



A very warm welcome to the latest.... (delayed) Lifestreams newsletter.

It has been really good to see some more people come a bit of a strange summer this year. Not only the pandemic situation with bags of uncertainty in the air, but Euro 2020 and Tokyo Olympics 2020 being run in 2021 and then, of course the weather! Some days it feels like autumn, or even winter, followed by a few days of scorching sunshine.....this was the intro I wrote a couple of months ago but for various reasons we have been unable to complete the publication, get it printed and distributed. I wholeheartedly apologise for this. We didn't commit to making the publication a monthly one but that is our aim. I want to keep you informed about all that is happening around the Lifestreams Churches (and beyond) and I really want you to know that you are a very important part of the Lifestreams family. Please will you send me a note about much you appreciate this publication, being part of the Lifestreams family and how we can minister to you more effectively.

For many people life ticks over from day to day and not much changes but in the life of the church we seem to be in the fast lane, rapidly addressing unfolding situations.

We are addressing changing worship patterns, personnel, Bishops visits, loss of Area Dean, Archdeacon and welcoming a new Diocesan Bishop. We face a very difficult financial season, even the diocese is having to re-evaluate the Parish Share (the money that each church pays into the diocese)! We have to make ends meet and have had to make some tough decisions.

We have been blessed to receive grant funding for the garden project at 213, Saint Stephen's and for the coffee house manager at Saint Peter's. We struggle on to maintain the Studio project, on a weekly basis waiting

for a new Pioneer Minister to be appointed for this role.

As one group closes, another opens, new opportunities to be grasped and pastoral issues to be dealt with, people listened to. And then there are times of rest to be taken, to take care of ourselves. I thank you for your patience, prayers and support. We are all part of the one church of Jesus Christ and we rejoice in that...that God has called us to be together as a branch of His family here at Lifestreams.

In this issue we cannot cover everything but a few important highlights.

One of the changes has been that Adam and Liz Sone and family have moved from Southend to start a new chapter together in Norfolk. Adam got a new teaching job at a school in the area and the children were given places at the school. Delays in exchanging contracts led to a fraught few weeks and much prayer. The Vicar and people from the local church rallied round and helped them move in and although at the time of writing the house is full of boxes, they are all settling in well.

For more news please read on; we will be back as soon as possible with the next edition of this newsletter.

Colin

Our Bank Details, should you wish to make a donation or switch your giving:

Saint Peter's: a/c name - St. Peter's Church
sort code - 55-50-28

a/c number - 07117272

Saint Cedd's: a/c name - St. Cedd's Church
sort code - 20-19-97

a/c number - 23801896

Saint Stephen's: a/c name - St. Stephen's Church
Parochial Church Council

sort code - 20-79-73

a/c number - 20792705

LIFE AT SAINT STEPHEN'S

The garden is being further transformed, to say the least. Not only have the benches and planters been delivered and erected the polytunnel has arrived and is 90% complete and nearly ready for use. Another couple of tonnes of topsoil have been delivered! And some plants are arriving. Perhaps more importantly, Dawn has been appointed as Project Leader. Opening hours are between 10am and 2pm so pop along for a cup of tea if you can. The garden is a delight to be in and when more plants are in bloom it will be superb. If you have any shrubs etc. we would appreciate donations. Worship in the garden has been rather special though unpredictable with the weather. One week the

equipment and people received a quick shower! And it has had to be cancelled a couple of times. The Bishop of Bradwell preached and was impressed by the ambience and welcome he received. We look forward to welcoming Bishop Guli in due course.

Dawn has been engaging with youth workers, the Council and mental health representatives and there has been a lot of interest in the project. The first tentative steps are being made in this exciting project. We thank again a number of funding bodies that have made this possible. Over the summer Wednesday became children's day in the garden. Six children came the first week and made bird feeders, and had loads of fun. Financial

donations are still very much needed and appreciated too!

One special service was to baptise Naomi Stone - pictured below.



Now that the evenings are drawing in, worship becomes even more delightful, though soon we will succumb to the cold! Then we will continue in the lounge of 213 or perhaps back into the church building itself.

PRAYER BOARD

Please pray for:

Do you know anyone needing our prayers, or contact from the pastoral team? If so, please contact Bernard, Colin or Andreas 300402

- Bishop Guli Francis-Deqhani, the new Bishop of Chelmsford
- Our clergy, staff and ministry team - Colin and Vi, Bernard and Cornelia, Stuart, Andreas, Sharon, churchwardens, members of the PCCs and families.
- All those who are grieving following the death of a loved one. We pray for the family and friends of people known personally to us.
- All those who continue to struggle, for whatever reason, through coronavirus, wherever in the world

Please include anyone else who you are praying for especially at this time.

