A Snapshot of Our Year 2013

Dorchester Baptist Church

Help in a Crisis

Annual Reports
Pastor’s Report 2013

My final comments to you in last year’s report was from Tommy Tenny - “God Chasers” - “I don’t know about you, but I am tired of just being ‘another somebody’ to the lost around me. I have made a decision. I made up my mind and set my heart to declare, I am going to pursue the presence of God in my life. I am going to get so close to God that when I walk into secular and public places, people will meet Him. They may not know that I’m there, but they will definitely know that He is there.”

No sooner had I quoted this then we were encouraged or challenged by Rev Dr David Coffey to get out of the boat like Peter in Matthew 14. We then received further encouragement from David when he wrote -

“I sense you are ready to move out with some faith risk taking!” He then refers to ‘Pioneers- Travellers and Settlers’ and says “Pioneers are strange people who are rarely seen around the camp! They are the Joshua and Caleb of their generation. They have been given a glimpse of what awaits God’s people and they bid us not to be frightened of the giants who stand between us and the new destination. If they have a godly character and lifestyle you must listen to their prophetic encouragements.”

Since receiving this, we have sought to understand what it means for us as a church. We followed on with further studies in Matthew 14 and then set as our motto for 2013 Heb 12 … let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith.

A study through Joshua followed. These studies continued to emphasise our call as a church to move out with the gospel to ‘claim the land’. This is particularly true when considering our heart-felt vision to continue working in Charlton Down and to focus by God’s help, on future ministry in Poundbury and Fordington.

I’m sure, like me you have been encouraged but also challenged, especially when you think of a man like Caleb. There’s a repeated phrase that aptly describes him, he “Wholly followed the Lord.” It’s a phrase that means “To close the gap.” It refers to the fact that Caleb was committed in keeping the distance between himself and the Lord to a minimum. This is not unlike Tommy Tenny’s comment - I am going to pursue the presence of God in my life. I am going to get so close to God!
I acknowledge that the journey this year for some has been a blessing and yet for others has been tough. We come alongside both with our love and support, trusting that with our focus on Him we will continue to experience God’s touch upon our lives as a family here at DBC.

May I again express my sincere thanks and indebtedness to all of you for continuing the journey with us in the gospel and for your overwhelming love and support. The way you have consistently and often self effacingly gone about living the kingdom life for the glory of His name, has been such a blessing. I’m reminded of something Charles Price said – ‘God’s victory is something not to be won but received. Perhaps the greatest quality in women and men of God is the capacity to receive! – to receive what God alone can give and to trust what God alone can do!’

I’m more aware than ever that the task ahead is immense but we have a great God who has promised to provide all we need – Praise His name!

I’m also aware we can’t do this alone so on behalf of Alice and myself we express our appreciation to all of you that have heard the call of God on your life by being here and in serving Him, have become part of what He is doing. Particularly, we acknowledge the leadership team for their faith lived out through unstinting love, dedicated support and hard work. It’s been a joy to journey in His work with such a team.

May I also thank you for the call you made to Mandy to join the team as a ‘Minister in Training’ and to her for accepting the call! She has been a tremendous asset to the church and very supportive to Alice and I in the overall ministry. Space here doesn’t allow me to say how much I have counted it an honour to serve you and what a privilege it’s been to be part of His story through your lives. Thank you!

I need to bring my reflection on this past year to a close so -

‘My counsel for you is simple and straightforward: Just go ahead with what you’ve been given. You received Christ Jesus, the Master; now live him. You’re deeply rooted in him. You’re well constructed upon him. You know your way around the faith. Now do what you’ve been taught. School’s out; quit studying the subject and start living it! And let your living spill over into thanksgiving’ (Col 2:6–7 The Message)

May it be so for His glory, as we move forward into another new year!

God bless you

Harry
Minister in Training

I love my job! That’s really all I want to say, but I know that Harry won’t let me get away with not expanding a little!

I started as a Minister in Training in January this year, and it has so far been a busy and varied year. Some things have been outside of my ‘comfort zone’ - such as assisting Harry with a funeral and a wedding, and doing my first baptisms. Other things, such as preaching and leading services and school assemblies, continue to be a delight, and hopefully are areas where I am growing and improving. My passion is God’s word and its impact and relevance in people’s lives, and nothing excites me more than God showing me something from scripture that he wants me or others to know and experience.

I feel that I have already learnt much these past months. I am learning to rely on God for wisdom, strength, discernment and understanding more than I have ever had to before! It is a very exciting journey, and one I am so grateful to be on here at DBC.

The study side to my training has predominantly been about working alongside Harry and others - this has been an immense privilege and blessing. I also completed a distance learning course on ‘pastoral care’, and attended a series of lectures at Moorlands College on ‘Baptist history and principles’ (as interesting as it sounds!). Another element to my study involves reading more - Christian books that is, not just Hello or the back of the cereal box! I am interested in looking at what the Bible says about women in ministry, how the church can compassionately engage with the issue of homosexuality, and ways of ‘doing church’ in a post-Christendom culture.

