

Dear Friends,

The summer seems just a distant memory, for me anyway! We are now in autumn, a season of *mists and mellow fruitfulness*, so there is lots for us to look forward to.

It has been encouraging to see so many new people attending our Sunday services over the summer months. It is important to make new people feel welcome and at home as part of our fellowship. In an relatively large and busy church it is easy to become complacent about evangelism. *The Parable of the Lost Sheep* reminds us that God is concerned about those who are outside of the church and that as Christians we should be too.

The next event we are looking towards is *Harvest Festival on a Farm* on Sunday 26 September, 12:30 pm at Pennywell Farm near Buckfastleigh. We begin with a buffet lunch at the farm, there will be a harvest service and afterwards the opportunity to have a guided tour to see the farm animals. It's good to think about God's creation at this time of year and be reminded of all the good things we have to share. This is designed to be a fun, family event to which everybody is invited. Perhaps you know somebody you could invite?

GOOD NEWS

I'm pleased to be able to give you some good news about the Church's outreach events that happened over the summer.

Firstly, *Meal with a Message*, a three-course meal with an after dinner speaker, was held in June. Nearly fifty people came to the event which was held at the New Country Inn near Smithaleigh. Many of you came and enjoyed it, as did a large number of guests who were interested and expressed a desire to come to future events.

Christianity Explored ran in May, June and July. It is a course designed to help people discover more about or go deeper into the Christian faith. As part of the course we had a weekend away at *Buckfast Abbey*. All involved had a really good time of learning, sharing and fellowship together. I hope to run similar courses in the future.

Our summer outreach event was the *Boat Cruise and Barbecue*. A group of people from the church came and I was pleased to see so many guests and people who don't usually attend church. We sailed over to Mount Edgecombe and had a barbecue supper before returning to the Barbican. The weather was not brilliant, but our speaker, Howard Bray gave a lively message that challenged people to think more deeply about Jesus Christ.

FUTURE EVENTS

What is there to look out for?

BIBLE STUDIES

We are changing the Bible studies from October and hope that more people from the church and especially new people will come to these. The Monday evening and Wednesday morning Bible studies will have a different format with more opportunity for discussion as well as teaching.

CHRISTMAS SHOPPING

Our event for November is a shopping trip by coach to Bristol and an opportunity to visit John Wesley's *New Room*. This will be a Christmas shopping trip with a difference, come and join us. The trip will include IKEA and the Cribbs Causeway Shopping Mall. The Bristol Shopping Trip will be on Saturday 27 November.

BOOK FAIR

For your Christmas books come to the Book Fair on Saturday 4 December.

If you would like to become more involved in the Church's outreach work then please speak with me.

With every blessing,

James Darby

Outreach Worker

