication and support will remain by showing him the love of our Lord.

Again, the Christmas dinner was a great success with our team handing out over forty gift bags that were donated by our church members.

The kitchen has been expanded, which allows us to provide better quality meals and makes life easier for the team.

In terms of training, the Street Carers' Forum, in partnership with Cardiff City Council, offers Basic Training and other useful courses, such as Hygiene and Substance Misuse. All people working with the homeless are invited to attend basic training and become official Street Carers. We also have meetings with the other teams that use Tav's and a network of contacts that offer help for various needs.

We have a fantastic team who are very committed to this sometimes challenging ministry, and there have been several new members that have joined the team over the past year.

Preview of 2013/14

We will continue to provide a hot meal and dessert every second and fourth Monday. The team will continue to attend training courses and meetings as required.

Jo Bailey

Cardiff Foodbank



At a time when Cardiff Foodbank is feeding more people than ever before, we are so pleased to receive the support of those at Thornhill Church and beyond - it makes such a difference to those who receive a food parcel.

Cardiff Foodbank is a part of The Trussell Trust Foodbank Network. When it joined the Network in April 2009, it was Foodbank number 39. There are now over 300 Foodbanks across the UK, with 23 in Wales, and 4 more in the pipeline.

Cardiff Foodbank collects donations from members of the public (average donation totals of 1 ton of food per week in 2012) and then gives out food parcels (3-5 days worth of ambient food) to those in Cardiff going through a short-term crisis. Food is distributed via a voucher referral system, through one of the 80 agencies that it partners with (e.g.: NHS health visitors, Social Services, support workers, Debt Advice drop-in centres, and schools). "We never decide who gets the food and we are not involved in the assessment process."

The last few months have been some of the busiest for the charity. The numbers speak for themselves.

- In 2012, the number of people fed increased by 60% compared with 2011.
- In December 2011, Cardiff Foodbank fed over 400 people for the first time.
- Every month since May 2012, the charity has fed over 400 and in October and November approximately 550 were fed.
- In December 2012 this number increased to a record 597.

Ian Purcell (Cardiff Foodbank Project Manager) comments: "In the last week before Christmas, 2.8 tons of food left our warehouse and by the time you are reading this we will have handed sufficient food parcels to have fed over 10,000 people in Cardiff for 3-5 days. We are stretched, busy, challenged and yet amazed at the favour we have found from so many."

Cardiff Foodbank has yet to face more challenges in 2013. The charity needs a larger warehouse and the necessary funds to run it, and needs to deal with the ongoing management costs for the charitable work. Operational costs have been met today from ongoing (regular) donations.

Here are a few stories and feedback that recent clients shared with the team:

"One of the guys I spoke to was someone who was out of prison the day before. He had been given a crisis loan for £6, which was supposed to last him for two weeks until his benefits started, so not surprisingly he was thankful for the food parcel. Although there is no such thing as a typical Foodbank client, it is great to meet one in genuine need (as most are), and really thankful (as most are)."

"Another client was a 60-year-old who had packed up work to care for her dad who had now died. All the finances were tied up in the house and she was not entitled to any benefits. There was only so long she could go to friends' homes near meal times, so when she came to the Foodbank and received a parcel, she said she had not eaten for three days!"

"A 50-year-old diabetic client also recently wrote that if it were not for the Foodbank, she would have most probably ended up in a coma."

One of the ways some Thornhill Church members have assisted the Foodbank is with our supermarket collections, especially at Sainsbury's in Thornhill. Three of our top six lots of donations coming from over 50 supermarket collections have been at Sainsbury's Thornhill! Please do consider sparing two hours to assist us at one of our collections, not just at Thornhill but beyond (<http://www.cardifffoodbank.org.uk/#/collections/4552479024>). For further information, please contact Ian Purcell on 07891 177 700 or info@cardifffoodbank.org.uk

Jo K

Mission and Evangelism

Mission Panel

Key Purpose

To facilitate and channel the Church's support and interest in mission locally and across the world.

Objectives

- To help the Church support specific missions and individuals in their work - in prayer, financial giving and in personal contact.
- To foster interest in mission in the Church - through specific support and a wider interest in God's work among the nations.

Team Members

Emyr Macdonald, Jacky Lemprière, Lathan Ball, Ann Corrick, Bryn & Pat Ennis, Geoff Lane, Phil Marshall, Geoff Roberts and Margaret Short.

Review of 2012/13

During the year, we have focussed support on a smaller number of ministries than in the past, in response to changing needs. We look forward to welcoming Margaret Beckett back from Tanzania to spend time with us as a church from May to August. Geoff Lane continues to visit Rwanda, three times a year. Their ministries, and that among the homeless in Tavistock Street, are described fully elsewhere in the report.

As a panel we meet bimonthly to pray with and encourage individuals and groups from the Church who are involved in mission outside the immediate Thornhill area.

Financial support for ministries is listed below, indicating whether the focus is primarily on evangelism or social action, both globally and in South Wales.

	Global Evangelism	Global Social	Home Evangelism	Home Social
Margaret Beckett	£5,500			
GLO	£175			
Rwanda Restored		£600		
Tearfund		£119		
HOPE: Willy and Sharon Byamungu		£420		
Contribution to Dave Sargent's visit to S. Africa		£100		
Pray Wales/UK			£245	
Welsh schools worker			£175	
Ignite			£1245	
Cardiff Concern				£245
Rainbow of Hope				£245
Tavistock Street Hostel (homeless)				£1,146
<i>Additional designated gifts:</i>				
Rwanda Restored (Sunday collection)	£1,059			
Margaret Beckett (Sunday collection)	£1,480			
Happy's studies, water filters)				
HOPE	£120			
All Stars Lunch	£50			
Total (€10,215 allocated by mission panel, €2,709 by designated gifts)				€12,924

Emyr Macdonald

Tanzania Mission Report

Key Purpose of our Team

To translate God's Word, book by book, and make it available and accessible to named people groups, in my case the Rangi, Burunge, Alagwa and Mbugwe people of Central Tanzania, so that people can freely receive, read and understand God's Word. Crucial to this is our work in teaching literacy, and teaching others to teach literacy.

