

e-Bulletin February 2011

Steve Midgley writes....

There is slightly more of an informational feel to this e-bulletin as there seem to be lots of things that it would be good to communicate just at the moment.

PAUL HOBBS

It's exciting to see things coming together for the week with Paul. Lots of people are working very hard. A few things for you to know:

1. Prayer
 - a. We are going to produce daily prayer emails through the week. This will go to the current prayer distribution list that we use for occasional crisis prayer requests. If you aren't on this (or aren't sure) but would like to get these emails, then please send an email to office@christchurchcambridge.org.uk with Prayer List in the subject line.
 - b. There will also be a prayer meeting at the start of the week on Saturday afternoon. I know it is a full week and many will already have more than enough commitments in their diaries, but if you would like to join a few others on Saturday at 3pm at Christ Church, to pray for the week to come, do come along.
 - c. Do make the prayer meeting on weds 16th a priority. In a busy week it will be tempting to drop that evening (especially if you are already committed to several others in the week) but we are persuaded that it is prayer that will achieve things this week.
 - d. All the regular morning prayer meetings this week and next (Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday at 8.50 am) will be given over to praying for the Paul Hobbs week. Anyone is welcome to join in on these – meeting in the crèche.
2. Saturday night invitation dinner – we are down to the last 45 tickets. Do book soon.

GOSPEL IN LIFE COURSE

I trust it is clear to you that home groups are meeting this week, but not next week because of the Paul Hobbs events.

My first impressions are that these studies are proving a stimulus. I know there can be a lot of reading and the topical nature of the studies means we aren't spending as much time in one particular Bible passage as we usually do. But the value is in standing back and asking some of the bigger questions: what do I really believe my Christian life is all about; what do I believe church is all about and what should we at Christ Church be trying to do and to achieve for God? Can we develop a richer vision of the sort of community of grace that God would have us become at Christ Church? Do pray that these studies and the Sunday sermons would help us toward this.

Also I'm delighted that numbers joining groups mean we've had to start a new midweek group, which Tim and Rosie Ensor are leading. If you'd like to know more about joining a group, do contact Tim & Jane Holland (Tel: 565074).

FRONT EXTENSIONS

The planning group has made good progress on the internal design and use of the front extensions. It has become clear that the lobby area is an important space in its own right and the final designs will show a foyer space large enough to host small gatherings. The group is currently working toward selecting an external design to present to the church council. Once that is finalized (probably in March) then the plans will be revealed and we will launch an appeal for the necessary funds. The planning process (both Church of England and City council) will take the best part of a year, so our best estimate would be to begin building in the summer of 2012.

MEN'S ACCOUNTABILITY GROUP

You will have seen reference to a new accountability group that has been meeting for a few months and I'd like to explain a bit more about it. While the internet has produced a host of positive benefits, it also has its darker side. One of those is the easy access it has given to pornography. The statistics suggest it is a huge issue, particularly amongst men. And Christian believers aren't exempt. On my

recent trip to the States a survey was quoted in which over half the men in evangelical churches reported having accessed pornography in the previous 30 days. A similar survey among church pastors had the figure at 30%. Christians are just as liable to temptation as any other group. What makes Christian communities unique isn't the absence of sin but the determination to bring the gospel of grace to bear upon our failings in order to bring about forgiveness and change.

For all these reasons I am delighted that a group has begun to meet at Christ Church to help men battling in this area. It is currently meeting weekly for an hour and using the time for a mixture of bible study, mutual accountability, encouragement and prayer. If this is something you would like to know more about please contact me and I will tell you more about the group and put you in touch with those involved.

In case you are new to these occasional e-bulletins, let me explain that we have been using them over the past year as way of working at good communication within the family at Christ Church. If you'd rather not get them, just reply with STOP in the subject line and we'll remove you from the list!

All these dates and more can be found in the Christ Church Google calendar. Contact the office if you'd like to know how to access it.

Thanks for reading this far. Do pray about, and make good use of, the various events over the Paul Hobbs exhibition. It is a unique opportunity that I hope God will use for his greater glory.

Love,
Steve

Steve Midgley
Christ Church Cambridge