The next step for me will probably involve having an important decision to make about whether or not I, and you as a church, feel it right for me to go to Bible College, and if not then what?

I know this is not an Oscar acceptance speech, but there are so many people Lee and I are indebted to for their love, encouragement and support, whether it is in prayer, advice, being a listening ear, babysitting or just giving a hug (very important!).

And in case you still haven’t realised it, I love my job!!

Mandy Rhodes

Youth Worker’s Report

In the last year there have been a number of new initiatives within the youth work of DBC. There has been a new Youth Café (Chillout Café) which started on Sunday evenings for those in school year 9 and above (Sept 13). In September, together with three volunteers, I took 14 young people from the church to Swanage for a time of fellowship, activities and teaching. This Youth Retreat was a great success.

We started the Drama Youth Group in April, which has provided some sketches for Sunday morning services. The group attracts on average ten young people of middle school age, who like to act and perform. There has also been a monthly prayer event to pray for all the local schools in the area.
Jump & React on Friday evenings continue to be successful. They both regularly get between 35 – 40 young people attending. We have had trips to Sharkeys, a sleepover in the church, movie nights, inflatables and free Parkour sessions.

Link Youth Life Group has continued on Tuesday evenings for those of Thomas Hardye school age and I also lead the Saints group on Sunday mornings, using the ‘Youth For Christ’ material ‘Mettle’. Together with other youth leaders in the town, we support the CU in Thomas Hardye School. At Christmas time hot chocolate was given out and at Easter time chocolate eggs and free Mark Gospels were distributed.

Over the summer there was a successful Holiday Club Plus at Dorchester Community Church and follow up events in February and November respectively. Also over the summer Mel and I, and Paul & Lue Ashley took some young people to the Annual Soul Survivor event in Shepton Mallet and in July a 18-30s weekend was organised and the group enjoyed time together in Swanage.

The new initiative of visiting the Skate park in Dorchester, offering free hot chocolate and cakes to the skaters is providing us with the opportunity to reach out to young people in our community.

I hope the videos shown at the September church meeting gave you an idea of some of the activities our young people get involved in. There are, of course, all sorts of new plans for the next year – watch this space!!

Ro King

Family Worker’s Report

The ministry of the family worker is worked out through pastoral care within the church family, with home visits and times of meeting up with parents and families. There are occasions when Harry and I meet families or parents together and times when I work alone.

I make regular contact with parents, grandparents and children through Kids & Co on Tuesday afternoons. This is an opportunity to chat in a family friendly environment, often to listen and to give advice when asked for. It takes time to build up trust and relationships. Chris Baker and I have established a 'Dads & Kids' Saturday morning play session, the first being in June, and we have another planned in November as requested by the dads!! Chris and myself are planning an evening meal in December for the Kids & Co mums and grandmothers.

I continue to work as part of the 'Messy Church' team and the 'Friendship Club' afternoons whether that is Friendship Club gets messy or the interactive services at Christmas and Easter, where I always try to engage with the families that attend. Alongside this I work within the teams of holiday club and junior church.

I continue to meet Maureen Lucas, with times together for prayer, to cover the ongoing work and give me support and encouragement in the work. Chris Baker and I regularly meet to co-ordinate activities and support each other in the work with young families.

This report cannot detail all the immense work carried out at DBC to bring support to families, but can you please stand with me in praying for opportunities in the coming year to express God’s love in all these areas of work.

Alice Place
Kids & Co

Kids & Co meet on Tuesdays using the crèche, coffee lounge and the Worship Centre. There are two sessions, mornings 10 - 11.45 a.m. and afternoons 1 - 2.45p.m. Toys & activities are provided which are suitable for 0 – 4 year olds.

During the first two weeks since restarting this term we have 110 families on the register (144 children.)

We are fortunate in having a wonderful team of helpers who man the door, take the register, and make tea/coffee etc, talk to the adults, help the children and have cuddles with the babies. (Thank you one and all!) We always welcome more help even for ‘holiday relief’. Please pray and see if this work is for you.

During the year some of the team of helpers attended an excellent training day run by the Entheos Trust. Some of their ideas have already been implemented, e.g. Kids & Co for dads on a Saturday morning. The first one proved very successful, especially the bacon butties! The next one is planned for Saturday 16th November.

Laughter, chatter, singing & music are normally heard on Tuesdays but at the Christmas party when food, presents and bouncy castles are introduced, the volume increases. The summer term ends in a similar way with a picnic, held outside, in the sunshine this year.

No report is complete without mentioning the two Weymouth beach donkeys that patiently allow the children to sit on them, pat them and have their photographs taken. They also help us in the telling of the Easter story to the children.