Objectives

- To translate Scripture into the Rangi, Burunge and Mbugwe languages (three of the languages spoken in the area we work in).
- To put in place relevant and accessible opportunities for people to learn to read their mother tongue.

- To develop, distribute or sell written materials and audio materials to enable learning and progress in literacy so that people will be able to read Scriptures.
- To work with the Alagwa community to develop initial reading resources in their language.

Activities

The main headlines for this past year are:

- (1) Continuing programme of village teaching, accessible to those who wish to learn.
- (2) Partnership development with the **few** local churches of all denominations that are working in Rangi, Burunge and Mbugwe areas, and with leaders, such as bishops of different denominations. The area we work in is mainly Muslim (95%).
- (3) Sales and public relations work at a large gospel meeting here in Dodoma, which over 8,000 people attended daily for a week last June.
- (4) Moving our main office in Dodoma to a new venue. We now rent our office from MAF (Missionary Aviation Fellowship).
- (5) Organising the celebration in Haubi for the seven new Bible books now available in Rangi.
- (6) Teaching writers and illustrators, from Burunge and Rangi people groups, in small group workshops in Kondoa town.

Team Members

Literacy: Margaret Beckett, Dodoma, Coordinator of Rangi, Burunge and Alagwa Literacy; Magdalena Damasi, Burunge Literacy; and Emilia Felix, Rangi Literacy (all based in Dodoma).

Literacy teachers: Simon Vita and Andrew Michael, Rangi teachers, based in Kondoa, 100 miles north of Dodoma; and Pius Rumbu and Samweli Kula, Burunge teachers, based in Mirambo, a village about 2 hours from Kondoa.

We also have three new workers who came at Christmas: Dan and Kelly Jones, and Robin Gregory all from the USA. These people are all settling in to their new location and continuing to learn the language and culture.

Review of 2012/13

- The successful running of women's basic literacy groups in Rangi continues, with good effect in many lives. Many women never went to school and can't read. They are so excited about those groups.
- The Celebration of Genesis, 1 and 2 Timothy, Titus, Philemon and James, launched in the Rangi language in May 2012. We had considerable difficulties travelling up there, and also our best ever sales figures when we finally got there! We sold many books to all sorts of people, including some of our Muslim friends and neighbours.
- We are continuing to train key people from various villages to teach literacy skills in their communities. The excitement continues, many people have never actually held a book. Schools teach reading skills from a blackboard. (There are aspects of poverty you won't hear about in the UK. One is huge poverty of resources in schools.)
- Publication of new books. We have a clear, workable curriculum for basic literacy in place. We have published simplified versions of the Joseph stories, also Creation and Easter stories in both Rangi and Burunge languages. We have several titles now out of print and are encouraged by having to reprint.

News from my personal life when I am in Dodoma:

- Kasekwa, our Bishop in my local church, has retired. He is continuing to lead site management and teaching at the Bible school in Mlali, which will serve the whole of the Central area. Mlali is a village about 80 miles east of Dodoma. My good friend Julius Bundala has recently been made the Bishop, which is great news for all the churches in this area. There are about 54 churches. I continue to visit villages at weekends to do Bible teaching in Kiswahili. This year I have visited Mlali, Chiwe, Morogoro, Ihanda, Nchinila, Msanga, and Mtera. I led the devotional morning Bible teaching at an area women's conference in Mtera.
- Two of our church children were hit by a speeding car in November. One was killed instantaneously, the other amazingly had minor physical injuries, and of course huge shock. All the children in church were affected by this.

A few of this year's challenges:

- The Chinese engineers working in Tanzania have made a start on the Kondo road. Before too long, the first 30 miles of the journey should be tarmac, ready to drive on! Luxuries like tarmac are a great blessing here! Hopefully my vehicle maintenance costs will decrease!
- Vita and Michael are our Rangi teachers. Vita's grown-up son was killed in a road accident in February. Vita himself has been very ill, the time of his illness coinciding with his son's death. Pray for full and complete recovery for Vita.
- The daughter of one of our two Burunge translators also died at the same time as Vita's son. Both these deaths leave one parent to bring up children alone. There is no help or social security here other than your family and friends.
- We have a young woman here, Francesca, whom we pay for part time work to help Michael. Vita is not yet strong enough to return to work.
- Our Goima office was totally burnt out in a fire in January this year. We have a temporary room until the end of July. We need a permanent, safe and stable base to work from. This is mainly a Burunge area.
- Our Dodoma team leader and translation coordinator, Paul Hefft, has had to return to the USA due to his son's health needs. Paul had been working here for three years. The departure of the family leaves a huge gap in the team. Paul was also leading on the research and development of the Alagwa language project. This is now on hold until we have more help.

Opportunities for ministry

We need suitable volunteers, across the world, prepared to commit for initially two years. There is a variety of jobs, e.g. teaching, teaching ICT skills, teaching desktop publishing, administration, finance and teaching English. We still need help with desktop publishing a simple dictionary of high frequency words in Rangi and in Burunge.

