

Roger's Autumn Prayer Letter and Diary

'Whether you turn to the right or to the left, your ears will hear a voice behind you saying this is the way, walk in it'. Isaiah 30:v21

As we approach Harvest, we are reminded of the changing seasons, and in life too! After a fabulous summer down here, I am reminded times are changing, especially as I reflect on reaching retirement age this year. I must admit that I am not finding this current time of transition easy – hence the verse above and the need of the Lord's guidance as to what shape the future will take! We are very happy here in Seaford and enjoying life at Seaford Baptist Church (SBC) with Jill being a Family Worker at Waves, and we are both involved in evangelism and outreach on a local estate at the Cabin.

At Through Faith Missions (TFM), we are really happy that Rev Tim Hall, who has much experience of TFM, will be taking up the lead role from 1 November, as a new era opens up. At the present time there is a lull in the number of missions coming through TFM, and that will no doubt change as Tim takes up post.

We would really value your prayers for guidance as we discern the way ahead regarding my future role within TFM, and the local work here with SBC.

During the last six months I have led a number of outreaches as follows: David Culhane and I led a mission in Hungerford during Holy Week with a small team amidst appalling weather. There was a mixed response to our message but some very positive steps of faith. Sadly the take-up on the follow-up Alpha course was disappointing and Rev Mike Saunders is reviewing their approach to outreach and missions.

Emmanual Church Bicester continues its follow-up to our mission last October with around half of those who responded engaged in the church. At the Pentecost Invitation service, another 9 responded to Christ and we prayed with many families. They started an Alpha course with 10 people.

Over the May bank holiday weekend I led a 'Finding Hope' mission with St Elisabeth's Church in Eastbourne with around 30 adults and 15 children responding to the Gospel message. The door to door visiting was fruitful with the home team joining in with the TFM team on the doors with some response to follow up. The 'Any Questions' panel raised some interesting questions and response, and the three home group meetings with a younger couple responding to the Lord.

The quiz night, family fun day and barn dance were very well supported with a good number of guests from the area attending with some also responding. Sunday services were good with some responding, and with many receiving prayer for healing and other matters.

It was interesting to note that some were saying that a weekend like this may not have been possible a few years ago, but His timing is perfect and 'With God all things are possible'. An Alpha course began in June with 12 people attending and the review meeting in July was very positive. Please continue to pray for David and the team as they follow up people and look to the future.

Locally down here on the south coast we have had 5 outreach events in the last few months during which 30 people of all ages responded and we are following them up and hope to invite them all to the forthcoming Alpha courses in the Autumn - a youth Alpha beginning on 16 September, an adult evening Alpha on 3 October, and a lunchtime Alpha on 4 October. During June we also took part in 'The Turning' across East Sussex which involved training and engaging our church folk in street evangelism. We saw many good responses and the follow-up procedure was good but the take-up rate from people contacted was disappointing.

The work at the Cabin continues to grow with the children's clubs doing well and we started up a new monthly 'Sundays @ the Cabin' which introduced outreach and Christian teaching which has gone well although numbers are small they are increasing. During August we have opened the Cabin on a weekly basis for families and children to come along together which has worked very well with a consistent number of around 8 families attending. This together with some door to door visiting has opened up opportunities to get to know people and to share the gospel with many interested in coming to groups to find out more in September.

Please see the diary of events below and we are delighted that our family from New Zealand are coming over at the end of November and will spend Christmas with us.

Diary

September

- 3 Cabin team planning meeting
- 4/5 Activities begin at the Cabin with both children's clubs running weekly from 4-5pm, After School Club, Tuesday and Arts and Crafts Wednesday.
- 6 Training Alpha small group leaders
- 7 Seaford and Newhaven outreach preparation and prayer evening.
- 10/20 Hols
- 16 Youth Alpha starts at SBC
- 28 Cabin outreach with McMillan coffee morning 10-2pm.
- 29 Speaking at SBC Harvest Invitation Supper at 6.30pm
- 30 Speaking at SBC Invitation service, 10am. Speaking at Harvest outreach 3.30pm 'Sundays @ the Cabin'.

October

Rev Andy Machin and I will be leading the Alpha adult courses at SBC.

- 3 Oct – 14 November 7 Wednesday evenings
- 4 Oct – 15 November 7 Thursday lunchtimes
- 30 Leading 'Light Party' outreach at the Cabin

November

- 1 Rev Tim Hall starts as new CEO for TFM
- 3 Speaking at a men's breakfast outreach in Dorking
- 10 Alpha away day
- 25 Speaking at Advent outreach 'Sundays @ the Cabin' at 3.30pm.
- 28- Jan 2 Family over from New Zealand

December

- 13 TFM retreat
- 16 Christmas outreach at the Cabin