

# GRAPEvine

grapevine@stjohnswelling.org.uk www.stjohnswelling.org.uk 020 8303 1107 editors: David & Nicola Foot

## The Broadie Family

As I write this, we are preparing as a family to move house, and in two weeks' time we will have moved out of 52 Clifton Road. It's hard to believe that nearly four years have gone by since Isabel, Joel, Luisa, Daniel and I first moved here in the summer of 2012. A lot can change in four years! We moved in before the London Olympics had started, while Nick Clegg was still deputy Prime Minister, Alex Ferguson was still managing Manchester United, and the video 'Gangnam Style' had not yet been uploaded to YouTube.

It has been an eventful and significant four years for us as a family. We are incredibly grateful for the welcome that we have been given here at St John's, Welling,

during this time. We have always felt that St John's is a warm and friendly church, and one where you can guarantee that there will be some kind of verbal response during any sermon, which is quite helpful for the preacher! I am sure Adam sets the tone for this with his relaxed and informal manner at the front of church, and a number of people have said to me how welcome they were made to feel when coming here for the first time.

It's hard to summarise in a few words what we have learned in this time. One verse I

have been thinking about recently is Romans 2:4, 'God's kindness leads you towards repentance'. Thinking about the St John's strapline, 'Transforming Life through Jesus Christ', I believe that it is always an experience of God's kindness, and unconditional love, that *transforms* us in a way that no set of rules or code of conduct ever could. Jesus came to express the power of that unconditional love through his life, death, and resurrection. So my prayer for us as a family, and for St John's as a church, is that we would be *transformed* by knowing the unconditional love of God.

Stephen



## St John's News

As I write, we are eagerly anticipating the Lamplighters' 50<sup>th</sup> Birthday celebrations, taking place this weekend - wonderful memories I am sure by the time you read this! But until then, **what has been happening in mid-Spring at St John's?**

**Holy Week** from Palm Sunday through to Easter Day provided many opportunities, including at Toddler Club and Messy Church, to reflect on the momentous events that underpin our Christian faith. It was a lovely occasion for Sharon Finch to preach her first excellent sermon at the 6.30am Son Rise Service!

The following Sunday we witnessed the **baptisms** of six lovely people - Naeleh Jokar, Abbas, Rasoul and Amir Naderi, Jolene Wood and Leon Gordon - all of whom have their own story of coming to know the risen Jesus and experiencing his life changing touch on their lives.

The next day saw the start of our Holiday Club ably headed up by Laura. The thirty or so children and their leaders had great fun and were challenged to think about MAD... people who Made A Difference!

Our one big business meeting (APCM) followed a morning service in April; with a beautiful, positive atmosphere we worked through the agenda. Adam shared his longing to see the Prayer Room completed asap and, among other things, men's ministry really growing and maturing. Billy-Jo O'Leary and Brian Busby were elected to serve on the PCC.

On May Bank Holiday evening **Doug Snow** (and never forgetting the talented Kate Foot), **entertained us with an excellent concert.** His musical ability and attention to detail never fail and many who came expecting lovely music were not disappointed. Another entertaining evening was the **SPARK in the Park Quiz night** when we were delighted that Sarah Potts (née Harrison) who began SPARK some 13 years ago was able to be with us.



It was suggested at the APCM that we have a real **clear up and clean up of the**

**church grounds and building**, both because it was needed and in honour of our Queen's/church's 90<sup>th</sup> birthdays! Three sessions were planned and people came whenever they could (so many people that we had to plan more jobs!) with the result that everywhere looks noticeably smarter!

A recent May Saturday could scarcely have been busier as our children were able to attend the **Deanery Fun Day** at Brampton Road Academy where the central focus was the story of Old Testament Joseph. I think we did every possible Joseph craft ever invented and had a lot of fun doing them!! We then rushed back for a **BBQ** which provided a lovely informal way of celebrating the **Broadies'** time with us and saying some of our personal goodbyes...and then it was Sunday!!!

It was with sadness we received the news that **Alan Overton** has died after several weeks in hospital following a fall. Please continue to pray for his wife Enid and family Michael, Helen and Ruth.

And so on into Summer with many opportunities to grow and share what it means to be Jesus people. Until next time,

Estelle Woodcock



# Spring Harvest

Thirteen gamechangers from St John's gathered at Spring Harvest in Minehead. We enjoyed daily Bible readings, many topical seminars, worship led by Ben Cantelon and, it must be said, great food!



Our case study was Moses. After his encounter with God at the burning bush, Moses was emboldened to stand up for the freedom of his people. Like Moses, led by the Holy Spirit, we too can have an impact on those around us. We can be Gamechangers!



Well done and thanks to Phil Beaumont and Ryan Freeman who operated sound desks at various venues over the three weeks of Spring Harvest events.

