



# KAIROS

*A time for change*

*in the heart of Shrewsbury*

## Welcome to Kairos!

What better time to start a new church magazine than Easter Sunday! It is the most important day of the Christian year. It is our central belief that Jesus Christ, God's crucified Messiah, is risen from the dead and is Lord of All!

This is a critical moment in the life of our church, big decisions have to be made about the church's direction and its future. It is vital that those decisions are inspired by The Holy Spirit!

There have already been some important moments this year; **Blowing your Cover** and **The Marriage Course** spring to mind, as does the new **Light Lunch** for Senior Citizens happening on a monthly basis. There are other changes coming up shortly. However, speaking personally, the most encouraging thing was the **Vision Day** on April 2<sup>nd</sup>. What lifted me most about this event was not the excellent organisation, nor the tasty food and fine fellowship, nor even the results of the consultation

(fascinating though these are). The thing that encouraged me most was the turnout for a whole day of a large number of people to prayerfully consider the future of the church.

Thank you for coming and taking part! The commitment you made was a strong indication that by God's grace Claremont Baptist Church has a very important role to play in bringing God's Kingdom to the people of Shrewsbury and the surrounding area. Let's pray and work together to make it happen for The Glory of God!

Your Pastor,

*Charles Crosland*

## ΚΑΙΡΟΣ

**Kairos** (καιρος) is an ancient Greek word meaning the "right or opportune moment". In the New Testament kairos means 'the appointed time in the purpose of God', the time when God acts (e.g. Mark 1.15, the kairos is fulfilled).

## Featuring...



## Why the T.V. crews came to Claremont

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## News from the Donovans

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and much more...

## Precipitation Normally Guaranteed



*“Papua New Guinea – is that in South America?”* When we told most people we were going to PNG to work they didn’t have much idea where in the world it was and what it was like. To be honest, before we looked into it neither did we! How about you? If you don’t know, Papua New Guinea is the eastern half of the world’s second largest Island, situated North of Australia, currently 9 hrs ahead of GMT and is part of the Commonwealth (just won its first ever games Gold! – Ryan Pini in the 100m Butterfly).

Now that we have lived and worked here with our two young children for four months, allow us to give you some insights into this amazing country.

PNG could well stand for...

### Plenty Natural Groundcover

As we flew from the coastal capital, Port Moresby to our destination one mile high in the Eastern Highlands we could appreciate the statistics we had previously read about. 78% of the land is forested and 50% mountainous. As far as our eyes could see only meandering rivers winding their way through the contours of the land occasionally interrupted a deep green covered landscape. Since being here we’ve travelled by road through the mountains covered in rich vegetation and dotted with hamlets of mainly traditional grass and bamboo built homes.

### Precipitation Normally Guaranteed

The greenness of the land is due to the amount of both rain and sun (hence one of the most common items you see are umbrellas – good for shade and keeping dry!). We arrived during wet season but unlike England the weather is fairly consistent! We generally have sun all morning, and then in the afternoon the heavens open sometimes accompanied by loud claps of thunder and it pours quite dramatically, occasionally causing flooding and frequent landslides. Our kids love the combination of sun and barefooted fun in the mud ‘n’ puddles!

We are mostly dependent on rain water collected from our roof for drinking so as we move into the dry season we have to conserve this once abundant commodity more carefully.

### Productive National’s Gardens

Gardens here are generally for growing food for your family or to sell on at market rather than landscape designs, herbaceous borders and barbecue terraces! Staple crops grown in our region are taro (a root vegetable), kaukau (sweet potato – different varieties), greens, corn (not sweet!) and bananas abundantly! Most things grow well here and local people also cater for the western palate! At our market we can get strawberries, rhubarb, tomatoes, peppers, courgette, broccoli and cauliflower to name a few amidst the array of other fruit and veg, too many to mention.



### People’s Native Groupings

Approximately 1000 people groups, which between them speak approximately 860 different languages, make up the 5.5 million inhabitants of PNG. Linguistically, Papua New Guinea is the most diverse country on earth although the ‘Pidgin’

language, which developed when traders such as the Dutch, German and English came to its shores, is spoken quite widely.

The (How many?) Provinces of the country contain closely-knit people groups (often referred to as 'wantoks' – those of 'one talk') that consist of 'lines' (your family). The culture in these places is one of real community. If you have, you are expected to share. Celebrations are often marked with a 'Sing Sing' that may well involve the group coming together with traditional costume, body decoration, dancing and a shared (bung) meal.

