

Narborough Congregational Church



Even the winds and the waves obey Him!

Matthew 8:27

January & February 2008

A LETTER OF THANKS

To our dear friends at Narborough Congregational Church

We would like to express our thanks to the Church family for supporting the CRY charity this year in memory of our daughter and sister, Sarah.

With your help, we have raised in excess of £2,500 for the charity, which aims to raise awareness of the risk to young people of sudden death by previously undiagnosed heart related illness. An average of 8 young adults die weekly following a heart failure of some sort, that means that nearly 300 have died since our loss of Sarah back in April. This week there has been a well publicised case of a Motherwell football player who collapsed and died during a game.

The contribution that the Church has made to the above total has been significant, from sponsorship of the netball match arranged by Steph Sawyer and her friends, the collections at both Palmers Garden Centre and The 8 O'clock Club carol singing evenings, together with various other donations.

Our thanks once again to you all for the above, and also for your support throughout this difficult time. Lets hope that 2008 is a better year for us all.

Colin, Hilary and Will Simpson.

CAROL SINGING AT PALMERS GARDEN CENTRE

It was a lovely surprise to have a phone call from Palmers asking the Church to come and sing carols at their special Christmas evening on Thursday November 16th.

I had thought that with the connection with Palmers broken they may forget about us, but no, they were just as keen to have us singing. Staff at Palmers also asked particularly if the collection on the night was given to the charity CRY (Cardiac Risk in the Young) in memory of Sarah which for Colin and I was very touching and we thank everyone in the Church for agreeing to it so readily.

On the night, the garden centre was packed, I can never remember so many people at the Christmas night before, and so many of them stopped to listen to our Carols. I wish I had taken more hymn books down because we had lots of people wanting to join in. Palmers had laid out the Christmas display differently this year but it seemed to work out well and looked better than other years, the only down side was having to sing in front of those lovely animated Apes!!!

It was pleasing that in all the tinsel, trees and glitter, Jesus got a mention and through our carols the real message of Christmas came through loud and clear.

Thank you to everyone who turned out to sing that night, I thoroughly enjoyed it and felt that it was a special evening for a lot of people.

On the night we raised £142 which is a fantastic total, and thanks to the staff at Palmers who gave very generously.

Hilary

INSIGHT WORKSHOP DAY

This workshop was based on the 'Myers Briggs Type Indicator' and is designed to help find out what 'type' of person you are, how you are similar to and different from others and how to relate to those people.

The workshop ran from 9.30 to 4.15 on a Saturday 24th November. In the Oasis at the back of the church. It was very well attended and everyone seemed to gain from it. We worked as one large group and broke into smaller groups, mixed up 'types' and worked as 'same type'.

Ken and Guinette Davies were good facilitators and very clear and helpful using 'games' and illustrations to explain more difficult concepts.

I can wholeheartedly recommend this course.

Enid Lee

The insight workshop helped me to understand a lot I hadn't realised about myself. But more importantly it has been a great help understanding the people I live with!

Gemma Wilkinson

Quite apart from having a good day in good company, the things I have learned have been really useful both in the office and social situations. I am really glad that I did the course.

Ann Wilkinson

CHRISTMAS APPEAL 2007

Our Christmas Appeal this year was in support of Barnado's 'Carefree'. This is a support group which takes referrals of children between the ages of 5 and 18. It is designed to give practical and emotional support to children who are carers for their parents. This often entails looking after siblings too. Their parents may be physically, mentally or emotionally handicapped. The result of this 'caring' may result in low self-esteem, lack of social skills and confidence and a falling behind in school work.

Volunteer workers take small groups of children out on social expeditions, e.g. the cinema or ten pin bowling. The older ones are sometimes taken out for a meal. They also get together regularly for a social meeting.

Carefree's 2006-7 report shows that in Leicestershire alone 18 of the total of referrals came from the Blaby district. 19 of the total of referrals were children under 8 years old.

The money raised this year amounted to £184.00 of which £80.00 was sent as Vue cinema vouchers, £80.00 was sent as Hollywood Bowl vouchers and the remaining £24.00 was sent as a cash donation to Barnado's Carefree.

While the children will not know who provides the funding, they will know that someone cares.

Thank you for caring and supporting this charity this Christmas.

Enid Lee

ALF CHRISTMAS SPECIAL

On Sunday 23rd December the ALF leaders and 19 youngsters performed a play called Starbirth which put a modern interpretation on the traditional Christmas story. It focused on the universe and how a star led the wise men to our superstar 'Jesus'. The children helped the leaders tell the story using hand held props, actions, singing, mime and noisy streamers! A birthday cake was brought out at the end of the play and we all sang happy birthday to Jesus.

