

# The **GOOD NEWS** Paper

www.churchestogetherhernebay.org.uk

Summer 2013 Vol 7 No 2

Christian activity across the Herne Bay area

## Together at Easter 2013

### Good Friday

As usual, Churches Together held their Good Friday Walk of Witness this year. The weather was cold but dry and the numbers seemed better than last year as we gathered outside Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Church in Clarence Road for a prompt 9.30 a.m. start. After a prayer led by Fr Mark White, parish priest, we set off in silence and made our way to Christ Church, volunteers carrying the cross for short stretches in turn, the numbers of walkers increasing a little as we walked. At Wimereux Gardens we formed a large circle and were led in worship by Rev Anthony Everett of Christ Church before taking the last few steps of the journey and being warmly welcomed in Christ Church Hall for hot drinks and hot-cross buns. As ever, there was a strong general feeling that on this day above all days it was good to be together.



### Easter Sunday

A hardy group of Christians from several different churches gathered outside the King's Hall at 7.00 on Easter Sunday morning, disregarding the loss of that hour's sleep as the clocks had gone forward in the night. It did not feel like the beginning of Spring as the chill north wind blowing off the sea did its best to dampen our spirits. But the River Band from Herne Bay Baptist Church kept up the right note of Victory, the prayerful singing helped to keep us warm and all were encouraged in the great Easter message by the words of Rev Anthony Everett. In such uncomfortable circumstances the rising of Jesus from the dead took on, if possible, even greater meaning for all present and the sense of celebration continued as we were treated to a hot breakfast in the United Church hall. Christ is risen. He is risen indeed. Alleluia!!!

*Fr Mark White, President, CTHB*

## It's art, for Christ's sake!

If a picture paints a thousand words, why are so few sermons illustrated? At "The Art of Ministry in London", the London City Mission's Herne Bay Annual Presentation (8th May, at Herne Bay Baptist Church), Stuart Currie of LCM fascinated the sizeable gathering by explaining the wealth of Christian symbolism in Sir John Everett Millais' "Christ in the House of His Parents" (see <http://www.tate.org.uk/art/artworks/millais-christ-in-the-house-of-his-parents-the-carpenters-shop-n03584>).

It is in the image of our infinitely creative God that we are creative, and when we create things we, like God, invest ourselves in them. To gaze upon inspired art and see God in it is enriching. But through his immense knowledge, and with the Holy Spirit's help, Stuart also proclaims the Gospel to people who have yet to meet with Jesus. Truly, this is "Evangelism through the Arts".

LCM's Lynne Van der Meer is involved in another arts initiative. Departure is an arts centre in East London that draws people in from the very diverse local community, and beyond, to form and develop

relationships and unlock creativity. (See [www.departure14.com](http://www.departure14.com) for more information).

Jesus is at the heart of Departure, and those who run it seek to earn the right to share the hope that is within them with a weird and wonderful variety of people who come through the doors. Artists are given space to exhibit, while creative talents are unleashed into beautiful and useful things. The "special atmosphere" at Departure can only be explained by the brooding presence of the Holy Spirit.

The London City Mission (see [www.lcm.org.uk](http://www.lcm.org.uk) for more details) has many supporters in Herne Bay, with particular strength in the Evangelical Free Church and HBBC. Former LCM workers Lionel and Joan Ball do a great job rallying support, and organising the annual presentation. And surely, mission-minded people here are part of "the Herne Bay Town Mission", which is simply God's people sharing Jesus in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Art for Christ's sake? You've got the picture!

*Bob White, Past President, CTHB*

# Christian Aid Week

Following a lapse, of a couple of years, in the Christian Aid Collection in Herne Bay, I volunteered to take it on, but just collecting in the Churches, not organising House to House collections. It had been increasingly difficult getting people to agree to distribute envelopes, then go out and collect them. As one person put it – "I don't like feeling like I am begging!"

In fact, most householders give willingly, but there have been some incidents of unhappy confrontations. So this year I decided to just have the collections in our churches. However one church, Holy Cross, Hoath, requested authorisation to collect in their village.

It seems that organisers in most churches add up their collections and then put the total sum in Barclays Bank, or send direct to HQ. I would be most grateful if they would also contact me and tell me the sum collected, so that I know the total across the town and district. I am quite willing to

add up any envelopes myself, in which case they could be dropped through my letterbox. The collection in my own church, The United Church, was supplemented by the proceeds of two coffee mornings, similarly with St Andrew's Hampton, who had a Special Christian Aid Coffee Morning. Perhaps other churches did also - if so please let me know.

As I am new to this, I would be grateful if Christian Aid Organisers in each of the CTHB churches would let me know who they are so can thank everyone, and to those who have "held the fort" for Christian Aid in previous years. Next year I will distribute Barclays Bank Paying-In books, to the Christian Aid organisers in the churches who are part of CTHB, hoping that this will be helpful to them.

At the time of "going to press" I have not heard from all the churches, the sum of their collections, so I urge them to let me know as soon as possible.