### People's New Gear

The highland regions were once completely cut off from the rest of the country and indeed the rest of the world; hence their customs and culture remained for the large part unchanged. In the late 50's a road was put through from Lae, on the Eastern coast, all the way up through the central string of mountains. Known as the Eastern Highlands Highway this road is now a backbone for large parts of PNG and has inevitably brought change. I presume to say that PNG has changed more in the past 50-60 years than in the rest of its entire history. Towns have grown up along this route supplying areas with an ever-growing array of goods and influences from the developed world. For Papua New Guineans along this route they are now in an in-between world between the traditional and the modern, with varying degrees evident in either camp.

### So why are we here?

My final acronym for PNG is true of every individual and culture on earth, from every generation – **People Need God**. Jesus said to his disciples – 'Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation.' (Mark 16v15). God created this wonderful, diverse, beautiful, changing world and all those who have and ever will live upon it. Not to know God is not to know your maker and sustainer. God, in the form of Jesus Christ came into the world that turned away from him, to rescue it. Jesus' life, death and resurrection is the 'good news' that he desires the 'whole world' know about. My family and I, like thousands of like-minded Christians around the globe are, in a very small way, seeking to enable every tongue and tribe and nation to respond to what Christ has done for them.

I trust you have learnt a little of PNG, but I hope most of all that you will want to learn more of Jesus – the Lord and Saviour of all the world or maybe how you too can help spread the 'good news'. We are a little far away to help but we know that friends at Claremont will be thrilled to talk more – please do.

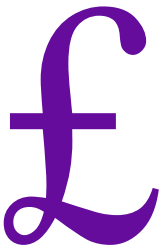
### Paul, Rachel, Bethany and Joshua Donovan

*(Hostel Parents to 7 wonderful teenagers whose parents work throughout PNG maintaining aeroplanes, translating the Bible, training Pastors and Managing a Medical Centre with the collective aim of spreading the amazing good news of God).*



Paul, Rachel, Bethany and Joshua with new friends and new environs

## Finance 2006-2007: The Year Ahead



### Challenging

During the Church meeting in March, we took the bold step of setting a challenging budget for the year ahead. To allow the church to function properly this coming year we are planning to spend £109,745 and in order to meet this expenditure, £82,625 will

need to be raised through general giving by the Church family here at Claremont.

### A Gift Day

We have decided to hold a gift day on Whit Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> June 2006 with the aim of raising at least £3,366 which will be used to deliver the marriage course and support evangelistic initiatives. Aside from the gift day, we will need to give £6,600 per month or £1,500 per week. This equates to an increase of £200 per week on our current average weekly giving.

### How to give

Firstly, if you are a tax payer, please can I encourage you to complete a Gift Aid form. This will enable us to reclaim the tax you have already paid

on your gift and it is a vital contributor to our overall income. If you have completed a Gift Aid form, please ensure that your gifts are not anonymous. Secondly, if you do not already do so, please would you consider giving through the banking system.

This ensures a regular monthly income for the Church and avoids any significant fluctuations in the year.

### Expenditure

If you need to spend any money on behalf of the Church, please check with the relevant budget holder **before** committing to any expenditure - if you are unsure who the budget holder is please ask. If you would like a copy of the budget for the coming year please contact Tim Curtis.

### Your response

In the light of the above figures, please could I ask you to seriously and prayerfully consider your current level of giving to the work here at Claremont. Please see Tim Curtis or Mary Ellis if you would like any further assistance or information regarding the Gift Aid scheme or giving through the banking system.

*Tim Curtis (Church Treasurer)*

## Fair trade?

We are probably all familiar with the Fairtrade logo which is appearing on more and more of the goods we purchase. It is awarded to companies who pay fair wages, provide workers with good conditions of service and pay a fair price for quality goods.

Christians should support these principles, by doing so we obey Biblical teaching. Micah 6:8 asks, "*What does the Lord require of you?*" It then gives us the answer, "*to act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.*"

If farmers and craft workers are to be paid properly then fairly traded goods are bound to cost a little more than other goods but we believe that we are clearly taught to do our part for the World's poor. By supporting Fairtrade we are helping to give the producers the dignity they deserve.

The following facts may shock you as they did us:

- If you have money in the bank and spare cash in a dish somewhere, you are amongst the top 8% of the World's wealthy.
- If you have food in the refrigerator, clothes on your back, a roof over your head and a place to sleep, you are richer than 75% of this World.

Please support Fairtrade by looking for goods with the logo in your supermarket, by visiting the Fairtrade shop on St John's Hill and/or buying goods from the stall which will be in the Church Hall after morning service from time to time.

