

## Dec 2011 -Front Cover

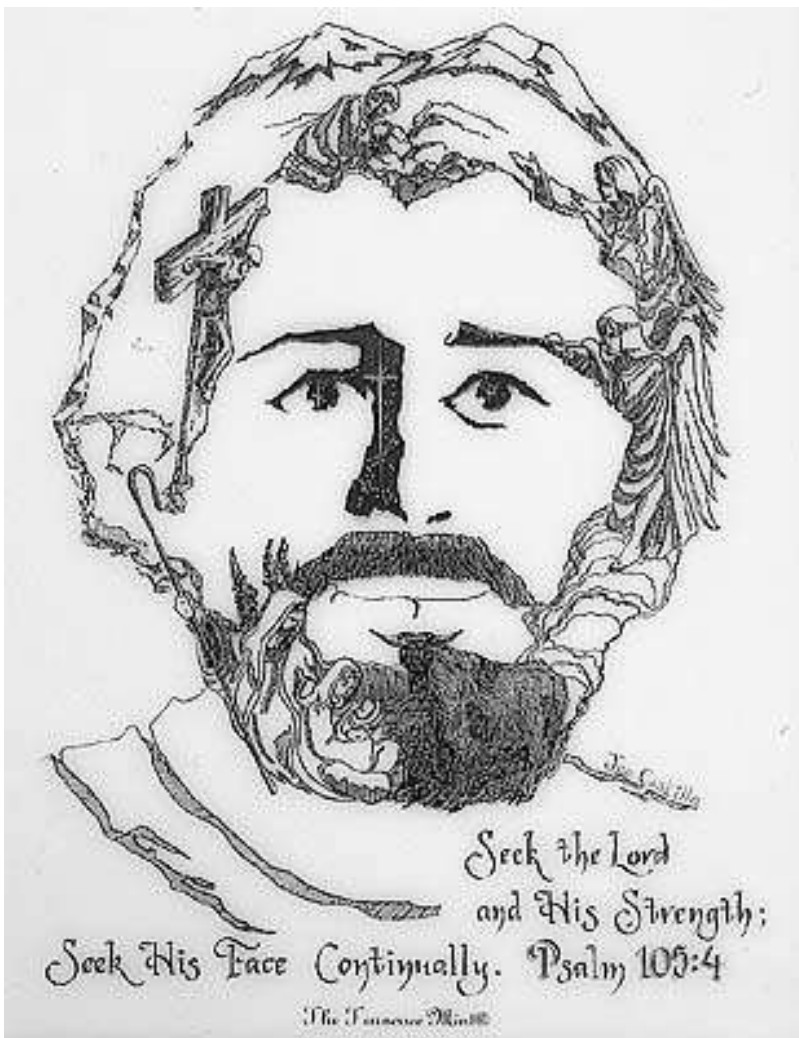
This drawing was sent to me in an email.

I found this truly amazing and it is true like it says at the bottom , the more you look, the more you see.

I have added the text that came with the email to the bottom of this picture. I hope you enjoy looking and studying this as much as I have.

Now this wonderful drawing and witness won't just be shared by email. Now you can share it to.

Lesley Hingston- Editor



The gentleman who drew this is Joe Castillo.

He went to Asbury Theological Seminary.

He did this during a chapel service. It was fascinating - he told the Gospel story - each part of Jesus' life – and he was drawing the story as he told the story.

We didn't realize until the end what the entire picture was. A rare talent!!!

The 'longer' you look at this picture, the 'more' you see  
Look at the lines the artist used to draw this picture of Christ...  
It is of scenes from Christ's life.  
I have not seen anything like this

Share this with a friend or two  
In the Circle of God's love, God's waiting to use your full potential.  
May God Bless You and Yours!

## WELCOME TO THE PARTY!

If the hotel owners had only known how significant Jesus' birth would be, I'm sure they'd have tried to make him feel more welcome than they did. They were shutting the door in his face even before he was born! What a welcome!

And it gets worse! Yes, I know a few shepherds went to welcome him, and later a few wise men as well, but straight after that he had to flee the country to Egypt to stop Herod killing him! Welcome to the world Jesus!!!

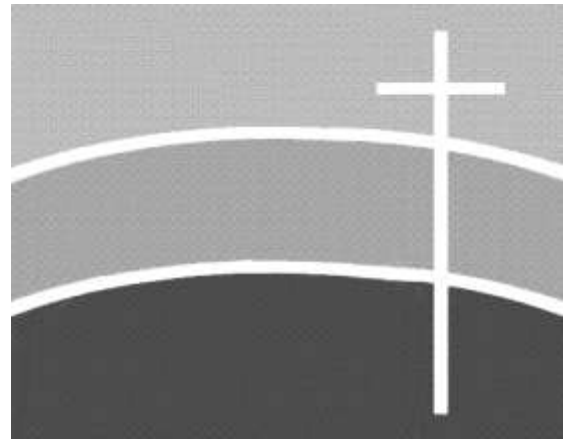
We didn't do the best of jobs welcoming Jesus 2000 years ago, but are we doing any better today? The fact is many people still refuse to welcome him into their lives. If only they realised how significant his birth was. If only they knew that Jesus is still very much alive and bringing the same joy into people's lives that he brought into Mary's all those years ago. Someone should tell them.