You can find out more about SIL's work in this area from www.thetask.net; you can find out more about working in Bible translation from: www.wycliffe.org.uk or www.facebook.com/WycliffeBibleTranslatorsUK.

Margaret Beckett

'Rwanda Restored'

2012 was a good year for the work in Rwanda and many encouragements were seen. Some adults and students were converted, and others baptised. The secondary school grew to 300 and that brings a problem of classroom and dormitory availability - we are very, very tight for room!

Churches throughout the country generally continue to grow, and many of the school students come from churches outside Kigali. Many of these students are orphans who have tragic stories to share but often they can speak about how the living God has helped them to survive and have a future.

Some have no earthly family, and it is so good to welcome them into a Christian environment at school where they are loved and cared for in many ways. We now have some students who have their brother or sister at school, and that is helping them to grow stronger as a family.

Regular Bible teaching is given and students hear about the way to heaven.

Please do pray for this mission field among young people, and that, as new students join this school, they will respond to the Christian message and call.

Our three primary schools continue to do well and opportunities occur to share a Bible story from time to time. Over 2000 attend these schools in total and, when we can, we add classrooms, cement floors and walls, replace a leaking roof, and try to make life at school as comfortable as we can - all depending on availability of funds.

One school is the top performing school in the whole of this region, and we still need to add classrooms at Gatovu as there are so many children up in the hills around this school.

Bibles are very much in demand and we are grateful for Thornhill Church providing for us to buy many Bibles. We are also very thankful for the support given to open the boys' toilet block - open but not yet finished!

Goat projects continue, and mosquito nets bought as and when, and are always thankfully received.

2013 is a big challenge for us as we must finish the girls' dormitory block - a home for 200 students for 36 weeks a year, and this will release classrooms when it is completed. The girls will then have good facilities in a school which is already well respected in the country.

Please continue to pray for our ministry as we reach out to the poor widows, orphans and needy people, not only with practical support but with a life changing message.

Thank you to all who support Rwanda Restored through sponsorship and other ways - God bless you.

Geoff Lane

Women

First Time Mums

Most Thursday afternoons find Anne Ellis, Sian Owen and me with a group of mums and babies, enjoying their company; dispensing hot drinks, biscuits, cake and fruit; listening; and pointing mums in the direction of those with similar difficulties to themselves. Loneliness and isolation, together with broken sleep, feature in many conversations. We watch lasting friendships being formed, and links with Tots 'n' Toys and Lighthouse Nursery being made for the future. Returning to work and child care are major issues - many mums are with us for such a short time. About once a month a speaker joins us. Margaret Holt of the Library Service, Geoff Roberts (teeth), Dinah Ball and Ruth Hurley are frequent visitors, together with health visitors. We are so grateful to them, and to Dot Wilkins and her kitchen staff. We feel quite inadequate but continue to learn that unconditional love and acceptance of the mums where they are, give comfort and a lot of fun. As we look around on Sundays and during the week, we see those who spent time at First Time Mums and thank our Father.

Ann Corrick

Tots 'n' Toys

Key Purpose

Through our parent and toddler group, to serve our community and to reach out to them with the love of Jesus.

Objectives

- To provide a welcoming and caring place where people can enjoy time spent with their toddlers and where they can make new friends.
- To provide an environment for the children to have fun playing and interacting with each other.
- To get to know, and build relationships with, the adults who bring their children along.
- Through building relationships with people, to pray for them and for opportunities to introduce them to Jesus.
- To be a 'window' into Thornhill Church and all that goes on at the Centre.
- To pray together towards fulfilling all our objectives.

Activities

- A morning (10:30-12:00) and afternoon (1:00-2:30) session each Wednesday in term time.
- Tots sessions include:
 - Plenty of play!
 - Regular craft activities.
 - Song and story time.
 - Refreshments for children and adults.
- Christmas and Easter outreach events.
- Summer Outing.
- Monthly team prayer meetings.

Team Members

Wed a.m. Kathy Davies, Helen Bodger, Ann Corrick and Linda Marshall.
Wed p.m. Kathy Davies, Helen Bodger, Geoff Roberts and Wendy Pritchard-Griffiths.

We are also helped by members of the Wednesday morning Bible study group, who make and serve the teas and coffees for the morning session, and by Diane Roberts, who makes the teas and coffees for the afternoon session.

We thank God so much for the team He provides, and for all the hard work, commitment and love they give.

Review of 2012/13

Highlights of the year include:

- The wonderful number of tots and their parents/carers who attend each week. This averages 80+ children, and therefore 80+ adults as well!
- Opportunities to befriend, share with and offer care in practical ways to many people from the community.
- Easter Celebration - Tom and Sally the puppets, together with Carl Coupar, helped us present the Easter message in a clear and simple way.
- Easter Service - We held a short Easter Service for under fives and their families on Easter Saturday which was supported by large numbers of church and community families.
- Spring 2012 Parenting Course. This was run by Helen Bull and Dinah Ball, and was attended by numbers of Tots-mums and church families. It provided a good opportunity to deepen relationships.
- July 2012 - End of term outing to the Walnut Tree Farm, near Newport.
- Once again we supported the Samaritan's Purse Christmas shoe box appeal and were really encouraged by people's generous response.
- Christmas Celebration - Building on last year's format, we had another fantastic 'Happy Birthday Jesus!' party with food, games, crafts, songs and a simple presentation of the Christmas story.
- Christmas Eve Service - Together with Lighthouse Nursery, we had a short service for under fives and their families. A big highlight was Phil Marshall and Andy Hurley, helped by Tom the puppet, being very dramatic! The Centre was packed with families from the community and it was a wonderful, exciting occasion.
- We continue to provide a lending library of Care for the Family and other parenting/family life books, and have a prayer box available for people to post prayer requests.