*Roy and Mary Ellis*



## As Christ's ambassadors



Church Member Mary Wilcox spent a significant part of her life supporting God's work in the Philippines. We asked her for some reflections on this time:

*"Come quick, come quick. They're skinning a snake"* was my wake-up call. I wasn't too keen at 6 am, but I answered the little boy's call and went with him to what was happening. I was visiting the Tribal Bible School where Jonathan's parents were teaching and where, eventually, my friend would be teaching. We had been accepted by the Overseas Missionary Fellowship and designated to the Philippines; Hanni to tribal work and because I had worked in an office, I had been asked to be the director's secretary.

The office and Mission Home were based at Calapan, a small coastal town on the island of Mindoro. Here I adjusted to very hot, humid days, a new culture and language and new forms of transport. The Filipinos are a friendly and hospitable people and were very willing to help me with my efforts to speak Tagalog.

After a few years, the office moved to Manila – a noisy city teeming with young people. At that time, half of the population was under twenty years of age. One of my jobs was to prepare a monthly 'Praise and Prayer' letter, sharing joys and needs from missionaries engaged in various types of ministry – church planting in city, town and tribal areas; teaching in Bible colleges; outreach to students; literature work etc.

Apart from my secretarial duties I enjoyed sharing in the work with young people in Calapan and Manila. Whatever work we were engaged in, we were all there as Christ's ambassadors to make His saving grace known to all people.

**Mary Wilcox**



Mary with young people at Pasay Church, Manila

## Student prevented from too many lie-ins

Moving down to start a degree at Cambridge University in October I had the same mix of excitement, expectation and apprehension that everyone feels when they move to a new place. Will I fit in? Will I be able to cope with the work? Will I be able to find my way around? Two terms in, I can answer "yes" to the first, a "maybe" to the second and a "not really" to the latter.

I have found myself a good group of friends both Christian (Clare College's Christian Union group is one of the strongest in the university) and non-Christian friends. On Sundays I have been going

along to a church called St Andrew the Great. The fact that its starts its service at 11.15, is just perfect for a student like me who has to be up for 9 am lectures Monday to Saturday.

Aside from study, I have done three plays these past two terms. After the Easter break I am going to try my hand at a little rowing.

Thank you very much for your thoughts and prayers. I am very much looking forward to seeing everyone again this Easter.

In him, **Luke Surl**

## Name it!

At the Vision Day we were invited to come up with suggestions for a name for the Redevelopment Project. If you have any ideas please let us know or put the suggested name on the relevant piece of paper that is on the notice board in the church hall.



## Other People Are Listening



Some time ago lying in bed on a Sunday morning and trying to persuade myself to get going I heard the

Reverend Mary Stringer talking about a support group that she ran in Telford called OPAL (Other People Are Listening). The group is a small group of adult survivors of child abuse and domestic violence. The group now meets monthly and the members are encouraged to speak openly, in confidence about issues that they are dealing with knowing that they do so in an environment free of condemnation and guilt and knowing that they will receive empathy and support. Most importantly Christ is at the centre of the group and it is through him that healing is possible. The group is not a counselling group and the members support each other.

Whilst I had no personal experience of these issues I had a sense of God's calling to this

ministry and gradually became involved with the group almost 2 years ago. Little did I realise at the time that Mary's ministry would call her to move and that the group would ask me to become their facilitator. Obviously this was part of God's plan – not mine! My first response was to say "not me, I can't do this" but God's call has been too strong to ignore and I am now taking up the role. I have no experience in this area so even if I were tempted to think that this is something I could do myself it simply does not even begin to cross my mind. I know that I am totally reliant upon God to guide, support and protect me in this work which can be very emotionally challenging but also extremely rewarding.

It concerns me greatly that so many survivors of child abuse say that the church does not want to hear their stories nor to deal with this issue. I feel strongly that as God's people we should recognise that these terrible, evil things happen and that those who have been so deeply hurt and are so vulnerable should be loved, supported, encouraged and most importantly, listened to, so that God's healing power can work in them through us.

I would welcome your prayer support for this ministry and for the members of the OPAL group.