Brixham Baptist Church exists to make this good news about Jesus known to the people of Brixham. This Christmas time we want to welcome you to join us at one of our services to discover just who Jesus is and the joy he can bring into your life. We welcome you to 'The Front Room', our new coffee shop and café, to make new friends and meet people whose lives have been changed by Jesus.



And finally, if you already know Jesus, then we challenge you to give the best welcome you possibly can to those that don't know him, because we want our welcome to reflect the welcome Jesus gives to every one of us. Hope you enjoy his birthday party!

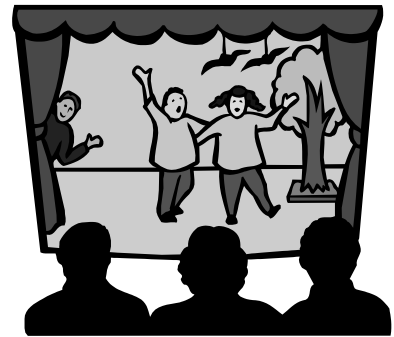
Phil Marsden (Minister)



# Christmas Services

**Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> December:**

10.30 am- Family service for all ages



6.30 pm Carols by Candlelight

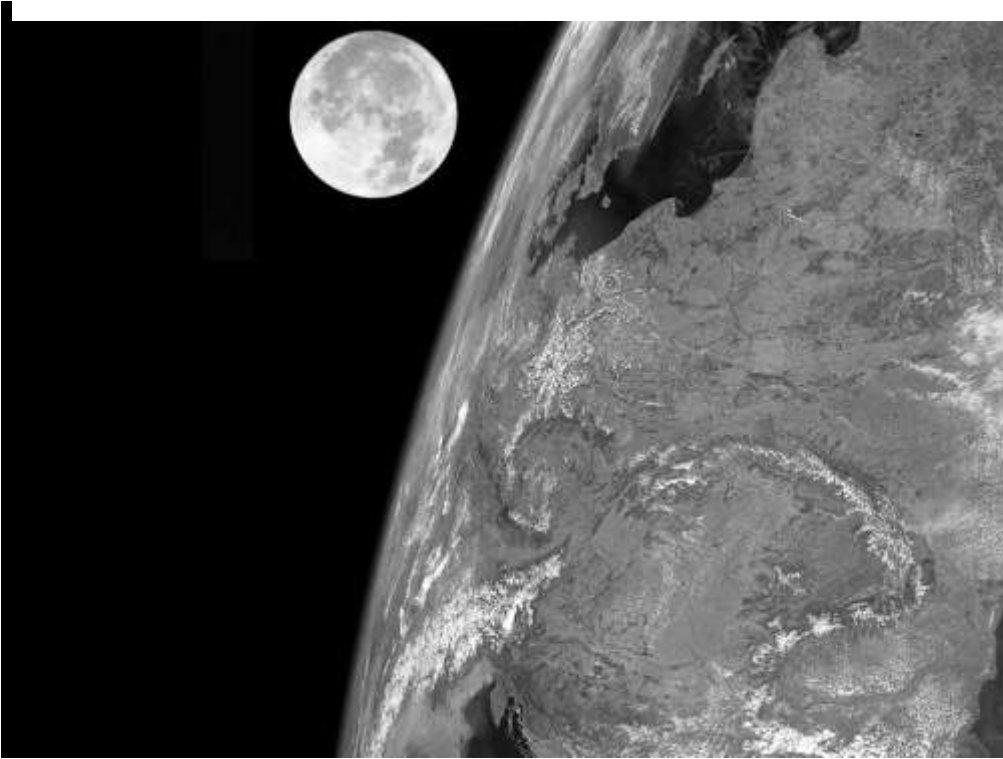
**Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> December:**

10.30 Christmas Day- Special Service



# JESUS – LIGHT OF THE WORLD

From Jim Collins



I recently read some words that US astronaut Hale Irwin said, after he had returned to earth after standing on the moon: “The most significant achievement of our age is not that man stood on the moon, **but rather that God in Christ stood upon this earth.**”

The Word, (which was God) became human and lived here on earth

among us. He — was full of unfailing love and faithfulness. And we have seen His glory, the glory of the only Son of the Father. (John 1:14)

At Christmas we rejoice that Jesus came to earth, and in His life he revealed God’s love to us and the way of forgiveness for our sinfulness.

I was walking home through town recently on the day the Christmas lights were switched-on in Brixham. In addition to the main illuminations there were the lights from the fairground ride, glow sticks for sale and finally the fireworks that lit up the night sky over the harbour. There was much light in the darkness.