Opportunities for ministry

As stated below, Tots 'n' Toys is in need of new people to join the team. It is a really exciting ministry as we have SO many non-church people attending each week, but in order to be effective in reaching out to them we need as many people to share our vision as possible. You may think that you have to be a young mum with a toddler to be involved, but that really is not the case. We have dads, grandmothers and grandfathers coming each week so you could be male or older in years - any age in fact - and you don't even need to have a child yourself to be involved! The main thing is to have a heart for the many families who live on our doorstep and who come through our doors each week.

We are starting a rota so that people don't need to commit to being there every week. If you think you could help at one of the sessions just once a month that would be fantastic. Please let me know.

Preview of 2013/14

- Staffing – We **really** need new people to join the team (see above).
- Next Steps - We are so blessed with the wonderful numbers that attend each week. Please pray for us as we seek ways to be more effective in sharing our faith with them.

Kathy Davies

Children and Youth

With the Youth Pastor role having come to an end, I would like to put on record, once again, my firm gratitude to Carl Coupar for the foundation in youth work he has built at Thornhill Church.

October saw another successful Holiday Bible Club, with 60 children attending and a number of families drawn to the Sunday Service that followed. The story of Sir Chancelot and his Weak Knights entertained the young people through the week, and were accompanied by stories of Bible heroes throughout the Old Testament, ending with the story of Jesus (of course!).

Holiday Bible clubs are tried and tested formats, and there's no doubt that we at Thornhill will run Holiday Bible Club again in the near future.

If you would like to volunteer to help, please contact me and we can try to build a team that will take Holiday Bible Club forward into the future!

December saw the first Youth Leaders' Coffee Night, with the leaders of post-year 7 activities getting together to share ministry struggles and to pray for one another. Then, in February, all youth leaders were invited to gather together to share and pray together. The future of this bimonthly gathering is intended to get youth leaders sharing the burden of one another's ministry, sharing pastoral wisdom, and forging creative ways ahead for the various aspects of youth work.

No doubt the shape of various activities will change in the future as we look to build in ways of sustaining ministry and leaders. That opens a door of opportunity for us to recreate aspects of the youth work to better reach our own young people, their friends and those in the local community who begin to find a home with us.

Equally, there are always roles available in youth work, whether on Sundays or during the week.

Please do let us know if you're interested in helping with young people's work, and we can always try to find the best way to use your help - whether with administration, teaching, leading games or just getting alongside young people - or even help you decide if your ministry lies elsewhere!

Finally, there is a plan to begin to have a couple of all-age services in each preaching programme. Some of my best work has been all-age services, and some of my worst work has been all-age services! We'd love to build the sense of the whole family being valued and provided for in the same service, but it's a hard task not to patronise one age group or another.

Perhaps you'd be willing to offer some help or advice to make those services work as effectively as possible in the future?

Let me express my enormous gratitude to those who are presently involved in youth leadership. You all work extremely hard in tough circumstances, where the work can often be disappointing and exhausting. It is also often a long-term work where we won't see the results for many years, if we ever see the results for ourselves. All the more reason for us to work together, sharing the vision and burden of the work, as we seek to love Jesus better ourselves before bringing Him to our young people.

Phil Marshall

Tots' Church (formerly Crèche)

Key Purpose

Ministry for little ones, caring and playing with the young children during the Sunday morning service, allowing parents and carers to relax and enjoy the service.

Objectives

Caring for the children through a mixture of age-appropriate play, crafts, music and Bible-based activities where appropriate. A snack is also provided.

Team Members

Four team leaders: Katherine Parsons, Nikki Gilmartin, Jo K and Sarah Lintern.
Four teams on a monthly rota: Helen Bodger, Katie Clarke, Sally Mitchell, Wendy Pritchard-Griffiths, Damian Gilmartin, Anthony & Emma Lydall, Vikki Kairis, Anne Ellis, Caroline Seaman and Liz McNeill.
Young helpers: Lucy Ball and Becky Mitchell.

Review of 2012/13

- We have seen four children move up to Junior Church in September 2012, with another four to move up in September 2013.
- There are now around 10 children regularly attending Tots' Church each week, as well as occasional visitors.
- There have been approximately two new children regularly attending Tots' Church over the past year.

Opportunities for ministry

As many of our team do have young children and babies themselves, we regularly find that vacancies arise on the Tots' Church rota. We currently have around 4 vacancies due to our high parent:child ratio of 1:3 for this age range. Please contact Nikki or Kath if you would like to consider helping in this ministry area. We would love to have some more men on our rota too.

Preview of 2013/14

We have recently changed the name of this ministry from crèche to 'Tots' Church'. This is to raise the profile of the crèche facility as a children's ministry area within the Church and to better align ourselves with Junior Church. We are looking to use more age-appropriate Christian-based resources with the children in Tots' Church where possible, including scripture union resources. Please let us know if you have any ideas or resources we could use.

Katherine Parsons
Nikki Gilmartin

Junior Church

Key Purpose

To lay good foundations for every child's relationship with God, through faith in Jesus Christ.

Objectives

- Support and complement each family in teaching their children the Christian faith.
- Encourage the children to join in as part of a large group for worship, prayer and learning Bible verses.
- Teach the Bible creatively, in ways which fully engage the children and have relevance for their lives.

- Maintain small group times in which we can establish relationships with each child.
- Help the children to be aware of those in need around the world, and invite them to pray for and support others.
- Ensure Junior Church is a safe and fun place for all.