We pray each week that all who attend Kids & Co will sense the presence of Jesus at DBC. We are thrilled by the numbers who attend Messy Church and as they get older, Holiday Club.

Thank you to Harry, Ro, Mandy and the office staff for all their help and support.

Chris Baker

Messy Church

Messy Church has become an established activity within DBC life. We have four Saturday afternoons planned during the year, with a team of dedicated people who head up the areas of work, which are setting up, welcome, leading/speaking, worship, craft, catering and clearing away. We are very grateful that people are committed to 'Messy Church' and give their time and talents to bless young families.

We have a 'sign up' table three weeks before the event for helpers, which might be an hour commitment or the whole day!! We just want to say 'THANK YOU' to all the church family who have been supportive of the work, who have rolled up their sleeves and got involved!! For some it has been getting out of their comfort zone doing something different and trusting God, but they have done it!!! We always need more people to help, so if you are new to the church or want to be involved, please come along, you will be amazed at how many children, parents, grandparents and extended families come!! The whole of DBC is buzzing for two hours!! The families go home buzzing for a lot longer, with full tummies and remembering a fun packed afternoon !!!

DOES MESSY CHURCH NEED YOU???

.......YES IT DOES!

THERE ARE JOBS TO SUIT EVERYONE!!!!

Alice Place
Junior Church

We start by saying a big thank you to everyone who helped over the summer holidays, giving our teachers some much needed time off. By the sounds of it the children had a great time watching DVDs and enjoying related activities.

Junior Church has continued to grow throughout the last year and we now have over 50 children on our books. It is fantastic to see so many children coming to church and enjoying the time we have together. There is always a lot to chat about and the children love to get involved in the story telling and active worship. The older children enjoy lively debates and always have lots to say!

In January Mel King joined me as Junior Church co-ordinator. She has a real passion for teaching the children as well as having lots of ideas and energy! Put that with all the fantastic teachers and helpers in Junior Church, we have a great team and everyone works really hard to ensure the children enjoy learning the gospel of Jesus.

We continue to support the Dorcas Trust and have already made Christmas cards to send to the homeless and deprived children of the Philippines. It’s a great charity for us to support as the children like to help other children less fortunate than themselves and understand that they are privileged in comparison.

Over the summer we said goodbye to five teachers/helpers and we are still very short of help. If you feel Junior Church is something you would like to get involved with, please let me know.

Beth Harron and Mel King

Mission Rescue Holiday Club

This year Mission Rescue was the theme for the holiday club for children aged between 5 and 8 years old.

The club was run over two days and over 80 children, or should we say ‘trainee spies,’ embarked on God’s mission. However unlike the film, this was not mission impossible, ....... it was mission possible!

Through craft, games, bible stories and worship the children had fun learning about God’s amazing plan for us all.

Special thanks to all those who helped us complete this successful mission. The team are already looking forward to and planning Holiday Club 2014!

Kay Wilson White

Holiday Club Plus

This year’s Holiday Club Plus, entitled Whole Hearted Hero for young people attending middle school, ran for 5 days, with a very special Sunday morning service on 4th August at The Community Church. On average we had between 35-45 attending during the week. HC+ was a morning of crazy games, challenges, discussions, craft & just plain fun as we explored the life of David. We had five different activity stations on the last day, which included Ceramic Mug Painting, Candy Pizza Making, Nail Painting, Making an Edible Picture & Face Painting.

Ro King
Soul survivor

What a great time! August in the sun with several thousand teenagers, worship, study, food and fun.

The highlight - just being with our young people, who were a delight. We only had to put two of them on the naughty step, they know who they are! I know they all grew in their walk with God and it was a special moment for us all when Reuben walked forward to commit himself to God. In fact all of us encountered God during our time together. The main meetings were (as usual) amazing.

Hope you saw the great video at the church meeting!!

Paul Ashley

Fleet Camps 2013

August is always a very special month of the year, due to the crazy event of young people living under canvas for a week at Fleet camps. The camp field is cleared of horses and horse poo. Warren, one of the camps’ leadership team, has this unenviable job of poo picking (he looks forward to doing this with great enthusiasm!).

Build up weekend comes and the whole site is erected, 'many hands made light work' this year, we look forward to seeing everyone again next year!? You may even feel like volunteering to help Warren in his favourite job (gloves provided)??

First day of camping arrives, (Kids2, 12-14) tent leaders and helpers settle in first and have a teaching session. Later in the day, the children start to arrive from the local area, Dorchester and London. Much excitement as old and new friendships are made or reacquainted (why do girls scream so much in this situation?).

Camp progresses through the week, young people engage with God through tent quiet times when they wake up, morning and evening worship. Kids2 finishes and the youth (15+) weekend commences later that day. Very quickly, this comes to an end and Kids1 (8-11) starts and the weekly cycle continues until the end of camp for 2013. Still not finished though as it all has to be taken down and stored away over the next few days. The field is returned to the horses.