In John 1:9 we read that Jesus – the true light, who gives light to every person, was coming into the world. Concerning Jesus being born into this world, Isaiah the prophet said “The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned.<sup>2</sup> (Isaiah 9:2)

Jesus said: “I am the light of the world. *Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.*” (John 8:12) Over 2000 years later, Jesus still stands with us. Whatever you are going through in life at this time – Jesus wants to walk that road with you. Several years ago I wrote a song called “Jesus – Light of the World.” The second verse reads:

“Now if you’re sad and in despair, and your heart is full of fear,

And the peace you’re searching for cannot be found.

There’s a light that’s shining through, as you trust in all you do,

*To the One who puts your feet on solid ground –*

*Jesus the Light of the World.”*

The Christmas News of Great joy is that **God is with us – in Jesus Christ.** The best present any of us could have this Christmas; is **God’s presence.**



# That Night

By Anne Harrison



That night, I remember it so well; that night when heaven seemed to invade earth; that night when God spoke so clearly; that night, it changed everything! I was just two weeks from being 17. Life seemed good, a loving home, achieving at school, excelling at sport, nice boy friend, career mapped out. God was very much on the

"sidelines". Having declared my independence from Him at age 14, I was cruising happily in my own world. Then it all began to happen. History, English and Latin were my chosen subjects for "A" levels in preparation for University. In History we were studying the English and European Reformation, in English the "Religious Poets" Milton, Donne, G.M.Hopkins and in Latin Tacitus, notably his comment about the early church. Amazingly, I became very interested in Christian apologetics. At the same time I was invited to a new youth initiative at my parent's church where I had previously attended. I was struck by the resolute confidence that my contemporaries had in "The Word of God" and as they sang " For I know whom I have believed....." (2 Tim. 1;12), I could not escape the question "was it possible to KNOW God?" I took up reading the Bible and going to church again (to my parent's delight). Then in April 1954 at a Sunday evening Guest Service it happened. "Thou Fool" the preacher declared "this night your soul will be required of thee" (Luke 12;20). I realised I was a fool stockpiling my own riches for my own benefit and ignoring God. **THAT WAS THE NIGHT** that changed everything. A matter of weeks later I was unexpectedly admitted to hospital with what appeared to be a serious illness. During my two week stay the Lord spoke clearly that I should become a nurse. School and family treated it as a whim. Eventually they realised I was serious and I went to Bart's Hospital in London in February



1957. The Lord's plan for my life was taking shape. I met David, he was a curate in Brixton Hill. His vicar met my vicar and I was invited to speak at the Youth Fellowship. David and I married in May 1960 when I finished my training. Both of us believed we had a calling to go overseas as Missionaries to the Chinese people. China was closed. We applied to the "China Inland Fellowship, Overseas Missionary Fellowship" an interdenominational faith mission founded by Hudson Taylor. Following training we were accepted and went to North Malaya to work amongst the Hokkien speaking Chinese who had fled the cruel regime in China and settled in communities in Malaya. The Lord blessed us abundantly and many came to know the Lord. We learnt what it meant to rely on the Lord for all our needs especially with a young family. As the situation was changing we came back to the U.K. with only what we had in our cases,

which actually were wooden boxes. David became vicar in Saddleworth and a new chapter in our lives had begun. Space prohibits more detail of my 57 years walking with the Lord but suffice it to say that my latest step of obedience was on November 6th when I renewed my baptism vows through the waters of Baptism to identify with my brothers and sisters whom I love dearly in the church to which I now belong. When I left home to go to London, the text given me by the church was Exodus 33;14, "My presence shall go with you and I will give you rest" This has proved true throughout my life, especially on our retirement and when my dear David went to be with the Lord. This text was actually set in my daily readings. the Lord is always there in the minutest detail. He is good.....very good!

## My Testimony

By Charlie Riden

I have always been brought up as a Christian and have always enjoyed learning about God.



As I

have aged, Christianity has gradually become easier to understand and Church has been a fun place to be as many of my friends have now joined also I have made new friends as the youth population of our Church has increased.

During August of 2011, I took part in a LiNX Christian Youth Trust event called Life is Beautiful. On the trip we went camping at Yate's farm and we took part in evening sessions held by Luke Mansfield. Across the evenings I felt I learnt more what the purpose is for Christianity was and felt close to the Lord throughout the teaching. On the Tuesday night session I felt as though I really wanted to be a Christian but never thought that I could do it individually. Later on that evening, Luke offered a time where if you wanted to you could be prayed for. It was then that I thought I should really take on the offer and asked to be prayed for. As I put my hand up Luke spotted me and came over and prayed with me. At this time my mind was completely focused on God. It was then that I really felt a strong connection with the Holy Spirit and what an awesome feeling it was. Luke had his hand on my shoulder and continuously prayed for me to be filled with the Holy Spirit, I couldn't stand up straight and I continuously shivered but I knew that God was with me. It was from that moment on that I knew I should become a Christian as it gave me extra proof that Jesus is alive!!