Team Members

Nursery and Reception: Rosie Kwan, Sandra Down and Karene Perkins.
 School Years 1 and 2: Jan Morley, Debbie Riella, Rachel Macdonald, Jacky Lemprière and Elaine Macdonald.
 School Years 3 and 4: Maggie Powell and Sarah Wislocka.
 School Years 5 and 6: Stuart Parsons, Tim Payne and Carl Coupar.
 'Junior Church Together': Andy and Ruth Hurley.
 Group assistants: Ann Corrick, Sarah Down, Lauren Riella and Eleanor Ball.

Many thanks to everyone involved with Junior Church, both teachers and group assistants, for the ever present energy, love and dedication that you each put in. We know the children and their parents continue to really appreciate it.

At the end of 2012, Carl, Elaine, Debbie and Lauren stepped down from their regular class teaching roles with Junior Church - we're sure that children and parents will want to pass on a big thank you for the many brilliant class sessions that they have each led. Thank you, each of you!

It's been great to say 'hello' to Karene and Eleanor as they've joined the Nursery and Reception team. We thank God for all of our teachers - 'old' and 'new'!

Review of 2012/13

We have maintained our mix of Junior Church Together sessions and standard class splits for small group activities, and have continued to follow the Scripture Union material as being our core guide for the year, studying topics ranging from 'Our Creator God' to asking 'What does Jesus do?'

We have put some real emphasis on updating and bringing our child protection policy into line with current practices, and we all want to thank Sheila Fear and Fariba Thompson for the work they have done with us during 2012.

This year's Christmas service allowed us to strip the Christmas message back to its brilliant basic best, which was a blessing for us all to be a part of.

Junior Church continues to pledge its commitment to supporting Jedee, a child that we sponsor through the Rwanda Orphans Project, as he continues to grow, and the children continue to see God's love through their giving and the blessings this brings to Jedee and his family.

The teachers and leaders of Junior Church continue to meet often to plan and pray. At these times, we are often reminded of what a real blessing and privilege it is to be involved in sharing God's great news and love with these wonderful children.

Preview of 2013/14

- Continue to implement the above objectives as well as we possibly can.
- Further develop the relationship between the Junior Church teachers and the children's parents, so that we can build a partnership that will help us more effectively to share our faith with our children.
- Invite church members who have expressed an interest in the work of Junior Church to join the team, as teachers or assistants.
- Widen the invitee list to the Junior Church Together sessions to provide the children with the best possible view of 'Big Church' and its ministries, helped with our new child protection policies and procedures.

- More inventive fund raisers to ensure we can provide the continued support needed for our sponsorship activities.
- More frequent gatherings with the wider youth workers of the Church (outside Junior Church) to ensure the Church maintains its common goal and approach in teaching the youth and children about God.

Andy Hurley
Stuart Parsons

Children's Events and Clubs

No Limits

Of course, our immense thanks and gratitude must go to Vladka Coupar for her efforts with No Limits for so long. Our young people have benefitted enormously from her energy, enthusiasm and love for God's Word.

Vladka chose to step down from leading No Limits after the October half-term, and a small team was installed to replace her. Initially, six men (Richard Ward, Nathan Vidini, Dave Morley, Del Wislocki, Jonathan Thompson and Geoff Roberts) were brought in to help, mirroring the main-service passages in Colossians up to Christmas.

Into the new year, and Nathan Vidini was gently persuaded to take a lead with the group, heading up a team of four with Richard Ward and Geoff Roberts taking a back seat, and Jackie Howells stepping up into the team. A new programme has been written using Urban Saints material and taking our young people through Christian basics.

We express our immense thanks to all those involved with No Limits, both past and present, and pray that the Lord will bless the future of this ministry.

If you'd like to help this ministry reaching 11 to 14 year olds, please do let us know!

Check-It-Out

Gratefully inheriting a very enjoyable hour-long club from Carl Coupar, I took over Check-it-out after the October half-term. The age range runs from 7 to 11, and at the moment we attract around 40 children to each evening! We'll often play two or three games, have a brief talk from the Bible, pray and then enjoy tuck together.

Many of the young people attend Thornhill Primary School, but I was made aware of the local needs when I attended the 'all-stars' Bible club at Llanishen Fach Primary School on a Friday recently. Around 45 young people attended that club, only one of whom comes to Check-it-out! I had to turn down advertising our group, since it would simply become unmanageably large! Check-it-out will almost certainly take a different shape (and name) in time, perhaps splitting the age group to reduce numbers in each and to allow us to grow real relationships with the young people.

At the moment the group of leaders consists of Phil Marshall, Tim Payne, Ed Jones, Wendy Pritchard-Griffiths, Tracey Barrington, Rachael Macdonald, Emma Davies, Abi Davies, Abi Jones and Beth Culbertson.

If you'd like to help this ministry reaching 7 to 11 year olds, please do let us know!

iMPACT Café

iMPACT Café continues in its aim to reach local young people, including those from the Church. There are many ups and many downs to this work, given the mix of young people we attract, including questions of how we continue the group and what shape it might take into the future. During a stop-start year, we've attracted a wide range of young people, some of whom are easier to engage with than others. We sometimes find glimmers of hope, and other times find ourselves taking two steps back. But at the moment we continue to try to 'win the respect of outsiders' and to share with them not only the gospel of God, but our lives as well.

I want to express my thanks for the willingness and efforts of the group of leaders which currently consists of Tony & Gill Millin, Phil Marshall, Ed Jones, Tim Payne, Wendy Pritchard-Griffiths and Tracey Barrington.