You blink and think did camp really take place? Then, on the wind sounds of young people enjoying themselves, songs of praise and glorifying God. Young people coming into a relationship with Jesus. Some, already on a journey with Jesus are telling their peers how cool God is and how he walks with them in everyday life. The Sun has set on FC 2013, a warm glow comes over me knowing that God is still calling young people to him, taking them in his arms and blessing them. Bring on 2014 Yay Camp!

Keith White
Life groups
After working on a training package, with the help of existing Life Group leaders, we are now ready to start training new leaders. It's an exciting time and there are many more people who would like to attend groups. Focus remains on our four core values for our leaders:

✓ caring for the people in the group,
✓ effecting the community,
✓ being involved in training others, and
✓ being an example to others.

As we move forward as a fellowship the Life Groups remain a key part of what God is doing and my hope is that there will be a manifest increase in God’s blessing.

Paul Ashley

Café Refresh : Jer 31 v 25 “I will refresh the weary and satisfy the faint”
Café Refresh is an outreach, so everyone’s welcome to enjoy the friendly atmosphere, enhanced by classical music played by our pianists Stella and Julian. The team have been blessed this year by our conversations with church members and non-church visitors, who come from the town, surrounding villages, Portland, and even Salisbury. We offer prayer support, through members of the DBC prayer team, as part of our outreach. The team are very busy serving filter coffee, teas, hot chocolate, cappuccino and soft drinks, plus a wide range of mouth-watering cakes and snacks.

We are open for all on Wednesday mornings between 10-12 noon. Give it a try.

Last year we started an evening Café Refresh held on the first Thursday of the month and sometimes on the third Thursday, from 7 – 9 pm. This is a time for playing table-top games, enjoying conversation and fellowship, combined with drinks and snacks. We love hearing the lounge full of laughter, so if you would like to make new friends give the Café a try. Please pray that both Café’s will be blessed by God as we seek to follow his word and will. For more information speak to Margaret Hamilton or myself.

Paul White

Hello
After our usual excellent Christmas lunch, we went forward into the New Year with great hopes with the popular trip to Compton Valence for the snowdrops. This was well attended, but after Jan Shaw’s well-illustrated talk in March on Dorcas after her trip to Manila, things went slowly down hill. This was due to a number of factors-- lack of transport, lack of interest, and illness. Four trips had to be cancelled, but we enjoyed a lovely fine day at Kingston Maurward, and also fine weather at Upton Country Park.

Then came the "Piece de Resistance", a talk by our own Andy Burton on his climbing of the "Monros" a huge number of Mountains in Scotland which took him 21 years to complete, amazing! There was so much positive feedback on this that the suggestion was made that he be asked to repeat the talk to a larger audience. We praise our God for safety and fellowship, Denis’s successful operation, and blessings on Viv and Beryl, perhaps they will be at the Christmas lunch!

Chris Amos
Ladies prayer breakfast

The prayer breakfast has been running well with an average of eight ladies attending. We have a wonderful time of prayer where we focus on the church community, church events, the wider community, and world issues. There is always room for more ladies to come along as it is a wonderful time to build new friendships within the church body.

Sarah Power

Creative Fun Days

Once again we have held four Creative Fun Days since the last AGM, with a total of about 112 people enjoying the various activities. These have included making bath bombs, bead and earring making, decorating canvases with fabric, kantha stitching, card making, woodwork projects, dressmaking (skirt and waistcoat), box making, printmaking, napkin folding, and Christmas activities.

We are reluctant to turn anyone away, but numbers have been increasing, so the decision has been made to alter the format to avoid having to disappoint. We will continue to run two full days, with refreshments, and in between we will have a half-day of fellowship, help with own projects and a demonstration, with instructions for making at home – last month it was how to make a fabric notice board. We are always pleased to receive offers of help, with preparations, provision of food, teaching skills and also now with demonstrating a larger scale project.

Our next full day meeting is on 21 November, when the emphasis will be on Christmas. Please contact Helen McGregor to book a place, offer help or with any enquiries.

We are most grateful to all those who have helped in any way during the year, it really is a team effort.

Anne Broome

Next year: 13 March, ½ day with demonstration
19 June, full day with activities as usual
18 September, ½ day with demonstration
20 November, full day of Christmas activities

Ladies Keep Fit

Ladies keep fit is held every Thursday 6 – 7 p.m. at DBC. It is run by Dave Wall a qualified instructor and is suitable for all ages and all abilities. Why not give it a go?

Chris Baker

Designed for Living Course

Fourteen people attended the six sessions of 'Designed for Living' held in February and March 2013 at The Studio at Tincleton. We wrote this course to give us a greater understanding of wholeness, who we are in God and the abundant life of freedom that He wants us to have through Jesus.

