



Warsash “Jesus is Lord” Church

Warsash United Reformed Church
www.warsashurc.com

The views expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the church or the leadership team

Dairy

January

27 Western Wards Church Network

February

1 Hawthorn Court
7 Private function
20-22 Gear conference

March

8 Out reach week
21 Skittles
26 Church AGM

April

10 Private function



Welcome

Prayer meeting this evening 6:30pm

We hope that you enjoy today’s service; as part of the service

Stephanie — Sean & Jackie’s daughter
and

Kairi — Peter & Lisa’s daughter
will be dedicated.

John Swindell is preaching this morning.

Following this mornings service refreshments will be served downstairs,
please do join us, if you are able.

Next week will be an **Open service**

AGM — early warning!

Please make a note in your diaries

Church’s Annual General Meeting

THURSDAY 26 March at 7:45

A full agenda will be published later. We will be using written reports as in previous years; if appropriate you are asked to let Martin have your report(s) by Sunday 8th March

Nomination for eldership

The elders of this church serve for a three year period, at the AGM Isabel’s & Martin’s period comes to an end. We ask you to prayerfully consider who you believe God wants to serve as elders at this time, are there others that He is wanting to call into eldership?

Nomination of elders:

When a person, the proposer, thinks someone, the nominee, is being called by God into eldership the proposer will approach the nominee and ask them to prayerfully consider whether they are being called into eldership.

If after prayerful consideration the nominee believes he or she is being called by God into eldership the nominee will tell the proposer and the proposer will pass the nominees name to the elders.

The elders will discuss, prayerfully consider and speak to the nominee. If the elders and the nominee are of one mind then the name of the nominee will be given to the church and a secret ballot held at the church meeting.

Quorum:

For an election of elders the quorum is 60% of church members in attendance.

Voting:

Postal Votes – will be allowed for those who genuinely are unable to attend the meeting. It is important to emphasize that participation at church meetings is an important part in the life of the church and therefore of church membership. For a person to be elected as an elder they will need to have at least 80% of the votes cast.

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What is God saying? - I hope you have been encouraged over the past few weeks as we have looked at various opinions connected to the "road block". In the book of Genesis and the story of creation when God created something new the old is not cast off but added to what He had done previously. So while still holding the "road block" in mind I thought it may be helpful to look at the other things God has spoken to us as a fellowship within the last twelve months.

December 2008

"Road block" While on their way to a service in a different church one Sunday evening a couple came across a road block. The road was completely closed. This meant that they would be late for where they had originally intended to go, so they turned round and came to the prayer meeting instead.

As we prayed God reminded one of the people of the "road block" which she spoke of. As we prayed we believed that God had given us a prophetic sign that we needed to repent, to turn around, to get back on

track to where God wanted us to be rather than where we wanted to be.

As we considered this, we realised that a number of folk, at the prayer meeting had prayed prayers of repentance. However, there was the belief by the person who had been given the picture that the road block was in the church. That there are things that as individuals and maybe corporately we need to repent of, to turn away from, to get on track with what God has for us. There was also the belief that God has something much bigger for us as a church but this would not be easy but would have to be fought for.

Song of Songs 2v4

He bought me into his banqueting house (house of wine) and his banner over me is love. His banner over your church is Love. I saw a table laden with every kind of fruit in every different colour all different types of bread different colour flowers, it was a beautiful sight it was inviting.

Luke 14 v 16 - 24

All about the invitations gone out and that if there was time to respond for yourselves to take the fruit, bread, flowers (gifts God has given) and take them out to others share them in the highways and the byways when its convenient and when its inconvenient. These people will be of different race, different culture, not the kind you would choose but they are chosen of God

Lynn Swartz May 2008

Chris Hardwick July 2008

I had a picture representing the church in Warsash, an irrigation pipe similar to the ones you see on farms, where water is pumped at pressure from the source and exits via lots of holes. God is supplying you with abundant water, and it is supplied to meet the needs of the various people you come in contact with across Locks Heath and Warsash.