If you'd like to help this ministry reaching 11 to 18 year olds, please do let us know!

Phil Marshall

Youth Small Groups

Objectives

We aim to provide:

- (1) teaching;
- (2) discipleship;
- (3) pastoral care; and
- (4) fellowship,

to youth aged 14+

- during the week; and
- specifically by meeting each Sunday evening;

and is open to all youth in school years 10 plus.

Team Members

Justin and Julia Render.

Review of 2012/13

As a church we have about 30 young people within the age remit of this ministry. About 20 of these young people regularly attend on a Sunday night for teaching, fellowship and prayer. We try to offer social events and other opportunities to those who choose not to attend Sunday. A typical Sunday night will consist of a Bible study for about an hour and an hour of social time.

Those who have regularly attended on a Sunday night over the year have continued to grow in their relationship with God as the Holy Spirit continues to work in their lives. It has been encouraging to see our young people willing to bring along their friends, both Christian and non-Christian, to be part of Bible studies and to ask their questions about Christianity.

Whilst the structured focus is the weekly Sunday night study, the week time contacts with youth are equally vital, as are extended times together which provide invaluable opportunities to disciple our young people. Those youth who have been able to attend extended times together at residential activities have borne significant fruit following their participation.

Over the last year we have been able to study God's revelation in various areas including:

- Forgotten God - A look at the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives.
- An overview of some of the constant threads running throughout the Bible including:
 - Jesus.
 - Covenant.
 - Kingdom.
 - Salvation.
 - Worship.
- Practical evangelism, including inviting friends to join us to share meals, chat and ask questions about evangelism and Jesus. It was good to make new contacts with youth from outside of a church background. Conversations were open and positive.

Twenty-six young people from Thornhill Church were able to attend Soul Survivor in August 2012 for a week together worshipping, studying the Bible, praying for one another, teaching, building one another up and seeing the Holy Spirit move in incredible ways.

Over the year we have sought to develop relationships with youth and youth leaders from other churches for the mutual benefit of both churches and young people.

A key element in disciplining our youth is opportunities to spend extended times together, whether for a single day or extended residential times together. These types of activity have reduced over the year with the need to delete activities like attendance at Spring Harvest over Easter, youth weekends away, fewer days out and so on, due to the absence of volunteer leaders to help run such activities. This unfortunately is likely to continue for the foreseeable future without an upturn of those wishing to serve in such areas of church life.

Preview of 2013/14

Development in this area will continue to be constrained by the current shortage of resourcing and volunteer leaders.

We will continue to foster links with other churches, such as Lisvane Baptist and Rumney Chapel, with a view that, by working together, we can offer discipleship and evangelistic opportunities, which currently cannot be offered by Thornhill Church alone.

Justin Render

Seniors

Meeting Point

Key Purpose

To provide a weekly social meeting for people aged 50 years and over, bringing them into non-threatening contact with 'church'.

Objectives and Activities

- To create a welcoming and friendly environment.
- To have an enjoyable and interesting period for over an hour with speakers, quizzes, singers and other musicians, and our own activities, as well as refreshments and a monthly 'book swap'.
- To provide opportunity for building up personal contacts.
- To gently awaken to spiritual possibilities, for example by speakers from the Church, missionary or charitable work, as well as by personal interaction.

Team Members

Terry & Eileen Baker, Dinah Ball, Graham Hutchens, Heather Prosser and Stephen Smith. Thanks are again due to Dave Corrick and Mike Fear, on the technical side.

Review of 2012/13

Monday afternoon meetings have continued and remain well received. Attendance has increased to generally around fifty people. The Christmas lunch was again at the New House Hotel and there was a summer coach trip as usual. Relationships with members have developed to some extent and contact with other church activities has been gently encouraged.

Opportunities for ministry

Additional regular team members would be welcome, also anyone interested in speaking or bringing other activities to a meeting.

Preview of 2013/14

No major changes are planned at present, although suggestions would always be considered, bearing in mind that the target group appreciates stability.

Stephen Smith

Centre Ministries

Coffee Shop and Room Hire

The Coffee Shop continues to be a place of encouragement for those involved, with developing friendships and opportunities to share a little of what it means to follow Jesus. The Coffee Shop Carol service entertained many guests, and the Christmas story was clearly proclaimed through songs, readings and a short word, after which, one man took a Bible to read for himself. At the same time, customers were greeted with a Christmas card with testimonies from staff of how they met Jesus for themselves. A number of other friendships are maintained, with a number choosing to come to our festive services through our Coffee Shop witness.

The Adult Education classes continue to run as before, and prayer is needed as we seek to develop relationships with those who lead and with those who come to the classes.

Lighthouse Nursery

Our vision at Lighthouse Nursery is to provide a first class nursery education for the under 5s in the Thornhill area. We aim to minister to the needs of the whole child - physical, emotional, intellectual and spiritual.

To enable us to put this into practice we have a mission plan:

- We teach through Christian principles - patience, kindness and so on. We try to teach the Christian message whenever we have the opportunity, e.g. Christmas and Easter stories. We join with Tots 'n' Toys for events like the Toddler service on Christmas Eve.
- We aim to demonstrate God's love through our actions:
 - Our care for the children and the families.
 - Providing a quality professional service.
 - Praying for the children and their families.
 - Giving support to families when possible.
- Staff support:
 - Praying together
 - Sharing verses.
 - Meeting with Sally Davies for Bible studies, as a group and individually.
 - Half-termly planning meetings to review all the above and plan for the next half term.

