

Windfall

Westwood
Church

Easter 2010

EASTER AT WESTWOOD CHURCH



Westwood Church

Good Friday:

10.30am Family Service: a short interactive all-age joint service for St John's, Park Fellowship and St Stephen's, at St John's Church, Westwood Heath Road.

Easter Sunday:

8.00am Communion Service, at St John's Church, Westwood Heath Road

10.20am Coffee and buns followed by 10.45am Family Service with Communion, at St John's Church, Westwood Heath Road

10.30am Park Fellowship Family Service with communion, at Cannon Park School

11:00am Burton Green Family Service followed by Simnel cake and coffee, and Burton Green Village Hall

SERVICES DOUBLED UP

Westwood Church runs out of space – again!

Arriving late for a Sunday celebration in January was a bad move for the Windfall editor, who found himself sitting on the floor at the front. Once again, St John's Westwood had run out of space.

Why? Every story is different. Mine is that I came to St John's Westwood in December 1979 to meet girls. I thought church would be boring but my cunning plan was to find a female student to chat up over coffee after the service.

It was an unexpectedly life changing decision. I was stunned by the welcome, the sense of God's presence and by the fact people believed God answered prayer. So I checked it out, read John's Gospel, experienced encounters with God and in February 1980 became a Christian. A few months later, I did meet a gorgeous student and 30 years later neither the church nor the former student have managed to get rid of me. Over the years, our three daughters have also been part of the church and were baptised when they themselves found

faith.

This story has been repeated in different ways by many people. Some have been dramatic, for example through miraculous healings. Others have joined us through 'Alpha', Kids Church or marriage preparation. The growth has not just affected Westwood Church, as many students move on after three or four years. A

whole church has been formed in China by ex-Warwick University students who came to Westwood. Last time we were full, Park Fellowship was founded, meeting at Cannon Park School. This time the church is managing

growth by doubling up services. Since 21 February, the 10.20am Sunday Morning Celebration has been repeated at 6.30pm.

It's a great problem to have. Many people are hungry for God, and like me, they are finding Him at Westwood Church.

Check it out for yourself. But be warned: it could change you life!



The morning celebration is now being repeated at 6.30pm to make more space.



INSIDE

- Sex, drugs and rock and roll
- Aliens have landed
- Coping with family problems

Finding inner strength and peace to cope with family problems

Carolyn Howarth talks with Sylvia and Cliff Green



Cliff and Sylvia at their daughter's wedding

Carolyn: Good to meet up again! It's been a while, hasn't it ... but if you don't mind my saying so, you seem different now. You suffered from quite serious agoraphobia then, so you could hardly go out?

Sylvia: Yes... and if it hadn't been for good friends and Cliff's work colleagues who came to see me regularly I wouldn't have survived.

Cliff: But you've gradually been getting better and better, so we can go out and about. We go to Park Fellowship every Sunday without any of your previous fears.

Sylvia: We recently did an Alpha course and had a great time on the Holy Spirit day! I felt full of joy and although I can't explain it, I definitely

knew that God was there.

Cliff: And we've made a lot of new friends at Park Fellowship, partly through offering to be a useful pair of hands. I'm taking my turn in setting up the laptop to run the projector, and Sylvia helps with the refreshments.

Carolyn: But how did all this happen? What's been going on?

Sylvia: Such a lot! About 10 years ago we encountered a really difficult family problem, which caused us a lot of grief. A family member would keep us at arm's length for months, with no access to the grandchildren – and then she'd relent – but then we'd be out of favour again, for no apparent reason. It felt very stressful and hurtful, and we both found it very

hard to handle. Then 18 months ago our daughter got married: we really liked the atmosphere in church, and the way the vicar looked after us, so we started to come a few times on Sundays.

Cliff: People said that the church was 'the God squad' and a closed shop, but we found it so alive! Partly because it was full of young people, but also because of the worship and the teaching, which really lifted our spirits. Then at a prayer gathering we shared some of our heartache over these family issues, and I remember the vicar saying 'we need a miracle!' A group of people prayed for us, and even though I'm a bit of a sceptic I do believe that something happened soon after.

Sylvia: God didn't remove the problem but he gave us such inner strength and peace that we could cope with it. Now when I think of our family I know he is in control, so I don't have to be. We pray for them, and hope that relationships will improve, but I no longer fret and worry about it. I am learning to forgive and to move on. That probably is a miracle!

Cliff: Definitely. I can see how Sylvia's changed over these past 2 years, and I think I have too. I'm reading 'The Journey' by Billy Graham at the moment which I'm finding very interesting. We're all on a life journey: the road may not always be easy, but we've found good companions to help and cheer us on. What about you?