Comment

It appears to me that the two words/pictures that we were given in the middle of last year are all about "going out". As a fellowship, we have, under Brian's leadership, gone out to various rest/care homes and various churches taking worship, ministry and puppetry and we are about to lead the worship at the national Gear conference in Swanwick Derbyshire (20-22 Feb). That being the case, as a fellowship, we would appear to be inline with what God has said to us at this time, that's not to say we are perfect.

If this reasoning is correct then the "road block" may be personal rather than corporate; rather than it being "the church" its me and you and what we are doing as individuals or not doing as the case may be.

It is interesting to note that the majority of comments about the "road block" have, to a greater or lesser degree, mentioned "PRIDE" something that as a church we have suffered from in the past. We have also heard a lot about using our gifts, both natural and spiritual. Peter suggested that we should pray and fast. Surely, all of this brings us very neatly to 2 Chronicles 7:14

if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land.

Everything we do should flow from Matthew 22:37-38

Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. (NIV)

While we continue into this year of 2009, already four weeks have passed, let us prayerfully consider if these two scriptures need to take a more prominent place in our own lives and in the life of our church.

Martin

Why not share your views?

Book review — “*Going Public - the life and times of Elijah*” by Jeff Lucas

I have never considered myself to be a literary critic and those who read these pages regularly will no doubt understand why. However, having been encouraged by this book and wanting to see others blessed by it too I thought I would write a short review of it, but soon realised that review writing is not my gifting. So instead decided to quote a section from it and here it is.

What is the vital ingredient that separates hierarchical shepherding from biblical discipleship? The answer is just one word: friendship. Discipling is not ‘people management’, or ‘personnel development’; it is the sharing of the life of God in the context of real, loving friendship. So it was with Elijah and Elisha: the younger man becomes a true son in the faith to the older; there are tears when they finally have to part. This is friendship, yet more than mere friendship. A kingdom relationship has been established.

Roger Forster has rightly remarked that many churches splinter because true kingdom relationships are never established; rather a group of nice people came together, tried to like each other, but when differences of opinion or conflict arrived (as in all human relationships they inevitably do), then those relationships broke down, because they were never rightly founded in the first place.

The moment we begin to look upon those whom we care for pastorally as projects, cases or counselees, we run the risk of developing an unhelpful and certainly unbiblical mindset. Jesus sits down with a bunch of feuding disciples who frequently strolled around with their brains in neutral and their mouths in fifth gear, and calmly announces that they are far more than servants: ‘I have not called you servants — I have called you friends.’

These are the kinds of relationships that Paul enjoyed, causing him to write to his good friends at Philippi with such depth and obvious affection: ‘You whom I love and long for, my joy and crown’ (Phil. 4:1). This is no empty sentimentality. To the same people he writes: ‘I have you in my heart. . . God can testify how I long for all of you with the affection of Christ Jesus’ (Phil. 1: 7—8).

Such is the heart of the discipler.

In many churches, the primary discipling unit is the house group. This rejects the unbiblical clergy/laity divide, where the senior ministry within the local church has to be a pastor (whether or not that happens to be their calling from God), and recognises that it is impossible for one person to care for hundreds of people, even when that person is assisted by an army of staff in order to help carry the load.

The Reformers rejected the idea of this special

priesthood as being utterly unbiblical three hundred years ago, and then brave but pragmatic Luther started to ordain Lutheran ministers . . . and so the Church still clutches onto the idea.

Rather, we need to see a pastoring/discipling church, where in the context of a safe small group environment individuals feel loved and cared for.

That does not mean being fixed into a rigid structure where care can only take place in that context. To operate like that would be to function in a rigid system, a management structure, rather than in relationships. To that end, there should be criss-crossing lines weaving all over the church, as we care for one another outside of that basic model. Why? Because we are friends. And kingdom friendships are relationships with a purpose. We want to bear one another’s burdens, and ‘spur one another on towards good works’.

