

News From Loughborough

November 6th 2009



Greetings from Loughborough I trust this report will find you well.

Our building is 120 years old now and continues to be a useful tool for meeting in and sending the gospel out. So we need to look after it and have continued over the past few months to repair and paint. We have also completed some work to make it more accessible for people with physical disabilities.

Jason and myself have been working hard on our web site which we hope will launch in December. We hope this will be an effective way to reach out to a wider audience and has long been needed.

Simon and Ruth Hardy now lead a youth Bible study on Wednesday's. We generally spend a time of singing together then separate for an adults and youth study. There is also provision made for those with very young children who want to attend. This has resulted in a much higher attendance and a great time of fellowship. Along with studying the Wednesday group have named themselves SMILE also involve themselves in service projects. Over the last month they have been the ones painting areas of the building — closely followed by adults quietly making it right afterwards!

We are now nearing the end of our study of the gospel of Mark on Wednesday. For a while we will have topical studies led by a rota of different speakers before we embark on another series or Bible book

Once a month we have met together to learn some new hymns and songs. We felt we were repeating the same ones over time and wanted to build on our repertoire. This is going quite well and as we use them in services it enhances our worship.

We had a very encouraging gospel meeting on Saturday 24th. Ken Mullan who worked with the church here for 18 years was our speaker and presented a very powerful and thought provoking lesson. He exposed the folly of evolution and extolled the wonder of God's creation and God's love for us. Over time on "Facebook" I have



“Love is patient;
love is kind
and envies no one.
Love is never boast-
ful, nor conceited,
nor rude;
never selfish, not
quick to take
offense.
There is nothing
love cannot face;
there is no limit to
its faith,
its hope, and endur-
ance.
In a word, there are
three things
that last forever:
faith, hope, and
love;
but the greatest of
them all is love.”

And be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.”

“Let the morning bring me word of your unfailing love, for I have put my trust in you. Show me the way I should go, for to you I lift up my soul (Psalm 143:8).”

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart; and don't lean on your own understanding. In all things acknowledge him, and he shall direct your way.” (Proverbs 3:5, 6)

been able to make contact with a number of people who used to come along to our youth club, camp or meetings. I invited 50 to the meeting, 46 replied to say they would not be coming, 4 said they might attend but didn't. Others were more successful and we did have some visitors, among them were some who had stopped coming along. At the beginning of the meeting I presented a slide show by way of introducing our visitors to who we are, for an amateur production it seemed to go over well but I don't think Steven Spielberg will be knocking on my door any time soon.

I was asked by the elders to lead a study on Sunday evenings of the fundamentals of our faith. Though I understand what is meant by that having started I have decided that everything is fundamental to our faith. I have begun by dealing with the question of authority to lay a foundation of where we should get our information about God and life. We have now moved on to why we can trust the Bible to be God's Word and how it was compiled.

I have introduced a scheme for the Sunday School children whereby they can collect points. Points are scored for attendance, bringing their Bible, bringing a friend, being helpful etc. They will then be able to trade points in for prizes donated by the members. They can also be used to qualify them for trips. They will also be able to go to Maplewell for a reduced price with the church making up the money. For a bit of fun the members (who want to) have a weigh in on Sunday nights as we all try to control our weight. Those who participate pay £1. This money will be saved and used to offset the cost of Maplewell for those children who want to take advantage of it. It has caused quite a buzz and adds a little more interest for them when they come along to our activities.

I led a meeting for the Gateway Club for people with learning difficulties to try and review how we are doing and introduce some changes. Hopefully what we have put in place will make the evenings easier for the volunteers. The transport runs needed to be changed. Also some of the responsibilities needed to be more fairly distributed to even out the workload. We enjoy the evenings anyway the changes will make things easier.

Thank you so very much for your financial support. I do not take it for granted and hope all we do makes it worthwhile. God Bless you for all you do.

Yours in Christ,
Mark