**Elaine Williams**

## Book recommendation

### Infinity and Beyond by Lynette Leitch

This is a book that was recommended by Anna Rushworth. Here is an abridged snapshot from the back cover that gives you an idea of what it is about:

*Life can be messy. It forces you to make decisions from the mundane to the life-changing at a moment's notice – at point blank range.*

*It could be you! Cancer is no respecter of persons: neither money, position nor age guarantees immunity or recovery. This compelling story of one family's nightmare journey may make readers smile and weep but they will never be the same again. This book offers hope over despair to others facing this situation (cancer). Infinity and beyond: a young boy's courage, a family's love story without end.*



# Church kicks off 'cross bar' project

Claremont church is linking up with The FA's Football Development Team in Shropshire to establish an exciting new football project. The project will look to provide a weekly football coaching session for children aged 7 – 11. The session itself will be led by coaches from Shropshire FA, Shrewsbury Town FC and members of the church itself. The coaching will be complimented by a 'sports ministry slot' where players involved will hear the 'gospel message' through sporting context.

The first stage of the project will involve the training and education of ministers, leaders and members of churches from in and around the Shrewsbury area. Churches will be invited to nominate volunteers to participate in an FA Level 1 Coaching Course (funded by The FA's Football Development sponsor – MacDonald's). If these coaches are successful in graduating from the course they will

be encouraged to support Claremont's 'Crossbar' project or initiate some football provision within their own church. It is hoped that some 24 individuals from local churches will gain qualification to FA Level 1 coach status. To support these coaches, and any generated football provision, The FA and McDonald's will also provide each individual with some coaching equipment and clothing to carry out their new role as a community football coach.



To launch the new project, the church received a visit from MacDonald's director of coaching 'Sir Geoff Hurst'. The 1966

World Cup Final 'hat trick' hero came to the church on

Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> April and met some of the potential Level 1 participants and prospective new football stars. For more information about the project please speak to Charles, Tim, Mark or email [james.watkins@shropshire-cc.gov.uk](mailto:james.watkins@shropshire-cc.gov.uk)

# Marriage Course Success

Claremont is now half way through running its first Marriage Course. The Marriage Course is very practical and helps equip couples with the tools needed to build a healthy marriage that lasts a lifetime. Each week they are given the opportunity to enjoy a special meal together and listen to a talk. Then there is plenty of time to discuss the topic as a couple, without any group work at any stage of the course. We have had on average 30 people attending each week.

It has been really encouraging the way those from outside of Claremont have mixed and felt very much a part of the group. Very positive feedback has been given. Couples have expressed their appreciation for the course material, the relaxing venue and just the enjoyment of the whole evening. The church leadership team values marriage and consider this ministry a priority. Dates for the autumn course are now available; and there are already a number of couples who have expressed their wish to come.

- September 12th..... The Marriage Party
- September 26th..... Building Strong Foundations
- October 3rd..... The Art of Communication
- October 10th..... Resolving Conflict
- October 17th..... The Power of Forgiveness
- October 31st..... Parents and In- Laws
- November 7th..... Good Sex
- November 14th..... Love in Action

Please continue in your prayers, to remember those attending the course and those who are facilitating. Praise God for all he will do through The Marriage Course.

**Judy James (Course Co-ordinator)**



Time to share: tucking into the first Course

## Heads up: coming soon!



A chance to explore topics from a Christian perspective, in an interactive way. These will take place approximately 10 times a year on the First Sunday evening of the month in the Church Hall

### Saturday May 20<sup>th</sup> Family Activity Day

### Saturday June 24<sup>th</sup> - Concord Away Day



Beginning at 9:30 am and continuing till early evening – please be sure to set this day aside in your diary! The minister of Chipping Camden

Baptist Church **Reverend Philip Deller** is coming to share with us and Fiona Sutton and some of her friends from Ross-on-Wye Baptist Church will be heading up the children's activities. The afternoon will be a time of relaxation and various activities for all ages. Come when you can and stay for as long as you can!

### Light Lunch Club

Is the First Wednesday of the Month.

### Wednesday June 21<sup>st</sup> - Care Team Lunch

All the Care Team are invited to enjoy a bring and share lunch at the home of Alan & Marjorie Edwards – and weather permitting enjoy their lovely garden together!

### Thursday June 29<sup>th</sup> Thursday Fellowship Outing

A warm invitation to any who would like to join with Thursday Fellowship for their annual half day outing – Alan & Marjorie Edwards will have all the information.

### Friday and Saturday August 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> - Shrewsbury Flower Days

A busy time in Claremont's Calendar both with preparing the church and then opening the church on both days for visitors to the show. A time to enjoy working with one another in all sorts of ways! Hope you can help!



## Holiday

## Bible Club

### The Lion, The Witch, and The Wardrobe

Tuesday July 25<sup>th</sup> -  
Friday July 28<sup>th</sup> 2006

Helpers will be in great demand for all sorts of things – but above all, so will children to enjoy the week, and much prayer in the background! *Help will also be needed to prepare the Church on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> July.*

baptist church  
**claremont**

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