



WEBA worshipping together at this year's 3 in 1 event in June

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Growing in Christ,
leading in his
church



There are still some places available on our special Saturday morning for church leadership teams.

Roy Searle of the Northumbria Community will be helping us to explore how in this busy world we can deepen our faith, disciple others and lead in ways that reflect Christ in a culture of activism and expectation.

This event will take place on **Saturday 17th October 2009** at **Thornbury Baptist Church**, Gillingstool, Thornbury, BS35 2EG

A light breakfast of coffee and croissants will be served at 9am before a 9:30 am start, and the event will finish at 12:30 pm.

There is a cost of £6.50 per person. You can book online via the WEBA website, **www.webassoc.org.uk**, or by contacting the WEBA office.



Geoff's Admin
Gems

- The deadline for your church annual returns form this year is the **5th October 2009**. Please remember to send the form to BUGB headquarters at Didcot, rather than to the WEBA office this year.
- The Baptist Union Corporation has issued new guidelines for 5 year (Quinquennial) inspections of church buildings. We will be circulating copies of these along with a letter for those churches in trust with the Association.
- The Baptist Union's **Transform** magazine is a mine of information—the latest issue includes a number of important finance and property matters, including the **2010 stipend** and **gas safety** rules. If you're a church secretary, make sure you read it and pass the second copy to your Treasurer!
- For alterations to **listed buildings**, be sure to contact the office before planning—or incurring any costs. Our trustees' advice could save you money!
- Contact Geoff Starling, WEBA administrator with all your church administration queries by emailing **geoff.starling@webassoc.org.uk** or phoning 0117 965 8828.

mission made

Calne Baptist Church in Wiltshire is one of those churches where the membership numbers have hovered around the low forties for some time – something which can become worrying when there is also an absence of children or young families, and a large proportion of the congregation are becoming elderly. Deacon Ros Mills says there came a point when “the diaconate realised we were at a critical stage.”

Together with their last minister, Rev Colin Wood, they began to make all kinds of efforts to connect with the local community, work which carried on when he was called to move on to Cul-lompton Baptist Church in Devon two years ago. The church took part in carnival processions, ran a hot chocolate stall at the Christmas Lights ceremony in town, got involved with a local youth bus project, and ran occasional school assemblies.

The biggest outreach commitment was a monthly kids’ club for 6 to 11 year olds, **Gr8zone**. Running since then, with a group of volunteers whose ages ranged from under 40 to over 70, the kids’ club has never grown beyond 16 members, but the children who do come are nearly all new, unchurched contacts. Ros believes that the membership “have done a lot of groundwork,

but we’ve not done the reaping yet.” What they need now, she says, is “someone with a real heart for bringing people to know Christ.”

“When it came to thinking of a new pastor, we knew we needed to work out our vision and purpose before writing a profile. We knew we needed to be outward looking.” As a result they decided to focus on looking for someone with strengths in relating and evangelising. They also knew that the church’s limited income would not provide a secure enough source of funding to enable them to responsibly offer someone employment, and so they applied for a Home Mission Ministry Grant to act as a cushion and enable them to go ahead.

Throughout his training at Bristol Baptist College, **Sam King** remained open minded about his direction after college, and decided to visit any church who asked to meet with him. After several closed doors, he met the deacons at Calne this June. At the beginning of October, he will be inducted as pastor after a unanimous vote from the membership. The kid’s club, too, seemed to sense God’s calling. They are used to visitors appearing on Saturday mornings, but when Sam came to help them with their craft activities, they all wanted to know

possible

Home Mission working in WEBA

when he was going to come back and join the church!

Sam paints in his spare time and also likes to think creatively about what church can be and do – he thinks we don't experiment enough, because we have a fear of failure. He does not, however, believe in going in to the job with a blueprint for success. "I believe the future of Calne lies with its membership, through the work of the Holy Spirit." Together, his openness to God, the Calne members' determination to be God's church for today, and a little bit of help from Home Mission, mean that this future looks full of exciting possibilities.

WEBA churches have a good record of giving to Home Mission, and we need to keep saying thank you to all those who keep the fund as a priority in their church budgets year after year.

There has been a dip in giving so far this year (by the end of August 2009 WEBA churches had contributed **£141,803** compared to **£149,976** in 2008). This is not surprising during a time of financial uncertainty for many, but there are some simple ways your church may be able to help us get closer to our target:

- Make sure that all money allocated to Home Mission in your church reaches us before **Friday 18th December**.
- Remember that all churches are encouraged to give at least 5% of church income to Home Mission.
- Some WEBA churches who are in pastoral vacancy have donated all or part of a month's stipend to Home Mission. This is a great help in meeting our regional target.

To find out more about giving to Home Mission, or about applying for a grant for your church, please contact the WEBA office at office@webassoc.org.uk or on 0117 965 8828.



Rev. Sam King



17th October 2009 9am	Saturday Morning with Roy Searle
6th February 2010	WEBA Treasurers' Day
8th—10th February 2010	WEBA Ministers' Conference
10th March 2010	Leaders of Larger Churches Conference
9th and 23rd May 2010	Proposed dates for two 3 in 1 Events

What happened next after GO!

Many of you will have seen the **BUGB GO!** video featuring several stories from WEBA, and you may have seen the update on Nigel Moore's powerful story (**GO and be baptized**) which featured in 'Baptist Life' magazine this summer.

Nigel has kindly sent us this further report on his progress:

"In July due to the cancer growing I had a radioactive form of treatment which involved being in isolation for 5 days in hospital and then in isolation for a further 5 days at home, unfortunately it didn't have any affect on the cancer.

I have just started another cycle of chemotherapy which at the moment I believe is the final option available as a form of treatment, it is already making me feel tired and leaving me feeling 'washed out' leaving me feeling quite weak.

Please pray that God will give my family and I strength during this treatment, obviously the ultimate prayer is that God will remove the cancer tumours but I accept he may have plans for me in heaven with which I am happy to accept."

If you haven't seen the **GO** videos yet, please contact the **WEBA office** and we will gladly send your church a copy of the DVD.

We also asked **Revd Sheila Cooper**, who for an update on the work at Lawrence Weston Baptist Church, which featured in the video

'GO and Work Together' .

She sent me a long list of exciting developments and plans, just some of which are listed below!

- Our work amongst the families that attend our Toddler Group - Jellie Tots, seems to be bearing fruit. We have had two services of infant presentation in recent months... one of attended by about 50 people from the estate who normally do not attend church.



- It was a privilege to conduct the marriage of Lou & Lee in August and to be invited to the evening celebrations where lots of folk from Jellie Tots came up for a chat.
- We are planning to open our new 'homework and chill' club BOOST at the beginning of October.
- We have made links with local secondary schools, in particular the Oasis Academy - Brightstowe.
- We now have a minister in training working part-time with me (thanks to a Home Mission grant) - Mary Clark, who started at the Baptist College in September.

West of England Baptist Association

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