## Mark Tobin- My Testimony



For years I have been attending Upton Vale Baptist Church in some capacity, whether it was at the boys brigade, youth clubs or at the Sunday services. As a child I was raised with some knowledge of God as my mother is Roman Catholic, but we never really went to church. I recently left the boys brigade after 13 years. However it was only about three or four years ago that I started going to the

Sunday services as I couldn't make it on Sunday's because I played football. However, one Wednesday evening I made a promise to someone saying that if I had a match called off I would come along to church. I kept my promise and about five weeks later I decided to go along, not really knowing what to expect. But when I arrived I felt as though I had an instant connection. Last year was the point when I knew that I became a Christian. I was down with the youth in the basement (which is the youth room) and we were having a time of worship but before we started singing I said a prayer to myself, asking that God would meet me. As we sang we began to sing a song called 'Beautiful One' and I suddenly felt God's presence in the room. It was something that I'd never felt before. I became light headed and felt like I had someone touching my shoulder. It was as though I was being lifted and I felt a real peace inside. It felt amazing and people around me noticed that God was meeting me at this moment. Throughout the rest of the day I couldn't stop smiling, because I realized what God had done for me when he sent Jesus to pay the price for my sins, giving my life to him was the best thing that I have ever done.

I have recently started attending Brixham Baptist Church. I first got involved helping out at the summer football academy that Luke ran and really enjoyed it. I am really enjoying helping out with the youth activities, and want to help others come to know the joy of knowing God as I have.

## Our weekend away- from Chris and Christine.



This article is about the church weekend away. Unfortunately it missed the last deadline for the magazine so we've decided to add it in to this one.

Enjoy,

Lesley Hingston- Editor

We packed the camper with great anticipation and excitement on the first morning of our weekend away with the church, all set to go by midday.

We were using the camper because my snoring is so loud ! I would have kept everyone awake in the block each night, resulting in a lot of sleepy people.

Now your wondering which one of us is writing this account.



We arrived at Hill House around 5pm to be met by Harry and Chris. What a lovely couple they are so helpful and considerate. The camper was in situ in no time at all with a lovely outlook over the valleys and plains of Somerset.

By now many others were arriving and settling into their accommodation, it was with great delight to see all the old familiar faces saying to each other their hello's with cries of delight and excitement.

Now gathered in small groups over tea and coffee in the dinning hall, the main topic of conversation was the 2 hour delay (traffic jam) on the M5 and A38. I know a little prayer was said in our group for those who may have been hurt in the accident.

I think those who are new to the Baptist Church were amazed at the efficiency in which Hilary and Phil Worth provided all the meals throughout the weekend. Us mere mortals helped with the clearing away and washing up. A big well done and thank you to you both, You are angels.

Speaking of angels and mortals, what a lovely idea It was to pair everyone from the church up, each being an angel or mortal at the same time.

The way it worked was that each of us picked a name out of a drum and kept the name to your-self. Over the weekend one would act as an angel, looking after, complementing, blessing them with a bible verse and a little gift or two if you wished and all being done with out them discovering who their angel/mortal was. It was great fun and very rewarding by both, with a little mystery wondering who your angel was and if you'd been discovered. Many hadn't a clue as to who their angel was but all was revealed on our last day of the weekend.

The prayer and praise was led by Matt Turner, with the worship backing team. Well done to all of you for providing impeccable leadership as always in our praising of the Lord.

The teaching team, Phil and Luke were in fact the assistants to Paul and Astrid Vaswani (Friends of the Marsdens') and their daughter Jessica. How blessed little Jessica is to have such knowledgeable parents, Both mum and dad taking it in turns to give us our Lords word, giving each of us a different perspective on our lives sending us out to follow new directions. Well done to the ministry, truly the heart of the weekend in many ways.

One other vital element to our weekend was a big family awareness people had, one was able to sense that brother, sister atmosphere of love to each other, a feeling of belonging, cocooned in the knowledge we were safe knowing no one would hurt us, well apart from Luke who beat me at table tennis **21-2 OUCH!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!**

The Weekend drawing to a close, Saturday night being bonfire night, gathering around , some to the early hours, telling stories, long and short and little white lies in between, (those who were there will know what I mean) and of course the inevitable sing song, a good time was had by all.

Speaking for myself if I knew the date for the next year's weekend away I would be marking it down on the calendar now.

Bless you all

Chris and Christine.



On writing this the Front Room has now been open for around 10 weeks so it is great to be able to update everyone on how things have been going. These 10 weeks have gone so quickly and they have been really exciting! We have faced some teething problems from things like how to serve people well and how to make sure all jobs are being done