We considered what we mean by 'the Christian Life' and how the things that happen to us prevent us from leading this life to the full. This covered our relationships past and present and any wounding that we may have received through them. This led to understanding how we are made and how these wounds and hurts affect us and our inescapable need to forgive those who caused them.

We can then grow through these experiences to allow the Holy Spirit to show fruit in our lives. We thought about the great need to trust God totally with everything that concerns our lives and to have the faith to know that He is able to 'complete the work that He has begun in us' (Phil 1:6)

Our final session was thinking about how we allow God to carry out His work in us to bring about the changes He needs to make to enable us to become the people He has ordained that we can be in Him.

Mary Over, Ray and Anne Broome
Welcome Team

Chris and Angie Nowell continue to organise the Welcome Team and the Welcome Lunchees. Our thanks go to all the people involved in welcoming people into our building, whether it's on a Sunday or weekday, at the many activities we have going on here.

People often remark on how welcoming we are as a fellowship. As we go forward, we need to explore more ways of integrating new people into the life of our Church Family. The Church Leadership are, with our help, wanting to find ways to better the process of sharing our vision to newcomers, and finding out more about them.

Dave Lucas

Worship

The aim of all those involved in the worship team continues to be to lead and aid all those who attend our various meetings in the act of corporate worship, mainly through music.

Over 20 people have again been involved in leading “sung worship” on Sunday mornings with several others playing for other events such as Amplified, Messy Church and Friendship Club services.

Following on from the successful Worship Central course which we ran during 2012, we have in 2013 been meeting monthly as a team. These times, which we have branded as “Worship Space”, are varied to try and build us closer as a team and help us improve and mature in all the skills and attributes we use when leading worship. The content has therefore included times for socialising, worshipping together, practicing and improving some of our technical skills. Those attending have had a good time and we look forward to continuing to put some of what we are learning into practice over the coming months.

Having had a few of the team go to Uni, move away or give their time to other things, we are short of certain instrumentalists, particularly bass players and drummers. If you would be interested in joining the team, please speak to Nigel, Jon, Warren, Skip or Jane.

Nigel Singleton

Prayer Report

Does Prayer make a difference? James 5 verses 7-20 inspires me to pray. It begins with a reality that all of us suffer and patience is needed, but not in a passive way.

The passage goes on to show that whatever form that suffering may take prayer is the antidote. Not prayer in isolation; but shared prayer. The right relationship with God and with each other is vital for prayer to be powerful and effective, get that right, then combine it with faith and the results are spectacular, healing for sickness, forgiveness and healing for sin, salvation for those heading for a lost eternity, bringing them into the arms of a compassionate and merciful God. Prayer makes something happen.

DBC provides many opportunities to join together to pray, within Life Groups, Sunday morning before the service, Prayer Team after the morning service. Wednesday noon combined with communion, DBC Prayer Week, 24/7 Prayer Week, and Ladies prayer breakfasts.

I encourage you to take part in the prayer life of DBC, together with God we can make a difference.

Paul White
**Puppet Ministry**

The puppet ministry has had a more varied year with support from Kay, Paul, Denver and Karen. The Christmas Cracker stall was as busy as ever but the puppets were cancelled again due to the rain. Denver and Karen took the puppets to South Street when the Easter eggs and invitations were given out. The rain also affected the Pentecost Praise in the park, but we had an enjoyable time working with the Community Church Puppet team at the joint service held in Dorford.

Puppets have been used at Messy church, Friendship Club events, Holiday club and school assemblies again. We were invited to be part of the Holiday Club team at Puddletown, which was held for the first time this year. It gave us a chance to meet up with our Anglican friends culminating with the outdoor farmers service at the end of the week.

Ro’s drama group also showed their great potential to use puppets and they did their first performance at the Holiday Club Barbecue.

We would welcome others who would like to have a go and perhaps meet on a regular basis to develop those dormant skills and especially encourage our gifted youngsters.

Thanks for your prayers and encouragement

Peter and Jackie Higgins

**Ministry to people with Learning disabilities**

We have had three special celebrations this year, which have been attended by an estimated 30-50 people and their carers. At our Christmas celebration we attempted to act out the Nativity story with costumes and there was plenty of ad-libbing, e.g. Joseph asked the shepherds if they had any ID when they arrived at the stable. We also had four kings, the fourth King brought handcream as a gift for Mary.

At all the services there is much competition to do readings and the songs are sung with great volume and enthusiasm (even if a little out of tune). Instead of Harvest this year we will be experiencing the parable of the Prodigal son through crafts, songs, puppets and prayer.