*Ken Hando, Treasurer, CTHB*

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## The Coffee Shop by the Bus Stop

About three years ago two ladies returning home from a Greenhill PACT (Partners and Communities Together) meeting, concluded that Greenhill needed something – somewhere to have 'A Coffee and a chat'! And so on 12th October 2010, *The Coffee Shop by the Bus Stop* arrived. Jo Featherstone, Sally Hinton, June Waldron and Maureen Sharp make the tea and coffee and everyone is welcome; young and old alike, but mainly it is retired people - it is a shame that more young Mums don't go along and meet their neighbours, which are the people they originally had in mind.

Refreshments are 50p, and they also run a small raffle, with the group supplying the prizes. They have cream cakes and scones sometimes! Money from the raffles go to good causes and they have raised in excess of £7,000 so far, which has gone to Help for Heroes, 3rd Princess of Wales Royal Regiment – the Tigers, a local Greenhill lad who needed to raise money (£1,100) to go to South Africa to help build a school. They also fill shoeboxes to send out to serving members of the forces at Christmas and Easter.

They occasionally hold special coffee mornings for MacMillan Nurses, Pudsey and Children in Need, Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal, etc. They are currently concentrating on raising money for Greenhill groups; the next people to get help will be Greenhill Gymnastics Club.

Between 20 to 30 people visit each week raising £40 – £50. You can chat to the local Community Warden

or local councilors, or Revd's Elaine Richardson and Julian Staniforth, and the Canterbury Council housing officer.

The group now has a book swap or buy stall, so if you have any paperbacks that need a home take them to *The Coffee Shop by the Bus Stop*. You and the books will be made most welcome

Herne Drive, Greenhill 10am–12noon every Tuesday

*Wendy Dinley*

## Food bank update



We are currently praying and searching for a warehouse /storage facility to contain all the food for the whole Canterbury district and to pack all the food parcels for the Canterbury District. We hope to have a food bank van that will be able to transport food parcels to their distribution venues.

We have given out over 240 food parcels in Canterbury over the past 14 weeks. Agencies have been contacted throughout the district and are aware that distribution venues will be open in Whitstable and Herne bay by the end of June.

A project manager is required to oversee the Herne Bay district.

*Chrissie Barr, Canterbury Food Bank*  
[www.canterburyfoodbank.org](http://www.canterburyfoodbank.org)

# Devastation and consolation in tornado alley



Imagine what it would be like if a massive storm ran through Chestfield and Swalecliffe. How would people in Herne Bay respond? How would the Church in Herne Bay help? More to the point, would we be allowed to help, once the relief effort was properly organised?

Moore is a substantial sprawl of homes, retail parks and businesses between Oklahoma City to the north and Norman (Oklahoma's third biggest city) to the south. In fact, it's difficult to tell where one ends and the next one starts as you drive the 20 miles down Interstate 35. Yet Moore is known for getting hit by tornados (in 1999 it was devastated by a maximum strength EF5 tornado), while OKC and Norman seldom suffer any damage.

The EF5 strength tornado that hit Moore on Monday 20th May was all the worse because there was barely 15 minutes warning and the maximum impact was felt over a width of at least half a mile. The final death toll was 24, including children in a school.

Additionally, thousands have pretty well lost everything.

My daughter, Esther, lives in Norman with her husband, Steve. Along with others from Mission Norman and Wildwood Community Church, they wanted to help. Journey Church became a focal point for action in Jesus' name, to the extent that people charged with reaching survivors with essential supplies were given special access to affected areas by the US Army. The scenes were heart-breaking, and the sense of loss overwhelming, but God's people were among those who took consolation into the devastation.

Moore will bounce back, hopefully with safer buildings everywhere and shelters that were missing. And the Church will reflect on the strength that it has in Christ when its component parts work together and become His Body in action.

*Bob White, Past President, CTHB*

## Dementia Cafe

An opportunity for people who suffer from Alzheimer's Disease or Dementia and /or for their carers to meet, learn more about the condition and share companionship with others.

The meeting is non-religious but is run by Christians. At each meeting there will be a speaker on the topic of the illness and there will be opportunity to ask questions and share experience.

Meetings take place at Herne Bay Baptist Church on the 2nd Monday of each week from 2.00 to 4.30 pm.

The **Good News Paper** is published by Churches Together Herne Bay  
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The next edition will be in September. The deadline for contributions is 24 August.

Please forward all copy to the Editor at: [denise@dspublishingservices.co.uk](mailto:denise@dspublishingservices.co.uk)

## Events

16 June, 3pm  
Songs of Praise  
Reculver Towers

CTHB Prayer Breakfast  
Saturday 20th July  
at the Retreat Hall  
07:30 - 09:30

17 September, 7.30pm  
CTHB Forum meeting  
Upper Room at Our Lady of  
the Sacred Heart

29 September, 4pm  
Christ Church  
CTHB AGM



## Churches Together Herne Bay

# Songs of Praise at Reculver Towers



**Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> June at 3pm**

Enjoy some of your favourite  
Hymns and Choruses.  
Picnic provided afterwards  
bring rug, chair, and voice!

(If it's cold and wet we will be in St Mary's Reculver)