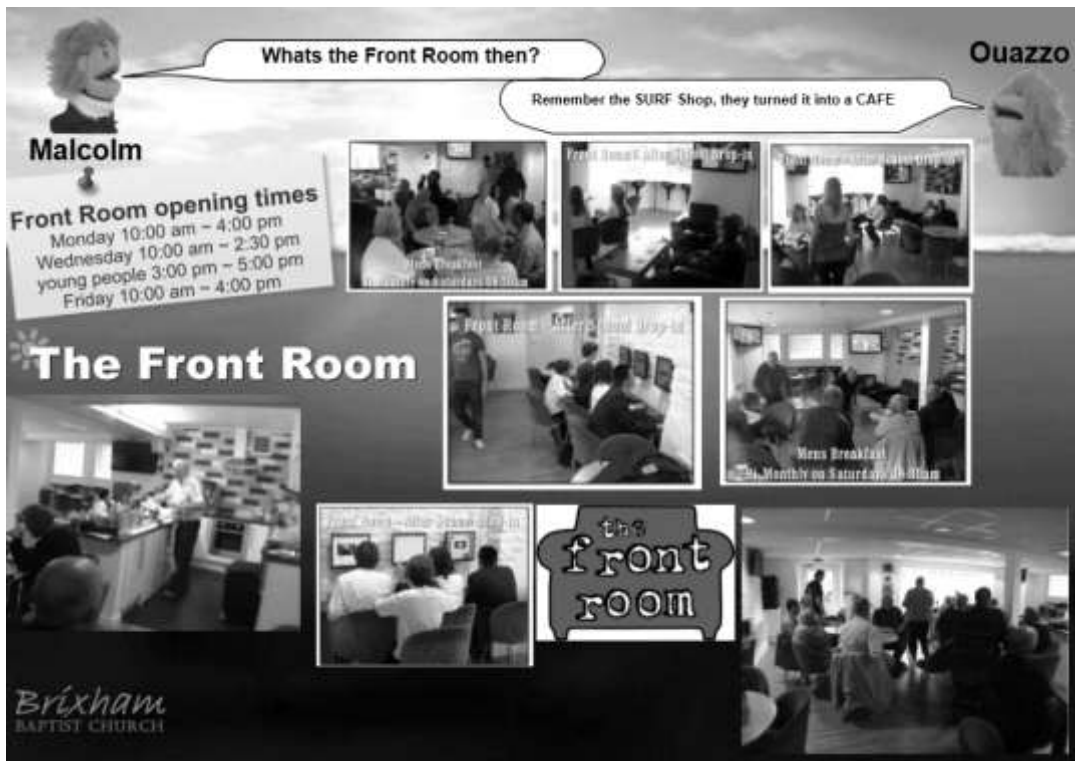
whilst ensuring we are talking to customers, but we knew that these teething problems would arise as we have never done anything like this before.

Despite these teething problems the Front Room is making great progress. We now have 15 volunteers helping at the café; some working each week, some fortnightly and some monthly. We are still open on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays and each week we have seen an increase in customers using the Front Room. Many people are coming back too as they have enjoyed their time so much. We are also seeing people use the café after other Church activities such as the toddler group and the memory café which is great to see.

Because of this growth in customers we are seeing an increase in income with about £50 - £80 being made each day. This has enabled the Front Room to be self-sufficient in buying its own stock and being able to buy smaller pieces of equipment that has been needed.



A few weeks ago we also had the Environmental Health Officer from the council come to look at the premises and make sure we were working to a high standard. She was very impressed with what we have in place but will be back soon to see the Front Room in action and then give us a rating which will be in the window for all to see! We are hoping the rating will be high as this will be another good witness to the community.



All of these things I have mentioned above have been really encouraging. However the most encouraging thing I have seen is how the Front Room is touching the lives of our community already! The main aim for the Front Room has always been to provide a meeting place for people where they

can feel valued and important and we pray that God would give us opportunities to share about His love to our community through this witness. In these 10 weeks many volunteers have had chance to share their testimony, to share about God and Church life and to be a listening ear to those who are hurting. These are all seeds sown in peoples' lives and I know God is using them for good.

I want to take the opportunity here to thank everyone who has given up their time to work in the Front Room. Everyone has worked so hard and has given so much to make the Front Room work so well. The Front Room wouldn't be such a success without everyone's help so thank you so very much.

We always need more volunteers however and we are hoping in the New Year to open on a Tuesday as well, so if you would like to volunteer at the Front Room please do let me know. This could be each week or each month and this could be to cook, clean, serve or even to chat to the customers. We would love to open the Front Room as much as possible so any help is much appreciated.



I am so pleased in how the Front Room has been going and I have been blessed to be part of it. My continued prayer is that the Front Room would continue to be a beacon of light in our community and that it would be a stepping stone to bring people to know Jesus' love for themselves.

May the next 10 weeks be even more exciting than the last!

## **THE LOUNGE CHRISTIAN BOOKSHOP**

Since opening in August 2010 - the Lounge Christian Bookshop has increased it's available stock of books, music CD's, DVD's, Greeting cards and gifts. In addition we have taken many orders for books that we don't keep on the shelf, and most are delivered within 1 week.

In June this year we took our Bookshop Resource over to the Brixham Methodist Church for their Celebration for the 400th Anniversary of the King James Bible, and also opened in conjunction with the Christmas Market in the Town Square.

If you are an Internet user, please browse the Bookshop section on our Brixham Baptist Church Web-site, where there are pictures and lists of books and other items. Please continue to tell your friends and contacts about our Christian Bookshop Resource.

A Christian book makes a great gift for Christmas, a birthday or to give someone at any time when you want to encourage them in their walk with God.

We are open on Tuesday and Thursday mornings between 10am and Noon. Our team of helpers look forward to meeting and serving you.