We liaise with the Friendship Club (FC) which provides the publicity and circulates fliers to various providers of residential care and individuals supported in the community. Some church members have volunteered at other events such as the karaoke evening, discos and the Glitter Ball. There is always the need for additional volunteers to support the work of the FC. The latest programme and contact details are on the noticeboard. We have also met with another church which plans to involve the FC in some of their activities.

Thanks to all, especially the catering team, for supporting these special times of fun and celebration.

Peter and Jackie Higgins
Pastoral Report

As a Church family, we are called to love and care for each other.

Once again we are grateful for our team who are always willing to help us out with whatever needs doing. Together we support the work of Harry, Alice and Mandy, looking to ease their workload wherever possible. We visit people who are unwell, at home or in hospital, take people to appointments, arrange meals and meet other needs that may arise, and visit those of our family no longer able to come to church. Life Groups do a great job in caring for their members which eases our work considerably. We feel very privileged to have this role in Church life and thank God for the team who are so good at what they do.

Maureen and Dave Lucas

Charlton Down Outreach

It's approximately four years since we held our first Messy Church in the Village Hall. Since then we have been reaching out to villagers in various ways. One way, with our Church’s backing, we have been experimenting with a different format for messy church, to involve adults as well as children.

Thank you for your support, particularly to those people who came along to the events at Easter and Harvest. Our next event - Carols in the Ballroom is on the 15th December at 3.30pm.

Our Life Group, which is held in our home in Charlton Down, meet every week. The group has become pivotal in outreaching to the village. We have hosted an Alpha course, had social times, which almost always involve food, and gives us the opportunity to invite friends along. The highlights of the last year for us at Charlton Down has been seeing people from our village coming into membership of DBC and seeing another make a commitment of Faith.

Please pray that the seeds we are sowing will land on fertile ground and that we might continue to see fruit for our labours.

Dave and Maureen Lucas

Quiet Space

We continue to be one of several churches that support the QS. This support ranges from a financial input to supporting the work with companions, helpers and the like.

A major part is played through having Alan Murray as the Warden. May I express our thanks to Alan who works tirelessly to see the QS used to its full potential. Also, our appreciation to Ray Broome, after a period in excess of five years, he has stood down from the Board of Trustees. His input over this time has been invaluable and has helped to achieve what we have in the QS today. For the record, I have (for the time being) taken his place on the Board of Trustees.

We continue to visit and use the QS as a church or in supporting other churches in presenting Alpha courses, 24/7 prayer initiative (another one due to commence in November) celebrations and meetings of various kinds. But more can and needs to be done! The QS needs our/your continual support.

Please give the request for help you’ll have read in the news sheet and on the noticeboard your serious attention and prayer - then just SIGN UP!

Also pray for the team – warden, companions, helpers and trustees as we seek God’s vision for the future. Which I believe is very exciting for Poundbury, Dorchester and for us as a church!

Harry
Dorchester’s Foodbank

It has been a year of change for the Foodbank. We have waved goodbye to Peter Johnston as he has moved to West Sussex and also to Charles Crane. We are extremely grateful for the work they have so diligently done and are blessed by the legacy that has been left behind, so it is appropriate that we express our thanks in this report.

The Foodbank continues to operate on Monday, Wednesday and Friday for two hours each time, and is run entirely by volunteers to whom we are very grateful for their continued help and support. The system works by agencies both statutory and voluntary supplying a voucher to the client and then they are able to exchange this for a pack of food for 3 days. Generally we will assist 3 times, but will never turn people away in a time of crisis.

Demand has increased again this year and we are on target to give out 1000 bags this year. All groups (singles, couples and families) have increased but the largest increase is in the younger age group with these perhaps feeling the effects of changes to the benefit system most acutely. More food banks have opened in Dorset this year and we have been in a position to assist some of these, particularly Portland and Corfe Mullen. It is joy to support each other as we benefitted enormously from advice and help from Poole when we were starting out.

At this time of the year we benefit from all those Harvest Festivals and our stock level is very healthy. When we are running low on particular items we will let DBC know through the weekly news sheet and again we express our thanks to all those who continue to give so generously in this way. Financially the account is very healthy and we have received donations from individuals, schools, and churches which help us to operate from month to month.

We believe the Foodbank is the work of God, and that God touches the hearts of all those involved in some way. We would ask that you continue to pray for us and for those to whom we minister and that they would encounter Jesus.

Volunteers: Rosemary Hardwicke, Mary Over, Sony Gordon-Farleigh, Mike and Hazel Gant, Chris and Angie Nowell, Steve Potter, Sue Criswick, Jane Warland, Pam Fleetwood, Chris Leach, Tracey Hughes, Pat McLuckie, Ann Fell, Denise Trowbridge, Jenny Jefferson, Rosy Limbach, Dave Lucas and John Weir.
Steering Group: Rosemary Hardwicke, John Burn, Mandy Rhodes, Chris Nowell, Mark Adkins.