Saint Peter's

Sebastian Page
 Jean Bishop-Laggett
 Ernie Crump
 Jonathan & Karen and family
 Peter Davies
 Mary Powell
 Austin and George Nesbeth
 Jo
 Helena
 Anna
 Sam R-H's Mum
 Anne Seomore
 Jeanette
 Pam Meekins
 Funding for café project

Saint Cedd's

Sharon
 The Studio Project
 Recruitment of Digital Pioneer Minister
 Pray for those in the community with mental health concerns to receive all available help and support through the local services provided.
Digital community
 Heidi; Pennie's family and friends; Elaine; John (and Christine); John and Sue; Trinity; Pam; Meena, Tiffany, Hayley, Ashleigh, Maria, Claire, Joy, Frank, Phil and Liz

Saint Stephen's

Judy
 Doreen
 John and Sue
and others on our hearts.
 For Dawn, Project Leader 'garden@LifeStreams' as she starts her new role.
 For the building and garden projects; for funding for the new building project.

LIFE AT SAINT CEDD'S

It may seem relatively quiet at Saint Cedd's recently but there has been a lot going on behind the scenes. Plans are in place to host a playgroup that will be run Monday to Friday mornings during term-time. This is an established group who needed a new home. They are currently waiting for final Ofsted registration before starting. Kings Church are enjoying their Sunday morning worship and other groups have started back following the easing of restrictions.

The garden is being used more regularly by the council-run youth group. Perhaps the most visible thing has been the transformation of the grounds that have been largely overlooked for several years. Keith Turner, Steve and Moira Palmer, Iain and others have

been enthusiastically cutting, pruning, clearing, chopping

and pulling and sweating! Keith particularly has spent many hours getting the site looking really smart, tidy and looking loved and cared for. Thank you all of you.

We have been very blessed at the Studio before the summer break. Interviews with Carol Bennet and subsequently Elaine Wood talking about their personal experiences living with having a stroke and terminal cancer were remarkable and honest and so many people said they had been helped but them expressing their story and their feelings as they deal with day to day life.

Bernard and Cornelia have begun a 'traditional' time of worship at Saint Cedd's on a Sunday afternoon, starting at 3.30pm. This time is followed by refreshments and everyone

is welcome. This service completes our endeavour to offer different styles of worship at different times during the week, with smaller (and therefore safer in terms of the spread of coronavirus) gatherings. This service will be an 'in-person' service only so will have a slightly different dynamic than the other ones. Whilst children are very welcome this service is more suited to adults.



The Studio will resume shortly with its programme of social engagement and connection. We are hopeful to recruit a digital pioneer minister to serve at Saint Cedd's in November. More news about that will come very soon.

LIFE AT SAINT PETER'S

After a short break over the summer the CoffeeHouse is up and running again. With circumstances for several people changing we are really in need of some volunteers. Just a couple of hours each week would make a huge difference. I can't emphasise how important it is as part of our mission and ministry to the local community. There is an excitement and buzz when different groups are using the facilities. More good news is that we have been awarded some funding towards a manager for the coffeehouse. This will pay a part-time salary for a year. A job description and advertisement are being

arranged and hopefully someone could start in October.

Church life is full of ups and downs. Our ministry hopes to encourage people to discern God's calling, build confidence and release the potential that people hold within themselves. Following the successful start of Droplets Hannah has signed up for a full-time course at college to further her career. We are so pleased for her and continue to support her. However, it means that Droplets now needs a leader. It has been suspended for a short time while we find someone who will volunteer for this role. More good news.... we have received some grant funding towards toys and equipment for Droplets. If you know someone who may

be interested in helping out, please let the office know.

Hall lettings have almost returned to the level they were before the pandemic but there is still room at various times during the week.

Bishop John came to lead a service in September. He was delighted by his experience here. He spoke well and wanted to affirm everyone here at Lifestreams. We continue to live-stream our services for the benefit of those who can't make it into the building and for people beyond the fringes of the community here.

Plans are being prepared to launch 'H₂O' the new 'children's church' so hopefully more news will emerge soon.

More news next time!!