Jim and Marian Collins (Bookshop Co-ordinators) Tel 01803 858340

## From Luke

I have been largely encouraged by my first year at Brixham Baptist Church. We have seen young people come to know Jesus, new initiatives start, young people baptised, and we have seen a number of young people go deeper in their faith and walk with God. We are also beginning to see a cross over between our outreach activities and our discipleship activities. Despite some challenges that we have faced this year It has been a privilege to be a part of what God is doing at Brixham Baptist Church.

Over the past 12 months we have started a number of new initiatives within the youth work at the church. Including 2 youth discipleship groups and an after-school drop-in, which have helped contribute to the steady growth of our youth group. We have also made some changes to our Friday youth clubs, and as a result have begun to see a cross over between those who come on a Friday and those who come on a Sunday.

In my first year at the church we have seen our youth group grow, and now get consistently over 20 young people on a Sunday morning and between 20 and 30 on a Sunday evening. Many Young people have been challenged to go deeper in their faith with Jesus and we have seen 4 young people baptised in the past 12 months, We have also seen 6 young people give their lives to Jesus from within our youth group this year. It's been a real privilege to see some of these young people really move on in their faith in the past year, and it's great to see some get really enthused to follow Christ.

Over the past 12 months we have had a number of special events, including two sleepovers at the church, a social action morning, where as a youth group we went out onto the streets of Brixham, offering to wash people's cars for free, this provided many opportunities to tell people who we were and why we were doing it. We also ran a successful youth alpha course, which really challenged the young people who were on it and we saw 2 people give their lives to Jesus on it. We have run youth canoeing trips as well as several other social activities.



One of my highlights of the past 12 months was the week long football academy that we ran in the summer. We ran it at Brixham College and saw 16 children attend the week. We had a presentation service as part of the open air service in the summer, which saw many of the children attend. It was a great opportunity to tell the children about Jesus, and use football as an effective outreach.



Over the coming 12 months I'd really like to grow the children's work at Brixham Baptist Church. We have over 70 children coming each week to the Island club, the potential to reach them for Christ is enormous. I

have some plans in the pipeline which I am excited about. We've seen some great progress with the youth this year, in terms of seeing non-Christians come into church, and I aim to enhance that further now that we have a structure in place to get alongside the young people who come through our doors. I really feel 2012 is going to be an exciting year in the life of the youth and children's work at the church.

Luke Mansfield- Youth worker



# 1<sup>st</sup> Brixham Boys Brigade



The new session is well underway and it's good to see the number of boys has increased from last year.

In November the Anchor Boys, Juniors and Company Section filled a total of 14 shoeboxes for the annual Operation

Christmas Child shoebox appeal.

Over the past few weeks all the boys have been doing a bit of cooking or cake decorating, which they all seem to enjoy.

The last evening before the Christmas break will be the 12<sup>th</sup> December and we will be returning in the New Year on January 9<sup>th</sup>.

Wishing you all a very Happy Christmas. From all the boys and staff.





Hello.

My name is Bob Price; I belong to Sidwell Street Methodist Church in Exeter, where I am an officer in the 1<sup>st</sup> Exeter Company of the B.B. A Sunday School teacher and the general church youth contact.

I joined the 5<sup>th</sup> Cardiff Company in 1952 and have also been an officer in Reading, Leicester and Leamington Spa companies. I also run youth clubs in various locations.

I give you this information not to say “Look what I have done” but to show you the variety of experience I’ve been privileged to have been given.

The local grouping of Boys Brigade companies is known as the Devon Battalion, and 1<sup>st</sup> Brixham approached them when your Captain and Mike Davis stepped down. The appeal went out for help.

Luckily our Company (1<sup>st</sup> Exeter) has three fine young men who have moved into leadership roles, and we felt I could be spared for a while. (Also as I’m very nosey, it would give them a rest for a while).

So I’ve been undertaking the drive from Exeter to Brixham every Monday, what a joy the traffic is at that time of night.

What have I found? Well 30+ boys who are regular in their attendance and a group of committed officers (not officers who should be committed)!

There are inbuilt tensions because of the availability of leaders at different times. The Anchor Boys meet at 5:30 – 6:45, Junior Section 7:00 – 8:15 and Company Section 7:30 – 9:00. It is desirable that each section starts with a parade which sets the scene for the evening, but juggling the Junior and Company sections at 7:30, and managing the Juniors while the Company boys are waiting to start is not easy.

Ideally, Anchor Boys meet with the Juniors from 6:00 – 7:30 and the Company boys thereafter would be fine and acceptable to most parents, but not all staff can get there at these times, and we can ill afford to lose any staff.

Secondly a right-hand man/woman is needed for each section, particularly in the Juniors and Company. This would take a maximum of 1½ hours per week, but needs regular attendance as success is built around forming the correct relationship with the boys.

If these volunteers come forward, then the Company can continue to look to the future. There is need for, a someone, to hold things together. But that role, which could be seen as a Company administrator, would need a weekly commitment.