Because friendship is the key, we are free to confront one another — a vital key to growth. I have ministered in hundreds of churches in the last few years, and in so many of them, there are people holding down positions of responsibility who really shouldn’t be doing that task. Increasingly it becomes apparent to everyone in the church that ‘Fred’ is not really a worship leader. He really has a heart for it, but after ten years his singing still creates agony across the congregation and evidently God is not equipping Fred with the necessary grace required for the job. However, no one says anything, for fear that Fred will be offended or hurt. After all, he says that worship is his ministry. So Sunday after Sunday, the public agony continues without relief. The small group of leaders don’t feel able to bite the bullet on the issue. Fred will probably leave the church if they do. Better left well alone...

But friends tell the truth, even when it hurts. Disciples are open to discovering their own blind spots, even when it hurts. Discipling provides the safe arena of love and commitment in order that God’s people might reach their highest potential. This kind of confrontation is redemptive; an act of faithfulness among friends. Beware the person who refuses to learn. They are very dangerous to the body of Christ. And be careful of people who can only accept correction from those whom they perceive to be in higher authority to them. We are all called to submit ourselves to one another — not just to leaders — out of reverence for Christ.

This book may challenge some of your own ideas, you may not agree with everything that is said or you may be really encouraged by it like I have been. This book is relatively small and Jeff is an excellent communicator which makes it an easy read. Who knows, God may even speak to you through it.

If you have read something that has encouraged you why not bless others by writing a review for the newsletter.

Martin

Volunteer Administrator for CedarOak Pregnancy Crisis Centre



We are looking for a voluntary administrator to join us at CedarOak. If you are interested and think you fit the criteria below we would love to hear from you. Please contact Diane Girling on 02392523735 or email contactus@cedarOak.org.uk

Job Description

Centre Work

- Editing, producing and distributing a 6 monthly newsletter
- Updating and maintenance of database
- Producing and sending out mail shots to GPs etc
- Filing and copying
- Re-ordering of stationary etc
- Ability to process grant applications would be a bonus

Schools Team

- Liaison with school staff
- Compiling and distributing lesson rotas

Person description

1. Able to take initiative
2. Comfortable with confidentiality
3. Friendly manner
4. Sympathetic to aims and ethos of CedarOak
5. GSOHI
6. Reasonable computer literacy including Microsoft Word and email
7. Available Monday and/or Thursday at the Centre (some work could be done from home if you have internet)
8. Available approx. 4 hours a week

Applicants would be subject to a CRB check

BBC Radio Host:

It's Becoming "Socially Unacceptable" to Be a Christian in Britain



by Jonathan Wynne-Jones, *The London Telegraph*

LONDON, UK - The Radio 2 host (Jeremy Vine) said that he feels unable to talk about his faith on his show because he fears how people would react. He argues that society has become increasingly intolerant of the freedom to express religious views.

"You can't express views that were common currency 30 or 40 years ago," he said. "Arguably, the parameters of what you might call 'right thinking' are probably closing.

Mr. Vine, 43, is a practising Anglican, but says he would be compromised by being more open about his faith on air. "Just blurting it out would be destructive," he said.

Regular Activities

Sundays	10:15am	Prayer in the vestry
	10:30am	Morning service with children & young people's work 1st Sunday in the month Communion 2nd Sunday in the month Church Lunch following the service
	6:30pm	Prayer meeting — 2nd and 4th Sunday in the month
Monday	7:30pm	Puppet ministry <i>for info contact Brian 01489 584317</i>
Tuesday	1:00pm	Craft Afternoon <i>for info contact Isabel 01489 584317</i>
	7:30pm	Re-Mix (youth) <i>for info contact Adam 07515719462</i>
Wednesday	7:30pm	House groups—various locations and alternate weeks <i>for info contact Linda 01489 581009</i>
Thursday	10:15am	Coffee Morning <i>for info contact Charlie or Sylvia 01489 600523</i>
Friday	2:00pm	House group—alternate weeks <i>for info contact John or Ida 01489 576511</i>
	7:30pm	Worship Practice <i>for info contact Brian 01489 584317</i>