BMS Birthday Scheme

The Birthday Scheme supports the life-changing ministries of BMS World Mission, providing healthcare and community development for some of the world’s most disadvantaged peoples.

I run the BMS Birthday at DBC. If you sign up I will be sending you a birthday card each year. Along with the card there is a gift envelope, the idea is that whilst you receive lots of lovely cards and presents, you can share your blessings by sending a gift which makes a real difference to someone else who is in real need. Seventy people already belong to the scheme and include all ages from 6 to 90. Please consider joining the scheme and get in touch with me soon.

Audrey Scammell
Choice Baptist Church, Wabigalo, Kampala, Uganda

For about seven years, we have been supporting the pastor and school of Choice Baptist Church. The church meets in the Wabigalo slum on the edge of the industrial area of Kampala in Uganda.

The people who live in the slum have moved into the city to find work, because housing is cheap, but there is little infrastructure such as running water, electricity, and sanitation. Many who live in the area are not successful in getting work and become trapped. They have many children who they struggle to support! Choice Baptist Church serves the community through various weekly activities but also through a small school.

The school meets in the church and part of the worship centre is divided up into makeshift classrooms. Teachers work sacrificially and see their work in school as part of their service to the church and community.

About a year ago, Ed Pope and I visited the church and school to see how they were doing. I found that little had changed since my previous visit in 2009 before Christine and I returned from working in Uganda. We spent time with Pastor Alex Minge who has taken over the running of the church from Pastor Sam Lubege.

When the DBC leadership reviewed the support for mission earlier this year it was decided to increase the giving to Choice Baptist Church from £1584 per year to £1980 per year. (An increase of 20%)

The new sum is divided as follows:

£700 per year to support Pr Alex Minge,

£900 per year to supplement teachers’ salaries,

£380 per year for teaching materials and general school needs.

Pr Alex Minge recently wrote to me thrilled by the fact that the money was making a big difference to the school and staff. He has been able to increase staff salaries from £30 to £40 a month for some and £25 to £35 per month for others. In addition, he has been able to employ a much needed extra teacher. Normally, teachers don’t get paid during the long vacation during December and January but our money enables them to pay their salaries during this time which means they will not be looking for extra work during the holidays.

Pastor Alex expresses his thanks for all the support we give and sends his greetings to all at DBC.

I plan to visit again in January when I shall be able to review the progress they are making and present another report.

Chris Leach
Moldova

The villagers of Purusna have worked hard during the summer, the harvest is in store. Fruits of the summer have been preserved and stored away in jars. Hay and corn have been stored in the barn to feed the animals, ducks and geese fattened. Fire wood gathered for heating and cooking; it has been hard work with long hours in the fields.

What do they have to look forward too?

The Winter!!!

The snow will arrive in the next few weeks, when temperatures will drop to -10 degrees, reaching to -15 / 20 degrees in the depth of winter. Yet the church in Lapusna has celebrated God’s blessing with a harvest celebration. The small church is growing, Pastor Florea baptized several converts this summer!

The help from DBC providing funds has enabled Pastor Florea, through a food bank, to reach 20 families on a regular basis. We are also providing heating facilities for the church during the winter season so they may meet in some comfort.

Christmas is an important time, please pray that God will protect and guide them. Also, that God’s love shown through his family will bring many into the kingdom of God. Our prayers are with Pastor Florea and his family, that those they are reaching out to make the living God known in their daily lives.

Keith White

Dorcas (Wessex) Trust

We support two organisations, Kanlungan and Potter’s Hand, which rescue and care for abandoned and abused children and families living on the pavements in Manila in Philippines.

Two of the Kanlungan staff came to England and visited DBC as part of their 2000 mile tour of England during which they thanked people for their gifts and prayers.

The Junior Church made Christmas cards and collected money for children living on the rubbish tip, who attend Hesed Baptist Church in Manila.

I reported to the Dorcas Trustees on my three trips to our partner organisations during the year. On one of these I was accompanied by a member of the Community Church and by Jan Shaw, who as part of her placement, taught the children and staff at the centres creative craft skills.

The Trust send over £4000 each month to support the staff, and the school/college fees and feeding of the children who come in every day to the centre we bought in 2010.

We have been encouraged by a gift from DBC and by our supporters in the Church who give and pray, and by the words of Jesus- "....whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me."

Graham Stevens
Maintenance

The refurbished and redesigned building is now over 8 years old, and I’m sure you will agree that in those eight years it has had heavy use. This type of use means that we have to work hard to keep the building in good decorative order and clean for our own use and for our lettings activities. I’d like to thank and recognise Andre, our caretaker, in this report as he is often the unsung hero that many of us don’t even see over the weeks. Particular thanks for the extra decoration work he completed during the summer holidays.