Team Members: Ruth Hurley (Nursery Manager), Sook-Yi An (Assistant Manager), Jade Thomas, Becky Wilson, Acco Amagai and Emma Annells.

Volunteers: Toni Crocker and Nikki Graham.

This year, at Lighthouse, has run relatively smoothly. We have settled as a team, working together well. We have plenty of children attending, and a healthy waiting list. This is good, following the worry a couple of years ago when Thornhill and Lisvane Schools opened their own nurseries.

Lighthouse has built up a good reputation over the years, and parents still enthusiastically recommend us to their friends. Also, this year for the first time in many years, Lighthouse has had a contract with the council to provide funded places for children unable to be placed in state nurseries in the local area.

Highlights of the year have been our Christmas Events, in particular our Christmas concert and the toddler service on Christmas Eve with Tots 'n' Toys.

Please continue to pray for us and our work at Lighthouse. Pray that we stay strong as a team, and that we remember God's plan and our vision for the nursery every day. Please also pray for the Lighthouse children and their families.

Summary of Accounts for the Community Interest Company

A summary of the accounts for the Community Interest Company, for the year ending March 2013, is given below.

	Income	Expenditure
	£	£
Catering/The Coffee Shop	60,709	63,242
The Nursery	74,406	58,124
The Centre	56,601	72,403
Depreciation		4,800
Total	191,716	198,569

Phil Marshall

Announcement Concerning the Community Interest Company

[The following announcement was made at the Communication Evening on 20 February 2013]

I'm going to start this evening with an important announcement about some changes to the structure of the Centre, but there is nothing to worry about, and nothing visible will change.

Those of us who have been around the Church for a while will know that roughly six years ago, the Church's vision was to expand this building and the ministries within it. That meant an extension to the building itself and the possibility of new ministries arising within it.

At that time, when a charity wanted to pursue a project of this size, the government encouraged that it register as a Community Interest Company (CIC) which some of you will have heard referred to as the CIC.

Those of you who will have been around the Church for the last few years will know that the Church chose not to follow through on that vision. The CIC was tied to that vision, and since that vision is not being followed, there is no requirement for the CIC.

A decision has been made by the Trustees that, as of the 1st April 2013, the structural entity known as the CIC will close, and everything will now be under the authority of the Church Trust instead.

We, as a church, will see nothing change. This change in structure will not affect jobs, job security, or the way we operate on a daily basis - the news of this change was very positively received by the staff - nothing will change on a daily basis. However, the change is of benefit to all of us, because it cuts down on the amount of administration that is involved in running the Centre, and brings the Centre ministries directly within our church family.

You will have known that there were three CIC directors. I want to mention my appreciation for the work that the three have put into their roles as directors but, as you can imagine, to be running a structural entity which has lost its purpose has been a real millstone for the three of them. These roles will now come to an end. There will be no more directors of the Centre, and the responsibility will be passed on to the Trustees.

If there are any issues arising in the Centre initially, it will not be to the directors that the staff will turn, as they may have felt they needed to in the past, but to me as the pastor of the Church, and I will liaise with the Trustees. This creates no extra work for me, and it's a role I already fulfil, providing relationship between the staff here and the Trustees, of which I am one.

I will be seeking advice on Human Resources issues and Health and on Safety, so that I will be able to answer any queries that the staff may have in the future, but I'll have Roger Prosser's support in all these matters so that that aspect is lightened for me. I don't think that even this aspect of the role will increase any burden I'm carrying as pastor of the Church, though the Trustees have given me their full support if this particular aspect of the role becomes too much. It is normal for the pastor of any

church to be involved in the administrative side of the church, and to take up some organisational reins as I am doing here.

