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October 2024

The other week, Pam and I met with friends in London who had arranged a visit for us to both St Paul's Cathedral and to Westminster Abbey. It was a great day in which we were able to experience both of these amazing buildings. They are incredible structures, built for the glory of God before modern cranes and building methods.



We saw the tombs of many famous and significant people through the ages. In St Paul's Cathedral we saw the tomb of the Duke of Wellington and admiral Nelson, two national heroes. In Westminster Abbey we saw the tombs of many Kings and Queens of England. It seemed amazing that many who had been at enmity with each other throughout their lives, in death were buried so close to each other!

And we even saw the bust of General William Booth near to the Coronation throne in Westminster Abbey! I particularly loved wandering around poets Corner in Westminster Abbey where many famous playwrights and poets are remembered. The plaque for CS Lewis really impacted me. The inscription echoed his words when he said this. 'I believe in Christianity as I believe that the sun has risen. Not only because I can see it, but because by it I can see everything else.' It is of course by the light of the sun that we can see.



In the same way it is the light that we can all know from Jesus, the Son of God, that our lives can be impacted and through us the lives of others. In St Paul's cathedral there is William Holman Hunt's famous painting of Jesus, called 'The light of the world.' This is based on the words from Scripture, 'Here I am. I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with me.' (Revelation 3:20). And in John 8:12 'I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life.'

Jesus knocks outside the door to the house which only has a handle on the inside, which signifies that we all have to open it to Him to allow the light of God to come into our lives.

We are all called to open that door to Jesus so that we personally can experience fully the light of His love and grace and then in turn share that light with others. My prayer is that we may all open that door and then strive to continue to keep that door open to Jesus, so that through our lives God's Kingdom continues to grow.

May we all know God's blessing as we do just that.

Major Kevin

## Regular Activities

### Sunday:

9:30am Breakfast Church  
10:30am Morning Worship

4pm Messy Church (2nd Sunday of the month or otherwise stated)

Fellowship Lunch (3rd Sunday of the month)

### Tuesday:

10:00am CAMEO Club

2:00pm Over Sixties Club



### Wednesday:

7:45pm Songster Practice

### Thursday:

6:00pm Music makers

7:45pm Band Rehearsal

### Monday to Friday

Café on the Rec - open for business 8.30am to 4pm and Saturday 9am to 1pm.

Also **Sunday mornings** 8.30am to 10am for the Junior Park run.

All items for the November newsletter: messages, prayers or prayer requests, please let Major Kevin, Caroline, Mags or Bev know by Sunday 20th October 2024. If you would like the newsletter emailed to you each month, please let Bev know. [bev.robilliard53@gmail.com](mailto:bev.robilliard53@gmail.com)

**Prayer Suggestions:**  
**For the world today...**  
**For the Church...**  
**For people facing difficulty...**  
**For continued good health...**  
**For those in care and hospital...**  
**For those grieving the loss of a loved one...**  
**For those recovering from ill health**

**Alpha Course...**  
**If anyone is interested in attending an Alpha Course January—March 2025 please sign up on the sheet in the foyer or speak to Major Kevin. Further details to follow.**

**Pictures from Harvest:**



**Diary Dates for October 2024:**

- Sunday 6th Youth Band away
- Monday 7th 7.30pm Property/Finance Group
- Sat 12th Anglia Fellowship Band & Felixstowe Songsters 7.00pm at Felixstowe Salvation Army
- Sat 19th 7.30pm Songsters at Woodbridge Salvation Army
- Tuesday 22nd Proposed Cameo Outing  
7.00pm Café Meeting
- Sunday 27th 3.00pm Café Church 'A Time to Prepare'
- Monday 28th 7.30pm Pastoral Care Council

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**Reflections / musings of Harvest.** What a great idea Caroline had for the Wheelbarrows! A success, I'd say, something to build on maybe for a few years to come.

Just as we love singing Christmas Carols at Christmas, I love to sing the harvest songs like 'Come Ye Thankful People Come' and 'We Plough the Fields and Scatter'. It's good to see the ploughed fields around where I live looking over to Onehouse Woods, the farmers have already sown the seed for next years crops—I do feel for those who live in the City where maybe it's a little more difficult to relate to traditional harvest hymns with high rise buildings around them!

This past year, I've enjoyed again growing produce in my own garden, and as a result, now enjoying rhubarb, raspberry and apple pies and crumbles (with a few blackberries thrown in!). Sadly, my pear tree only produced one pear and my plum tree had to be cut down due to disease—we take the rough with the smooth :) I have enjoyed neighbours generosity as tubs of excess fruit have been laid out on offer for people to take for free and just enjoy instead of it going to waste. Harvest always reminds me that I have so much to be thankful for.

Then, I'm reminded too of what people around the world are facing at this moment in time. As harvests fail and changes in the climate make growing food more difficult—can they be thankful in the circumstances they find themselves in? For some, it is not always easy to be thankful! Maybe a discussion point for us! For me, the purpose of this festival is not only to thank God for the abundance of food many of us enjoy, but also to raise awareness of the hunger that exists in other parts of the world.

I don't have all the answers to the questions we ask, but one of the ancient books of wisdom in the Bible describes how God has blessed the world with rich potential, creating 'a time and a season for everything, a time for planting and a time for harvesting', telling us that God has not abandoned us, but still cares for all of creation. No one should be in need.

A Prayer: "God of hope and harvest, hear our prayers for the world as well as our thanks for all You give us each day. Help us to use your gifts wisely and open our eyes and hearts to notice the growth and goodness that You generously provide." Amen.

Blessings, Bev.

