

Windfall

Westwood
Church

Christmas 2009

Wind'fall n. Fruit blown off a tree by the wind; an unexpected blessing

CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR AT WESTWOOD CHURCH

Sunday 20 Dec

- 10.30am *Park Fellowship morning worship service* at Cannon Park School
- 10.45am All age family service at St John's (with breakfast from 10.20am)
- 6.30pm *Westwood Carol Service:* a simple candlelit service of readings and carols at St John's

Monday 21 Dec

- 7:00pm *Christmas Starts Here!*
Come to the Cannon Park celebration of Christmas. Carols, maybe a surprise or two,....and, of course, mulled wine and mince pies

Wednesday 23 Dec

- 7:00pm *Burton Green Carol Service:* a simple service of readings and carols with a return of the puppets (by popular request!), followed by mulled wine, at the Village Hall, Hodgetts Lane

Christmas Eve

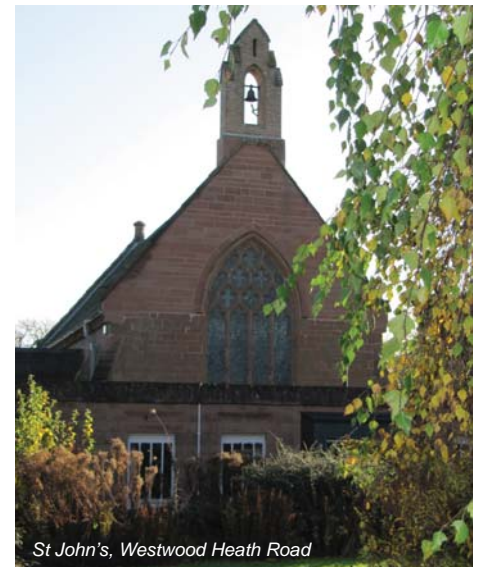
- 3:00pm *Jellytots Christmas Eve Crib Service:* an informal Christmas service for pre-school children and their families full of crafts, songs, dressing up, the Christmas story and lots and lots of fun!
- 11:00pm *Midnight Communion* at St John's

Christmas Day

- 8:00am Holy Communion
- 10:00am *All Age Christmas Day Service*

Sunday 27 Dec

- 10:00am Café / breakfast style joint service at St Stephen's, Canley



St John's, Westwood Heath Road

Sunday 3 Jan

- 8:00am Communion at St John's
- 10:30am Park Fellowship morning worship service at Cannon Park School
- 10:45am Morning Celebration with Christmas craft fun for kids (breakfast from 10.20)

Locations: St John's is on Westwood Heath Road; Cannon Park School is off Bransford Ave, Cannon Park; St Stephen's is on Charter Ave by the shops.



INSIDE:

Get in touch
with
your dreams!



Peter Findley (and friends)

CELEBRATING THE GOOD

Christmas means so many different things to different people. For some, it's just not part of what they do. For most, in this country, Christmas remains a very significant moment in the year. Christmas is about celebrating everything in life that is good, especially family and friendship. It's about creating some light and warmth when the days are really short and focusing on what is good and generous and welcoming, recession or no recession. Celebration reflects God's care for us, his own generosity and goodness, it

echoes the gift of Jesus, when God came here to become like us in every way and yet remain himself. Love came here when Jesus was born on the first Christmas Day and love has stayed with us ever since, as Jesus showed us what a really good life looks like and then gave his life for our lives. Whether you find Christmas an easy time or a demanding time, I wish you and your family a very happy Christmas and a good and successful 2010.

Peter Findley

GET IN TOUCH WITH YOUR DREAMS!

How do you want to be significant? Where are you seeking fulfilment? What are your passions?

Over 100 people from Westwood Church attended a leaders' weekend in October, where they were encouraged to find and develop the areas they were passionate about.

Here are some of the many outcomes.

1. Love in an underpass

Jo Potts is twenty-two and originally from North Carolina. She came to England as an English tutor, joined Westwood church, and signed up for FORM, Westwood's leadership and discipleship programme. Following the Westwood leaders weekend, she set up a group involved with the homeless. Windfall's Editor tracked her down to find out what was going on.

So what's this group you've started? *It's called Restore and there are nine of us at the moment. We're all about loving on purpose and total restoration. We want to come alongside the broken and the poor people of society and reach them with the power of God's love. The people I've encountered so far are no different from me before I was changed by God's love.*

What do you do?