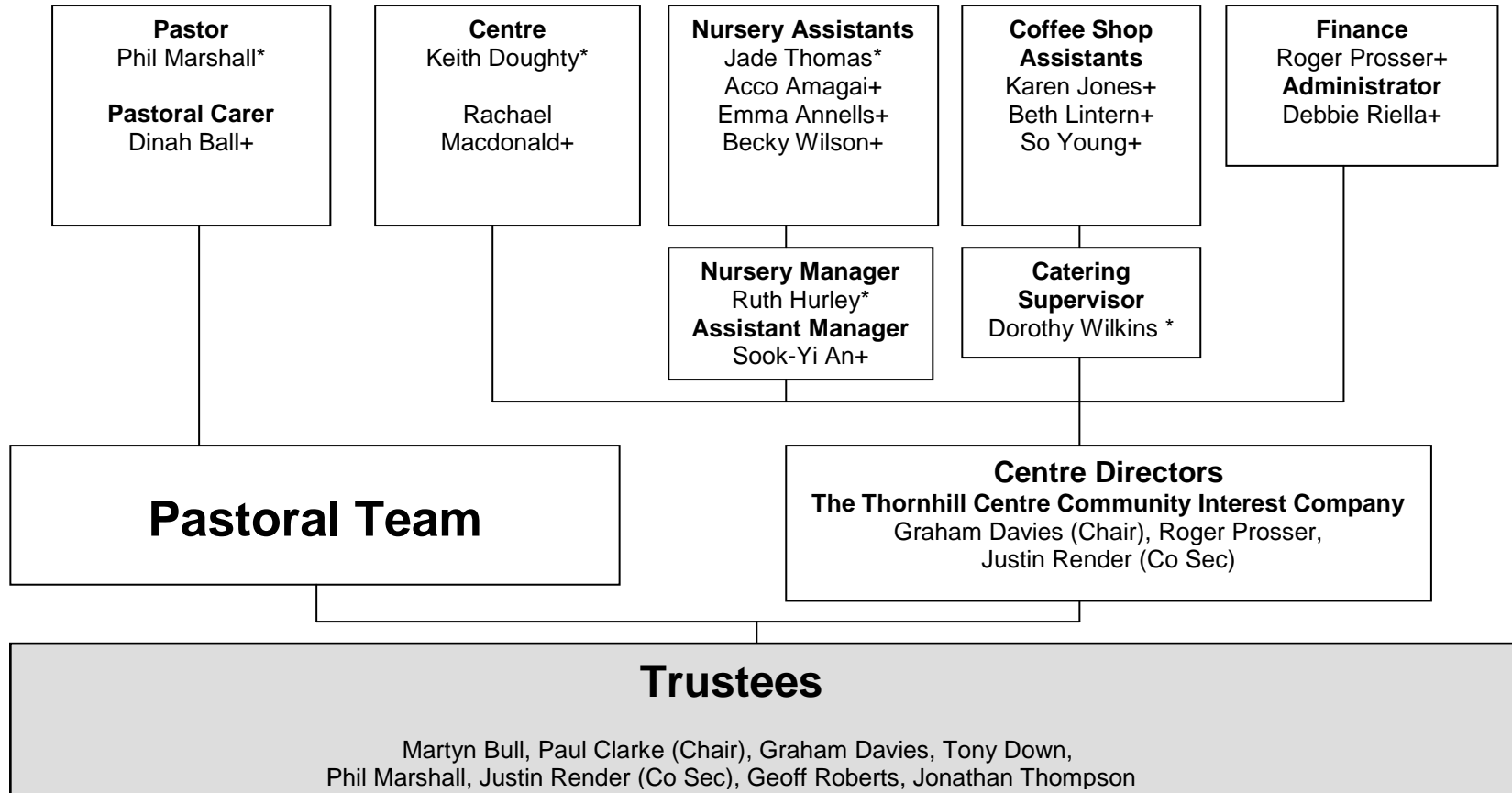
The staff of the Centre have been informed of this today (20th February 2013), and of the procedures accompanying this change.

In making these changes, the elders and Trustees hope that it opens the door for new vision and direction for the Church, which is the matter for discussion this evening - a project that we will share together as a church, led by the elders.

Phil Marshall

Thornhill Church Trust – Trust Structure

This chart shows those who have formal roles in the Trust at the year ending 31st March 2013
Employee's marked * are full time and + are part time



Trustees' Report and Financial Statements

A summary of the accounts for the Trust, for the year ending March 2013, is given below.

Income	2012/13	2011/12	Expenditure	2012/13	2011/12
	£	£		£	£
Gift Aided Giving	90,627	84,998	Salaries	88,450	77,323
Non-Gift Aided Giving	15,509	14,350	Grant to CIC	21,500	23,346
Gift Aid Refund	22,407	21,250	Grant to Mission	12,923	15,567
Ministry Subs	5,806	5,121	Other	14,865	18,071
Other	1,511	5,457			
Total	135,860	131,176	Total	137,738	134,307

A copy of the Trustees' Report will be made available to members at a later date.

Paul Clarke

Thornhill Church Statement of Faith

1. God

There is one God, who exists eternally in three Persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. God is perfect and unchanging in His character. He is the Almighty Creator, Saviour and Judge who controls everything for His own glory. God is love, and has demonstrated that love supremely in sending His Son into the world.

2. The Son of God, the Lord Jesus Christ

The Lord Jesus Christ is fully God and fully human. He was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of a virgin, and lived a sinless life in obedience to God the Father. He taught with authority and all His words are true. He died on a cross in our place, bearing God's punishment for our sin, redeeming us by His blood. He rose from the dead and, in His resurrection body, went into heaven, where He now intercedes for us and is exalted as Lord of all.

3. The Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit is fully God. He brings glory to the Lord Jesus Christ, convinces people of their wrongdoing, and by living in Christians He empowers them to become more like the Lord Jesus.

4. The Bible

God has revealed Himself in the Bible, which consists of the Old and New Testaments alone. Every word of the Bible, as originally given, has been spoken by God. It is, therefore, without error, fully reliable, and the supreme and final authority in faith and life. It shows us the way to God.

5. The Human Race

Everyone is made in the image of God, and therefore has equal dignity and worth. Our greatest purpose is to obey, worship and love God. However, as a result of disobedience by the parents of the human race, every aspect of human nature has been corrupted. Everyone is therefore without spiritual life, a sinner by nature and by choice, and faces the Judgement of God who is holy.

6. Salvation

Salvation cannot be earned or deserved: it is the free gift of God. He made it available through the death of the Lord Jesus Christ. We must turn from our sin and trust in Jesus Christ in order to receive the benefits of salvation. These include forgiveness, being credited with the righteousness of Christ, a restored relationship with God, the gift of the Holy Spirit, adoption into God's family, and eternal life.

7. Church

The church is the company of the people who belong to the Lord Jesus Christ. It exists to reveal the glory of God. The church draws its life and direction from the Lord Jesus Christ. It is therefore an organism and not just an organization. Churches form locally as believers meet together to worship God, to encourage one another in their spiritual lives, and to serve their community. Obedience to the Word of God requires us to preach, evangelise, baptise, celebrate communion, and pray for all. All members of the church are equal and should use their varied gifts to work together in love and unity.

8. The Future

The Lord Jesus will come a second time. The dead will be raised. Believers in the Lord Jesus will enter into everlasting joy in fellowship with God. All unbelievers, whether living or dead, will be judged and suffer eternal punishment. God will make all things new and be glorified forever.

* * * * *