We have missed having a deacon over the last year to oversee the maintenance programme, but we have just drawn together a new team and Geoff Cox, who has a vast knowledge of all things ‘buildings’ has agreed to co-ordinate maintenance work going forwards. I’m grateful for those who have given their time in the past and those that continue to do so.

Will Molland kindly carried out a survey of our premises recently and has produced a comprehensive report of the buildings condition and areas which now need attention. Thank you to Will who has used his professional expertise to advise and guide us.

During the year Alastair Gordon-Farleigh, who is a fire prevention specialist, carried out a fire inspection for us. Using his recommendations we can feel more confident that we have considered fire risks and emergency evacuations of the building appropriately. You will recall that we organised an evacuation of the building during our May members’ meeting – I’m glad it was sunny that evening.

One of the main maintenance jobs completed this year has been the replacement of some of our fire doors. A number of the doors had been damaged around the lock areas. The new doors look very much like the old ones, so you may not have even noticed, but it was important that these were lockable and functioned correctly. Thank you again to Will who has worked with the contractor to ensure a high quality job has been completed.

Julie Gallichan

The Church and Lettings Office Report

What’s in a day? Well......meeter and greeter, room negotiator, furniture remover, IT technician, sound person, toilet fixer, tap sorter-outer, car park attendant, peace negotiator, gofer(!), artistic designer, gardener, creative director, waitress/waiter!, cleaner-upper, counsellor, coordinator, chair fixer, tourist guide, postal store room organiser, refreshment provider, not to mention admin and answering the phone!!! A light hearted but reflective look at some of the varied roles anyone working in the office may be required to undertake and life hasn’t got any quieter from last year!!!

As you know the work of the church has grown continually, and in many and varied ways, event’s like Messy Church, Friendship Club, Alpha – being some of the larger one plus an increasing array of weekly activities. Wendy’s underpinning total commitment and support is invaluable to us all.

The lettings have seen another positive year with many groups returning and new ones coming to us. The continued positive comments reflect what we hope is the witness to them. Just to give you an awareness of some types of events that happen: Safeguarding Training, Serious Case reviews, Childminder training, Mental Health counselling, Health and Local Authority Team briefings, various charity support groups meetings, Awards ceremonies (police, volunteer centre, health etc), police meetings, orchestral events, etc.
The staff team, and we include paid and volunteers, has changed and we have welcomed several new people to the casual register. We are indebted to them all – because we wouldn’t manage without them and the constant work of Andre (the caretaker). Thank you doesn’t seem enough but we hope you know how invaluable you are.

We reflect on the scripture that says “In all your ways acknowledge Him and He will direct your paths” – ours may be ‘interesting’ paths but thanks be to God!!

Maxine Martin

Church Secretary’s Report

As I began preparations to get together the Annual Report I reflected on all the activities and events over the last 12 months. Haven’t we been busy! I’m sure you will have enjoyed reading through all the reports.

During leadership meetings we often share pieces of scripture that have been brought to us during the week through our time with God or through other people. One that has been placed on our hearts time and again is Isaiah 43 v19 – ‘See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the desert and streams in the wasteland’. We have also received words of prophesy and pictures that have encouraged us to explore new ways of doing things. There is a long list of ‘new’ things God has been doing at DBC this last year and it’s so exciting to see how these will be developed as we continue our journey with God.

- New minister in training
- New folk co-ordinating services and a new worship leader
- New types of services – Multiplex and Deeper
- A new approach to some members’ meetings
- New format for Holiday club
- New staff in the office and for lettings
- New technology and equipment (projectors and a new-to-us sound desk)

and of course, many new members. It has been a great joy to welcome in 16 new members since last November. Our total membership is now 237.

As we grow in size, this in itself presents some challenges. How do we get to know everyone? How do we stay close and look after one another? How do we help folk to explore their God given gifts? God knows the answers to all these questions (and more), and I ask that you continue to pray for the leadership team as they continue to seek God’s will and direction as we journey forwards.

I can’t end without a couple of thank yous. I especially want to thank Wendy who keeps me on track with all the arrangements for members’ meetings and with a whole host of other tasks – thank you, I could not manage without you. Thanks to my fellow leaders for their encouragement and friendship and of course thank you to Nigel – for just being there to discuss a difficulty or with a word of praise when things are going well.

Let’s get excited about what God has planned for us in 2014!!

Julie Gallichan
Your Leadership Team

Harry Place (Senior Pastor)
Mandy Rhodes (Minister in Training)
Roland King (Youth Worker)
Alice Place (Family Worker)

Mark Adkins
Paul Ashley
Julian Boardman (Church Treasurer)
Julie Gallichan (Church Secretary)
Nigel Gallichan
David Lucas
Maureen Lucas
Marion Potter
Skip Read
Keith White
Paul White

David and Maureen Lucas and Paul White will be stepping down in November. Please continue to pray for the leadership team including any new leaders that may be joining the team following the AGM.