



Welcome to all the CBC Fellowship.

Here is the CBC Newsletter/diary for May 2025. If you have any comments or contributions, feel free to contact me,

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I'm starting this newsletter on 29th April at 8.00 pm, sitting in the garden after three hours of gardening, taking in the smell of lilac and the blackbirds singing their good night songs – the odd bark from Rico, Barry and Linda's dog next door! All seems right with the World but we know that the reality is that there is much suffering and pain in the life of many individuals and nations. I praise God for the beauty all around me but I praise him even more for entering into the pain and muck of people lives in the person of Jesus and giving us hope. Easter testifies to a God who keeps his word in allowing his precious son to be sacrificed in our place so that we can have a relationship with him, our disobedience being dealt with on the cross and triumphed over on Easter day when Jesus rose from death, alive today and still reaching out to a World in turmoil. At the point of Jesus' death, the curtain in the temple which precluded ordinary people from entering into God's presence in the Holy of Holies, was torn in two from the top to the bottom – no human action in that. So, now it is possible for us to be restored into His presence by saying 'yes' to his offer of salvation.

In the last week or so, two things have stood out to me, giving cause to celebrate. The death of Pope Francis reminded the World that he was a person who modelled his life on Jesus, reaching out to rich and poor alike. He had a heart for the homeless, refugees and prisoners, choosing to live his life as simply as possible for a man in his position. What an example for us all to follow.

Liverpool are premiership winners. Whether or not you are a football fan, the celebrations of so many people showed the joy shared in that town and beyond – do we demonstrate our joy in having a relationship with the Lord adequately I wonder. Did you see Cody Gakpo taking off his shirt after scoring a goal to reveal 'I belong to Jesus' underneath. Apart from receiving a yellow card for removing his shirt, he has since been given a warning by the Football Association for this display. I understand that a number of the Liverpool squad are Christians including their goalkeeper Alisson Becker and their ex-manager Jurgen Klopp. Liverpool also have an interfaith prayer room available 5 hours before each match for fans to use. With the results of a recent survey on behalf of the Bible Society revealing that more people are becoming interested in Christianity and in particular, young men, I find this a great encouragement and a spur to try and live out my Christian life in a more positive way.

Thanks to those who contributed in any way to our Easter celebrations. The Easter party went really well and time spent at the Tesco Hub the following week, reaching out to families, was particularly beneficial. On Easter Sunday, how lovely to welcome over 80 to join in worship to our living Lord.

Thanks also to everyone who joined in with the 24 hours of prayer last week regarding the possibility of being awarded a Grant by the Joseph Rank Trust for the building fund. Most of you will know that we were granted £50,000 for which we praise God. This brings us closer to the necessary amount required in order to go ahead but we are not there yet! Please continue to pray for the outcome from other areas of funding that are being sought. At the July Church Meeting, we will need to make the final decision as to whether or not we proceed with the present plans.

Boys (and Girls) Brigade is starting this week. Please pray for the team and those who attend, that everything will go well and opportunities for sharing the Gospel with families will arise.

May also sees the start of the 'Freedom in Christ' course which will be covered by all Home Groups. See Wayne for further information.

Please note – The Church Meeting, originally set for May 25th, will now take place on Sunday 8th June.

Regular activities

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| Living Room | - Mondays 10.30am – 2.00pm. (Not Bank Holidays) |
| Coffee Morning | - Every Wednesday 10.30am – 12noon. |
| Toddler Group | - Thursdays 9.30am – 11.30am (Term Time only)
- Fridays 9.30am – 11.30am (Term Time only) |
| Boys & Girls Brigade | - Thursdays 6.00pm to 7.30pm (Term Time only) |
| Evening Prayer | - 1 st and 3 rd Sunday of each month at 6.00pm |
| Big Family Church | - 1 st Sunday of the month 11am (short 'Traditional' service 10.15am) |
| Home Groups | - Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays. See Wayne for further information |

Future dates for your information and prayer

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| May 7th | - Deacons Meeting |
| May 11th | - Baptism of Angie Hopton |
| May 11th | - Messy Church at Methodist Church, 3.00 pm |
| May 16th-18th | - Baptist Assembly |
| May 18th | - Visiting Speaker – David Morrell (Wayne Away) |
| June 8th | - Church Meeting following morning worship |
| June 18th | - Deacons Away Day |
| June 22nd | - Community Lunch – NO MORNING SERVICE |

Continue to pray, as we move forward under the banner of Christ.

'To you alone, O Lord, to you alone and not to us, must glory be given because of your constant love and faithfulness.' Psalm 115:1