Alternatively perhaps, if premises allow, consideration should be given to a joint Girls and Boys evening, joined for some activities and split for others. This way, leaders could all be on the premises at the same time.

Regular parade services I see as essential, witness how many new faces from associated families were seen at the last such service.

One question that often troubles some churches is the relevance of uniformed organisations today. Well in my experience lads react well to a discipline and a form, they know the rules and where they stand. In fact many parents welcome that form. Obviously there is a place for both a uniformed and a non uniformed world. Young people are all different and some will feel at home with one and some the other.

Please search your hearts, pray for the work, and see if you could commit yourself to 1½ hour a week to keep this exceptional work alive.





# 1st Brixham Girls Brigade

Our new programme material has been well received by both the girls and their leaders. It is much more tailored to the way children develop, and is providing a great deal of fun – as well as learning! We have been pleased to have Mary, Verity and Emily helping with the younger girls.

Four girls attended the Young Leader Training weekend in Plymouth in October. They enjoyed their busy weekend and are all now putting what they learned into practice in the Company.

On our final evening before Christmas we have invited the parents of Explorers and Juniors to join us to make Christingles, which we hope will help them understand the true meaning of Christmas. We will be holding our party on 12th January.

Marilyn Lewis (854988)



## Ladies Afternoon Meeting

During the last few weeks we have celebrated 'Harvest Thanksgiving, distributed fruit and flowers to the housebound, 'Visited Nepal' with Sue Kemp, had the latest news of areas reached through MAF and glimpsed life in some remote African villages.

Three members were called home to be with the Lord, Valerie Forster after a long illness, Joyce Ducker and Helen Davis (both 100 +) and we thank the Lord for their lives. We have also welcomed a new member.

We celebrated the birth of Jesus at our lunch and Carol service on December 6<sup>th</sup>. We re start on January 10<sup>th</sup> when the new motto is 'God is our refuge and strength' from Psalm 46.

On March 26<sup>th</sup> 2012 we will celebrate our 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary when the speaker will be Mrs. Miriam Jiffs.

For you diary :

Jan 10<sup>th</sup> Phil Marsden

Jan 17<sup>th</sup> Pamela Pollock

Jan 24<sup>th</sup> Jean Robertson

Jan 31<sup>st</sup> David Percy

Feb 7<sup>th</sup> Myra Hingston

Feb 14<sup>th</sup> A.G.M

Feb 21<sup>st</sup>/ 28<sup>TH</sup> TBA

Mar 6<sup>th</sup> /13<sup>th</sup> TBA

Mar 20<sup>th</sup> Miriam Jeffs

## Missionary news

Andrew and Angela-

Dear Family and Friends,

The last 2 weeks brought its joys and frustrations. Andrew has enjoyed his new teaching programme at Theological College Lanka teaching sermon preparation.



Angela had 2 teaching sessions with the nurses in Hatton (25<sup>th</sup> Nov and 1<sup>st</sup> Dec). They were very happy to have her back. She's still trying to meet with Dr Ravi who coordinates the training but he is proving elusive... and then he phoned yesterday while we were on the bus to Colombo to see when we could meet!

The frustrations were that both our pen drives stopped working and the main laptop crashed. The laptop has been repaired and we already had 2 new pen drives. Unfortunately Angela had to re-do several hours of preparation work that she needed from the laptop before it can be returned to us.

We are in Colombo again ready to travel to Batticaloa tonight (Sat 3 Dec) on the night train. On Sunday Andrew is preaching at a student's church in a very poor area and this will be followed by a health advice clinic. This month Yohan will be with us at ETC (5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>) to share the teaching with Andrew. Angela has 2 more sessions with the Oncology team at the local hospital (5<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>) to complete the series on communication. We hope for more opportunities in the New Year.

Sat- 3rd Overnight train to Batticaloa (1.45pm your time)

Sun- 4th Andrew preaching at student's church; Angela has health advice clinic

Mon- 5th Angela teaching at Batticaloa Hospital (also Wed 7<sup>th</sup>)

5<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> Eastern Theological College (Mon-Thur) Andrew teaching on "Jeremiah"

Fri -9th Very early bus to Kandy: Andrew teaching at TCL; then bus to Colombo

Sat -10th Day in Colombo; work at EHC offices; time to relax.

Sun- 11<sup>th</sup> After church we will take a bus to Kandy to visit friends.

Mon -12th Andrew teaching at TCL; then we travel with friends to Norton Bridge

12th- 16th SAIT week (Mon-Fri) Andrew teaching on Deuteronomy.

Fri- 16th Andrew goes early to Kandy for class at TCL; he will join Angela in Colombo in the evening.

Sat -17th

Meet Rachel and Christopher at airport; they will be with us for 12 days. We'll visit a few places and then take them 'home' for Christmas together

Andrew and Angela Willis Ministry in Sri Lanka

Letter May 2010 Letter NOV 2010 SRI LANKA 2010 Letter NOV 2011

Andrew and Angela Willis Ministry Video

Andrew and Angela Willis  
The Annual Renewal of Andrew and Angela's visa to stay in Sri Lanka has to be done in January 2012, and the long process to obtain it has already started. Getting the visa this time is expected to be particularly difficult. They have to get letters of recommendation from three organisations who may be unwilling to cooperate. Please pray that the process goes smoothly and that the visa will be forthcoming.