Westwood School pupils head for Romania

This July, twelve 15-17 year olds from Westwood School will be heading for Romania, the second poorest country in the EU. They will be working alongside Roma gypsies, one of the poorest and most discriminated against groups, getting involved in projects such as planting vegetables, digging wells, helping in kids clubs and building community facilities.

Gareth Irvine, the Westwood Church Associate Minister for Youth, visited the project last year. "The group will see a totally different lifestyle, he said. "Although the gypsies have a lot less stuff there is a strong sense of community and the joy of the kids would make anyone smile."

Westwood Church is helping raise £7,000 for the pupils, together with teachers and youth leaders, to make the trip. If you are able to sponsor a pupil, please contact Sheena Hodgson, shodgson@westwood.coventry.sch.uk

Sex, drugs and rock and roll?

The intrepid Windfall editor joined the groupies to talk with The Coverups lead singer Mike Ashelby

Mike, you run and play in a function band – what does that mean?

We do weddings, corporate events and our agent gets us international events, such as venues in the Alps.

Isn't it all about sex, drugs and rock and roll?

Yes

Er OK... (Mike's wife Sarah joins us) ...I'm sure Sarah would be interested to know about that?

Some girls assume that if you're part of a band you're available, people come up to me after a gig, and there's disbelief when I say I'm married. It can lead into an interesting discussion. A girl asked, 'What if you go off them?' and I talked about decisional love. People are bemused by the idea of different types of love...

What's it like being a Christian in an industry with such a dodgy reputation?



I've been able to build relationships with people who otherwise I'd be unlikely to meet. For example I've been invited out to a meal through the acoustic night at the Sovereign in Charter Avenue. At weddings we meet all sorts of people with different

perspectives, and long drives in the van going to gigs are a good time to talk with people. Music brings people together.

More information at
www.thecoverups.co.uk



Alien at St John's

This curious creature planted itself at St Johns and caused some concern, not least because it took up so much space and didn't know any hymns. It seems Church Warden Oliver Howarth allowed himself to be picked up by it, checking the ceiling before allowing the visitor to move on.



FORM head for Morocco

FORM is the Westwood Church gap year leadership and discipleship programme, which aims "to form followers of Christ in character, service and mission".

In April, as part of their programme, they will be working at a children's home for orphaned and unwanted children in the Middle Atlas Mountains, a remote part of Morocco.

A cake auction at St Johns (above) raised nearly £300 towards the trip.

Join us for THE BIG DAY OUT

At West Midlands Safari Park, 20 June



St. John's, Park Fellowship, St. Stephen's and Burton Green congregation are getting together again for The Big Day Out.

They'll be a Worship Celebration in the morning in the Tree Tops venue, a hog roast, time to relax and enjoy the park together and a special Family Celebration in the afternoon.

It's going to be a really great day, and we'd love it if you joined us. For information and to book, contact the office on 024 7669 5026 or office@westwoodchurch.co.uk, or see the Web site www.westwoodchurch.co.uk.



Westwood Church will again be at 'New Wine', the Christian Summer conference. Both St Johns and Park Fellowship will be at the Newark site 31 July – 6 Aug. More information at www.new-wine.org and from the Church office, office@westwoodchurch.co.uk

Jelly Tots

Come with your pre-school children!

Join us for craft / messy play, snacks, story time and songs as well as tea and coffee on tap for the mums. The sessions run on Tuesdays, from 1.30 to 3pm at St John's Church, Westwood Heath Road, with a soup lunch from 12.30. There is no charge, although we ask for donations towards the cost of the lunch. We start back after Easter on Tues 20th April. Just turn up – you would be warmly welcomed.

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Business Breakfast

"Saving your company without losing your soul"

**Andrew Richardson, CEO,
Metalrax PLC**

23 April 2010 at the Venture Centre, University of Warwick Science Park
Keeping the business going and building foundations for growth in the deepest recession since the war involves tough decisions. How can we balance the need for our company to flourish in business with our responsibility to behave with integrity?

Andrew will be speaking on his experiences and lessons learned at the sharp end. He joined Metalrax in October 2007 as Group Chief Executive and has particular experience of company turnarounds.

A full English breakfast will be served at 7.30, with the talk at 8am, followed by an opportunity for questions, interaction, and further networking. Price is £10. Places are limited. Please reserve a place in advance by emailing Jerry Marshall, jerry.marshall@tbnetwork.org.

Burton Green Restaurant Evening

The next Burton Green restaurant evening will be at the highest rated local restaurant - according to Top Table reviews - the Begal Brasserie, Balsall Common, at 7pm on 19 April. Cost is £8 for the buffet main course. Email jerry@strategy-action.com for full information and to book.



*Happy Easter from
Westwood Church*