



weba

making a difference

news

Spring 2010



Residents gather outside 'Herod's Palace' for the Community Nativity in Wichelstowe

Inside:

- No-one Stands Alone at **Patchway**
- WEBA Diary Dates
- Geoff's Admin Gems
- Re:source Bike Ride and 'Speaking Out'

new churches fund 2010

During the first year of this initiative, 40 WEBA churches gave nearly £10,000 towards the development of 'The Stowe' on the Wichelstowe development in Swindon. You can read about what's been happening there on the home page of our website, www.webassoc.org.uk.

This year, the focus for our New Churches Fund will be a new group at Portishead, who are exploring new possibilities for mission with ministerial student Elveen Mead.

The new appeal will be launched at our 3 in 1 events in May.



Elveen with Regional Minister Alisdair Longwill

Two 3 in 1 Events

This year we are hosting two identical 3 in 1 events to allow more people to attend. Seminars, childrens' activities, our AGM, tea, and a celebration service for the whole regional Baptist family.

Gorse Hill Baptist Church, Swindon:
Sunday 9th May

Westbury-on-Trym Baptist Church, Bristol:
Sunday 23rd May

Both events will run from 3pm until about 8pm.



This year our theme will be making **the** difference (spot the difference from last year's theme!) and the main speaker will be Paul Goodliff, Head of Ministry at BUGB.

no-one stands

“If you cut Patchway Baptist Church in half like a stick of rock, you’d see Mission written inside.” says Steve Colk, Associate Student Minister at the church.



The other word that springs to mind as he talks enthusiastically about his church is ‘partnership’, as many aspects of this mission involve working with, and accepting help from, other kingdom workers. If you added up some of the things this church has been doing recently, you might imagine a much bigger congregation than the 50 to 70 people, including around 25 children, who attend most Sundays.

Patchway Baptist Church is located just off the A38 in Bristol, between the older, settled community of Little Stoke, and Patchway itself, an area with lots of families but considerable economic hardship.

Using the motto ‘No one stands alone’ the church divides its activities into four areas; the front door, the front room, the dining table, and the mission field.

The Front Door is what the Baptist Union describes as ‘crossing places’ – points of contact between the church and the community. A good example is the Santa’s Grotto which the church built this Christmas and opened to the public on evenings and Saturdays. “I can’t describe how good it was!” says Steve.

Some of you may have seen the story that was printed after one local mum phoned the Bristol Evening Post. She pointed out that she had better value from her £2 Grotto visit at Patchway Baptist Church (including photo and present!) than the £7 she had spent at the Mall.

Another example is Patchway’s café, **The Hub**, which has come into existence thanks in part to the generosity of other churches.

Gloria Hammond of nearby Thornbury Baptist Church used to run the café and bookshop there. Patchway’s minister **Andy Thomas** approached her one day on the street and challenged her: “You should be at Patchway!” She, and the Elders at Thornbury thought and prayed about this, and decided not only to release Gloria to help set up a café and bookshop at Patchway, but to fund her wages for a year.

Then, a **Mission through Project Grant** from Home Mission – which relies, of course, on the generosity of all our churches, helped refurbish the kitchen, which



had been the same since the church was built. The café is now popular with local mums, and is used by local councillors and Southern Brooks Community Partnerships for meetings. It’s also frequented by people from other local churches, who use the bookshop and its fantastic 24 hour ordering service.

The Front Room is the whole church family worshipping together on Sundays. This is a family with an increasing number of children, and Patchway have now been awarded a second Mission through Project Grant to erect a portakabin to accommodate this growth. Once the new building is up, the children’s work, **Splash**, is expected to double in size. It begins half an hour before the main service, with a session on bouncy castle. It’s obvious that this will be popular, but it’s also very effective in bringing in new families:

“We had a dedication of two children just before Christmas” says Steve. “They came

alone



Find out more about the church on their website, www.patchwaybaptist.com which was designed by one of the church members.

just for Splash, but now one of the mums is very actively involved in church, and their grandma helped build the grotto!"

The Dining Table is "where you sit and do business with God". This includes small groups, and courses such as Alpha and Christianity Explored. This is Steve's particular area of responsibility. "One of the things that puts a smile on my face is seeing people grow in their relationship with Christ," he says. Finally, the **Mission Field** for this church means training and working with partners to get involved in the local community.

The church has also been looking outward by seeking God's will in their relationship with neighbouring Little Stoke Baptist Church. They have offered this smaller fellowship the services of their finance team and arranged joint deacons' meetings.

Partnerships seem to be a common thread in all these stories – between individuals, between local churches, between churches and other bodies, and within our Baptist Family via the Home Mission fund. If your church gives to Home Mission, they are part of this story too. We are called to stand, and keep on standing, but as individual Christians and as churches, we need not stand alone.

Home Mission working in WEBA

Your church secretary should have received a **thank you certificate** along with this newsletter. Please check that this is displayed on your notice board, as we want to make sure we say thank you to every individual in every church for their giving to Home Mission in 2009.

Although our total of **£239,742** given by WEBA churches in 2009 didn't match our 2008 total of £247,774, we know that many churches and individuals gave generously and sacrificially during a year of considerable economic hardship.

- 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.



The New Portakabin for 'Splash'



3rd March 2010	9:30 am	'Speaking Out' training day
22nd April 2010		Fit 4 Purpose? training day
23rd April 2010	10am	Pastoral Leaders' Day with Rick Lewis
24th April 2010	9:30am	Re:source Bristol Bike Ride
9th May 2010	3pm	3 in 1 Event at Gorse Hill
23rd May 2010	3pm	3 in 1 Event at Westbury-on-Trym



Geoff's Admin Gems

Updates and changes to legislation are posted in the 'Geoff's Admin Gems' column under News and Events on the WEBA website. For details of the following visit www.webassoc.org.uk or contact us as follows:

- **Child Protection:** The timetable for the new **Vetting and Barring Scheme** is available on the News and Events page. (contact Gordon Hindmarch via the WEBA office if you have any queries)
- The BUC has published new **Taxation Guidelines (F5)** Please contact Geoff Starling at the office if you are unable to download a copy electronically.
- If a Minister or any other member of church staff is off sick, please contact Pauline Sysum at the payroll company (**01452 856343**) to see whether **Statutory Sick Pay** can be recovered.
- **Annual Payroll Returns** for 2009/10 must now be submitted online. From April 2011, all payroll forms will need to be submitted online. Contact Pauline Sysum if you need more information about this.

re:SOURCE BRISTOL bike ride

- 30+ miles
- 7 churches
- Look, listen and pray as you
- develop an awareness of the spiritual landscape of the city of Bristol
- Raise funds so that re:source can develop partnerships between churches in Bristol
- Find out how you could get involved
- Start at Totterdown, coffee and snacks at Lawrence Weston, finish with soup at St Marks Easton.



Saturday 24th April 2010

If you're interested in joining in, contact ruth.whiter@webassoc.org.uk, or find out more at www.webassoc.org.uk

Speaking Out



is a unique opportunity organised by WEBA. Eight individuals who would like to improve their skills in addressing others will spend a day training with experienced media

professional **Mark Seaman**.

Wednesday 3rd March 2010

9:30 am—3:30 pm

Stapleton Baptist Church

Cost £35 including lunch

To book your place please contact the WEBA office, or download a flyer at www.webassoc.org.uk

West of England Baptist Association

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