IMAGES OF THE NIGHT



ALF CHRISTMAS SPECIAL



CHRISTMAS MEMORIAL SERVICE 2007

Sunday 9th December saw six of my family (that includes little old me) attending a very special Carol Service. This was held at ST Margaret's Church in Leicester. That's the big one on the corner opposite St Margaret's bus station. Parking was tight but Frank was driving and knew the area well so no problem in the end.

This Christmas Memorial Service is held each year for families to attend to remember the loved ones they have lost during the year, as this will of course be the first Christmas without them being with us.

It is an interdenominational service, you are well looked after by the familiar faces of the staff of Ginns and Gutteridge or Dignity Funerals Ltd as many will be more familiar with, they were amazing. 3/4 of the way through the service a large candle was lit then the names of those passed away are read out, as they are read out a member of staff slowly walk's down the Church and lights a smaller candle from the big one every 10/20 names not sure really, I wasn't counting.

It was all very moving, very tasteful. It was hard sitting there listening to the names of those we all know of this year, Kath, Sarah, Eileen (my mum) Peter. It was so very moving and an honour to hear their names lifted high. I know we would all rather have our loved ones with us, our hearts ache, our tears burn; they are part of us who we are.

Donations followed the Service for LOROS which Ginns and Gutteridge support, and then we had refreshments down the side of the Church.

Bit about the message. Matthew 6:25-34 Philippians 4:6-7.

We were encouraged that no matter what our worries were there is always some one who can help us if we would just ask. Don't worry; lean on Him who can help, he knows what it's like to lose a loved one. His love pours out to us. God's peace for our hearts, his powerful and immeasurable love are poured out for us as we miss our loved ones so very much this Christmas time, we can lean on Him. I don't know about you but it's the only way I'm getting through this, my mum loved everything about Christmas and it's very hard.

Thank you all for being such good friends, thank you for seeing straight through me at times. I'm sorry for when my self protection barriers are up and you can't get in, thank you for understanding when I'm just holding it together. As I write this I'm struggling like crazy with so many things I Praise God for you all, I Praise Him for being there for me.

God Bless you all.

Lesley Dryell

Services

Start time 10.00am unless otherwise stated

6th January:

Communion

Deb Sawyer
Recommitment

13th January

Hilary Simpson
Old Testament Character

20th January

Lesley Dryell
Old Testament Character

27th January

Maurice Lee
Old Testament Character

3rd February

Communion

Deb Sawyer
Character of Ezra

10th February

Deb Sawyer
Character of Nehemiah

17th February

Mark North
Interserve

24th February

Derek Guerney

WEDNESDAY STUDY GROUPS FREEDOM IN CHRIST

The Wednesday daytime and evening study groups will commence on **6th February** and will be studying the 13 week Freedom in Christ Discipleship Course.

THURSDAY EVENING STUDY GROUP FIRST STEPS

The Thursday evening study group will recommence on **7th February**.

Flower Rota

6th January

Chris Biggs

13th January

20th January

John & Lesley Sanders

27th January

3rd February

Hilary Simpson

10th February

17th February

24th February

J&B, Jean Law & Barbara



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Happy Birthday to the following folks during February:

Hannah Mugglestone will be 18 on the 1st. Simone Collins will be 7 on the 12th. Colin Simpson also shares Simone's birthday but will be a little older! Deb Sawyer will be moving a little nearer to 50 but still not there yet on the 13th. Megan Laxton will be 7 on the 24th.

Hope you all have a good day.

MAGAZINE ARTICLES

Mick & Deb would like to thank everyone who submitted articles for this magazine. This has made this edition more personal and informative.

If anyone has anything for the magazine please send it to Mick or Deb as articles from the wider body makes the magazine more interesting to read; it is your magazine after all!

Normal Weekly Activities

Family Worship:	Sundays	10.00am
Church open for prayer:	Sundays from	9.00am
	Mondays from	7.30pm
	Thursdays from	10.15am
8 O'clock club:	Tuesdays	7.30pm
Freedom in Christ	Wednesdays	1.30pm & 7.30pm
Pete's Coffee Bar:	Thursdays	11.00am-12.30pm
First Step's	Thursday's	7.30pm

Forthcoming Events

Leaders Meeting	Monday 7th January	7.30pm
Churches Together All Saints	Sunday 20th January	4.00pm
Church Meeting	Monday 21st January	7.30pm
Plumblin Leaders Meeting	Thursday 24th January	12.00pm
Leaders Meeting	Monday 4th February	7.30pm
Annual General Meeting	Monday 18th February	7.00pm

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www.narboroughcongregational.org.uk