We go where the people are - streets,

shelters, alleyways - and trust that God will put the right people in our path. We're not about bringing someone a cup of tea but about listening, loving, and spending time with the people we meet. I met one man in an underpass who had a very negative view of God. He spent the better part of our conversation expressing how upset he was with God and how God had never done anything for him. But as the conversation progressed, he began to open up and share his pain with me. He was really a very broken man searching for the kind of love that can only be found in God. By the end, he was praying with me and experiencing hope again.

Why? What made you want to get involved in this area?

I wanted God to break my heart for the things that break His. I asked for His compassion and mercy. I didn't realise the depth of what I was asking. You see, God cares so much for His children; we can't even fathom the depth of His love.

Who can join?

Anyone! You don't have to be part of Westwood or any church to join us.

Feel free to e-mail me:

joanna.g.potts@googlemail.com

2. Business Matters

Jesus spent most of his adult life as a businessman: as the elder son in the family business he would have been cutting deals with clients suppliers.

Financially sustainable businesses bring jobs, self esteem, and community transformation. Business people of integrity can be 'salt' and 'light', challenging damaging corruption that prevails in many economies.

Another group emerging from the Leaders' weekend is Business Matters, a group of people involved in business that want to support each other and also put on occasional public events on topics of general interest.

Group members include Dan, who is Entrepreneurship Development Manager at Birmingham University; Jerry, who runs Transformational Business Network and is training entrepreneurs in Kazakhstan, Palestine and Uganda; Susie, who runs a small business and is joining a TBN group training small business owners in Ghana in February; and several who run businesses.

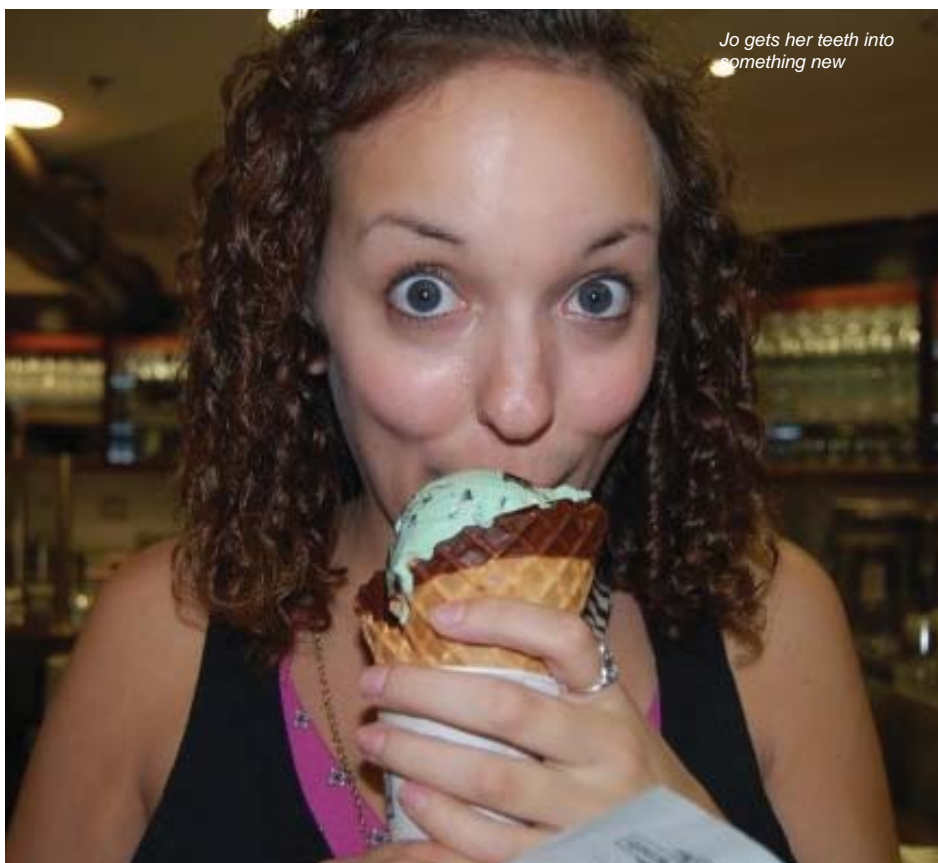
If you work in, run or want to set up a business, why not join us? Contact Jerry at jerry.marshall@tbnetwork.org.

What are your dreams?

Is there anything to stop you turning them to reality?

Tell us about it!

windfall@westwoodchurch.co.uk





Jo, Ian and others in the Young Families group.