**Mission work in Sri Lanka**  
"A Church in the community, showing and sharing God's Love"

**Brixham Baptist Church**



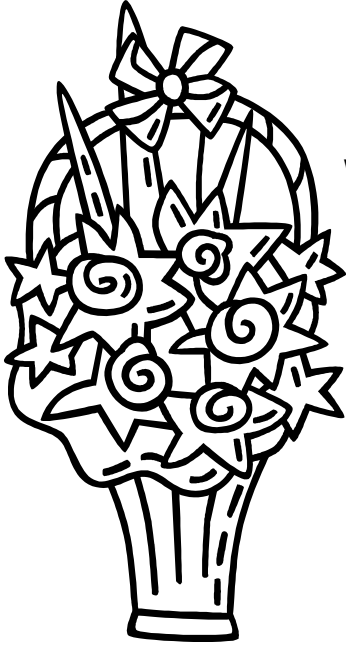
**Andy and Jutt-** They both have a blog (news letter in normal terms) online, which can be accessed through the BMS website.

### Prayer Requests

- As we start a new French language course at the cultural centre in Conakry, we find a good routine and settle quickly
- As a couple continuing to live in shared housing that we find time for ourselves
- Learning to live in a different climate and culture
- Pray for Guinean people as prices for food continue to rise
- Pray for Christians living in a majority Muslim country

## Family News

During this year the Lord has given us as a church and family some wonderful times but also some very sad times.



We have had the pleasure of sharing in some amazing events during 2011, including: Many baptisms, church-membership, special anniversaries and birthdays. It has truly been a wonderful year, and we thank the Lord for his blessing.

During the last 12 months we have also lost some of our dearest friends which has been sad but we know that they are now at peace with our Lord and no longer suffering, so we can now thank the Lord for their lives and witness.

There have also been many answers to prayer and we thank the Lord for his answers and help even if they haven't been the answers we wanted, We know that God sees the bigger picture and we have to "trust and obey".



"Trust in the Lord with all your heart,  
lean not on your own understanding"  
Proverbs 3 v 5

## A Tribute to Valerie Forster

Valerie Forster – a lovely lady, a wonderful mother and a true friend.

I can't remember a time when I didn't know Val and she will always be Valerie Ingram to me.....

Surnames never change when you marry in Brixham!!

Our paths never crossed at school, she was several years older than me, quite a difference in your teens, and it was only when her sons and our boys were in the Boys Brigade together that our friendship began. We often went together supporting the boys at their many events and our friendship grew as we encouraged the boys and their leaders. She and I shared the secretaryship of the Young Wives for several years and she persuaded many of us to get involved with the 'Know Your Bible' studies and to attend the annual KYB conferences. I was privileged to join Val and Diana Wood in a prayer triplet for some years and when Diana moved away, Val joined a house group with me, which was formed when Andrew Willis was our pastor.

Sadly, soon after losing John she began to feel unwell herself, but that never caused her to grumble or complain about her lot. She loved her family and the extended family which grew over the years and she was very proud to show me photos of weddings, engagements and new babies whenever I visited. She constantly gave thanks for the love and support that the family gave to her.

Over the past couple of years she has been unable to come to House Group but that didn't stop Val and I from having a 'get together' on a Tuesday afternoon. She always greeted me with 'Hello My, how lovely to see you' and I am quite sure that others received a similar welcome. Speaking personally, I always came away blessed after a visit. She's greatly missed and Tuesday afternoons will never be quite the same again.

I do however, give thanks together with all the family that she is now out of pain and in the presence of her Lord and like many others who knew Val, consider it a privilege to have been one of her friends.

**Myra Hingston**



## A Tribute to Les Rackley

Les Rackley had been a long term member of our church since 1954.



Born and bred in Brixham but later left to become an officer in the army, where he became Captain Rackley.

When he returned to his home town of Brixham, he spent many happy years here together with his wife Joan and became a loving father to his son John.

One of Les's proudest moments was when he saw his son John, go into the Ministry and later on John became President of the Baptist Union.

Les had many interests but among his favourites were cricket and rugby. His passion for cricket was so much that he even played for his local team Brixham. He was also Captain and President of Brixham rugby club. His work in Brixham was as a qualified accountant where he later went on to own his own business.

Les's life with in our church was certainly a busy and committed one. The work varied from Sunday school teacher to long term secretary and being in the church choir until it finished.

As a church it was sad to see Les and Joan move away more recently but this was so they could be nearer to their son John and his family in Bath.

Coffee morning is open every Thursday from 10-12.  
Drinks are by donation into the box by the door.  
Everyone is welcome.

Also on during coffee morning is the Christian Bookshop.  
Again open from 10-12

Please come and join us one Thursday, You'll get a warm welcome and a nice hot drink (with biscuits) Yum.