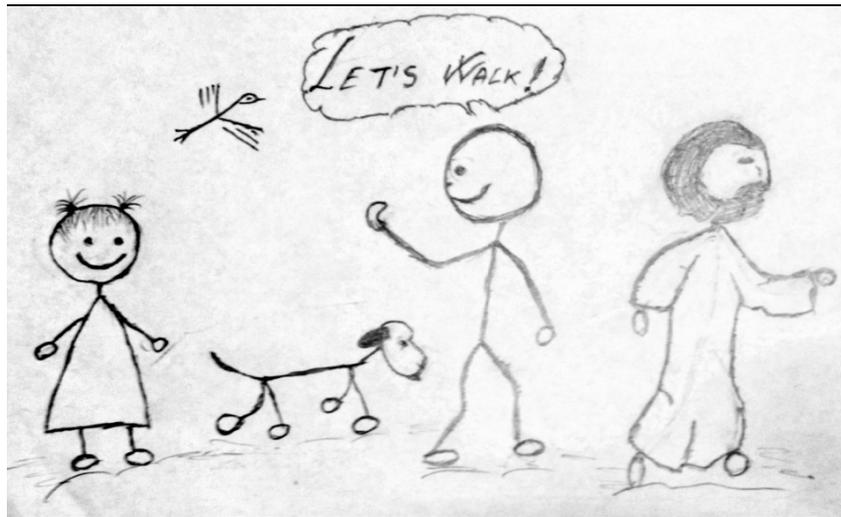
CONFIRMATION.....a new stage of walking together

It is no longer a novelty for anyone in our congregation that The Right Revd. John Perumbalath, Bishop of Bradwell will come to celebrate Confirmation for our candidates on Thursday, October 14, 2021. In order to better prepare for this moment, the candidates started a series of meetings in which they share with each other their history of faith, the motivations that made them decide to ask to be Confirmed. But this is not a new path they have begun to take. It is a longer journey, which began with their Baptism. For those who were baptized as infants, the journey began with the testimony of faith given by the godparents on their behalf, and for those who were baptized as adults, the journey began with their first public declaration of faith in Christ in the presence of the congregation. So it is a journey that began with Baptism and continues with Confirmation.

At the first meeting I asked the candidates if Confirmation was necessary for their salvation. The answer came immediately: no. Then I kept asking: then why do you want to be confirmed? The answer came: Whoever is Confirmed declares before the congregation that they are mature in the faith and ready to commit themselves more to make Jesus known and that they are his followers, inspired by the Holy Spirit, the same that the disciples immediately received. after the ascension of Jesus to heaven.

Considering their answers, which can be easily understood

as the continuation of the same journey of faith begun at Baptism, but in a more engaging and responsible way, I suggested to the candidates to take as a basic text for their preparation the first four verses of chapter 1 of the Gospel according to Luke and the first 2 chapters of the Acts of the Apostles.



If by the time they are confirmed they are like Theophilus (Luke 1: 3 & Acts 1: 1), then, after their confirmation, they will be like Luke (who, after reading about Jesus, listened to the faith stories of others, lived himself in his life the teaching of Jesus). After the Confirmation, it is their turn to invite others to participate in the same journey of faith, walking with Jesus on the path of life. They are the new disciples, evangelizers for others, like Luke. Luke offers us two books: two parts of the same history of faith. The first is the stage of discovering Jesus and living in his presence to understand his teaching (The Gospel according to Luke) and the second is that of 'going' to others to show the same Jesus and how he can be met, following his words, in what he said, and in what is done (Acts of the Apostles).

And for us, those already Confirmed, it is good to rethink

our journey of faith as mature disciples and responsible for the gift of faith. Some time ago, together with a group of Christians, I created a travel itinerary in understanding Jesus, using the Gospel of Luke. There was no time to continue with Luke's second book (Acts). When you want to deepen your journey with

Jesus you can use the material created, (by contacting me for a paper copy or for those with access to the internet, you can find by following this link (11 sessions): <https://www.meaningscbn.com/category/bible-study/bible-study-luke-2020-2021/>.

Sincerely, your fellow walker on the same path of faith,
Rev. Bernard Noghiu

(The drawing was the cover of the leaflet given for those interested to attend the 'journey'. By Bernard Noghiu)

UPDATES IN BRIEF

1. H₂O - 'childrens church' will begin on Sunday mornings following the launch at the 'light party' on 31st October
2. Worship on Friday evenings is in the lounge.
3. Oasis, refreshments are being served at Saint Cedd's Wednesday afternoons between 2:15 and 3:30pm