3. WESTWOOD YOUNG FAMILIES

Jo and Ian Currington have two young children, Sam and Ellie. Jo has also recently formed a group to provide support and friendship for parents with young children. The group meets fortnightly. Windfall's editor caught up with her on the phone, with child crying noises in the background and all the sounds of family life...

"Parenting is a blessing but it is also very challenging. We are currently following the 'Family Time' course

which aims to help us in our parenting roles. It helps us stop and reflect. We also regularly meet socially as families. Being a parent can be very isolating. We all go through it and it's good to feel we are not on our own."

If you would like to join the group, please contact Jo via the church office, office@westwoodchurch.co.uk or on 024 7669 5026.



A group from Westwood Church took a Bavaria 38 across the Channel last Summer. There are plans afoot for the Western Isles in 2010.

WORLD PEACE?

Science Park programme helps bridge the Middle East divide

"TeamStart" is a programme that helps aspiring entrepreneurs create high potential technology-based businesses. It was run by the University of Warwick Science Park. Jerry Marshall was on the programme in 2000, and as a result set up a technology company that now has 20 employees and sales of £2m p.a.

"I'm a TeamStart enthusiast and for years I could see the potential for TeamStart in Palestine. There are thousands of unemployed business and IT graduates, a need to develop service rather than product exports because of movement restrictions, and the advantage of being next to a wealthy market in the Gulf and a high cost high technology economy, Israel. In 2008 we finally found funding set up TeamStart in Ramallah.

Palestinians were trained at the Science Park and three programmes have now been run in Ramallah. One particular aspect of TeamStart Palestine is the development of links with Israeli technology companies. I led one of the programme days with the last group and was impressed with their enthusiasm and ideas. Now we have funding to run TeamStart in Gaza, hopefully from January.

TeamStart documentation is now on the Web and I'm hoping that it can be extended to other parts of the world, especially in post conflict areas. In fact it's one of the projects I'm presenting to a gathering of politicians, entrepreneurs and church leaders in Uganda on 17 December."



PHONEY PRIORITIES?

I wonder what would happen if we treated our Bible like we treat our cell phone?

What if we carried it around in our purses or pockets?

What if we flipped through it several times a day?

What if we turned back to get it if we forgot it?

What if we used it to receive messages from the text?

What if we treat it like we couldn't live without it?

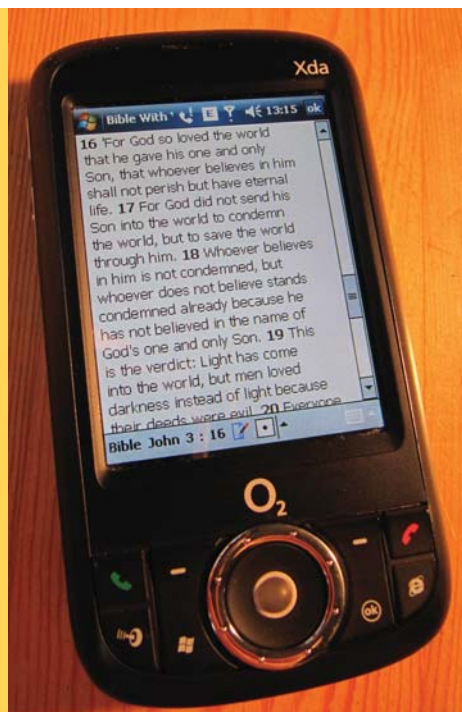
What if we gave it to kids as gifts?

What if we used it when we travelled?

What if we used it in case of emergency?

And one more thing: we don't have to worry about our Bible being disconnected because Jesus has already paid the bill.

Of course some of us have Bibles ON our mobile phone ◀



ADVENT CLUB IN BURTON GREEN



Sarah Ashleby and Poly Ester

During December I'm leading an Advent Club with a team of people at Westwood Church at Burton Green Primary School. This is following last years successful Advent and Easter Clubs which provided us with many laughs and good times (including our very own visit from Mary on the donkey)! This year are journeying through the Christmas story together as we explore who Jesus really is, what it would've been like to be there, and what Christmas means today! The club is packed full of songs, amazing stories, puppets (we even make our own!), Christmas cooking treats, making lanterns and candles and much much more!

Sarah Ashleby



Westwood Youth have a brand new venue at John's, which has come to be known as the Shack, after the novel.



Happy Christmas

Hannah adds to a nativity scene in Bethlehem