See [www.springharvest.org](http://www.springharvest.org) to start thinking about next year!

**Ken Woodcock**



# Food to people on the streets

For a while I have been wanting to take resources round to people living on the streets: food, drink, clothes. I've wanted to do something that seems so small in my eyes and so simple because I know it means more to the people we go to, but I didn't realise just how much of an impact it would make, not just to the people sleeping rough but to the people who came a long time to help out.



We met many amazing people and we had some really great in depth conversations

about what it's like to be homeless (among other things) and we had a range of responses from hating each night and having nearly no hope of any change, to loving the adventure it brings and how it allows a free spirit to roam free.

Our way to help was to get some food and drink together and go round central London sitting with people, having a chat and giving them things to eat and drink. We made the sandwiches, received gifts of homemade brownies and cake, and bought fresh fruit and drinks. It went a very long way and we came back empty handed after having given food to over 25 people.

It was lovely to see how appreciative everyone was and how much of a difference it makes to their day. The thing that I've learnt from doing this is that people just crave a bit of comfort and conversation; living on the street can

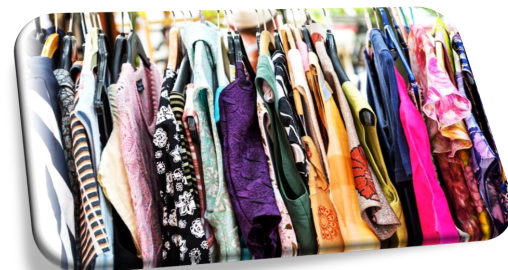
be lonely and when so many people walk past every day without a second glance or a simple hello it must make you feel invisible. I know it's hard to do something for every single person you see on the streets but one hello, one coffee, one little

conversation can go a really long way. I look forward to the next time of meeting more wonderful people and having more enlightening conversations.

**Hayley Read**



# Clothes swap



Over forty of us had a great time at the ladies' clothes swap a few weeks ago. Not only was it a great place to pick up clothes and shoes for next to nothing, we got to have a good clear out of our wardrobes. And, it was so much fun trying on clothes and encouraging one another. We WILL do it again, and maybe a catwalk is in order next time!

**Nicola Foot**



Here is a photo of a number of the men from St John's and Bishop Ridley who attended a CVM (Christian Vision for Men) event in Orpington a few weeks ago. It was presented by the chief of CVM (a man who is very clear that you don't have to stop being a "bloke" when you follow Jesus) and a Christian comedian who had us in stitches while also pulling no punches with the Gospel message.

For some reason, Phil Beaumont and Peter Knight spent part of the evening standing up (while everyone else was seated)

with a horse head and chicken head on. It was a good evening.

We seem to be having quite a few good evenings - whether at the men's housegroup (non-exclusive, apart from people who are not men) or

curry nights or the recent work day and evening at church or other occasional happenings.

And it is not all about having a laugh. It is that, but there also seems to be a growing sense of identity in Christ and with that we are starting to see the fruit of it in the

men looking out for each other more, praying more... I suppose even just being more than we were before, because of Jesus. Maybe we haven't changed much yet but I have heard one wife say she has noticed a difference in her husband.

We men can be a bit clumsy and slow about what we do, how we feel and express ourselves and also how we engage with our "Captain, Brother, Rescuer and Friend" Jesus. But there are good signs that we are getting the hang of it and I really look forward to seeing how we go from here.

**Bob Morris**





# Hitting the water

I have realised that before we moved to London, I had been reading John's Gospel exclusively for 5 months, marvelling at the content within, and how relevant it felt to me. Just before we moved I had been engaging in blessing shops and businesses in Warwick and I spontaneously told a local man that I am an evangelist, which was actually news to me at the time! In early October 2015, I was blessing shops in Welling. It was my fourth day and nothing much of note had occurred, bar a woman called Julia commending her church, St John's, Welling to me on the first day and saying that its members loved to move in the power of the Holy Spirit.

When I told Jenny about this recommendation she dismissed it as being too far away from where we were living.

I got to a shop called "AB'S Stylists", a smart unisex hair salon, and went in. I delivered my usual pitch. I was invited to accompany two heavy looking young men into the back of the shop and, despite

some brief reservations, I trusted the Lord. The men were extremely friendly; I blessed them and shared my testimony about the Holy Spirit. They explained that they had been attending a church for four years, but despite wanting to be they had not yet been baptised in water. Did I know of a local church where they could worship and get baptised, as they are followers of our Lord? I answered that we were new to the area and that at present we were still searching for a church to be part of, but that when we got settled I would return and let them know the details.

Shortly afterwards, Jenny went to a Danson Park Friends meeting, and she met a lady who said that her local Church was fab; it was called St John's, Welling. So, after two hot tips, we decided to take a look at this church. Surprisingly, we were hooked from the first loving welcome moment and despite having both been Baptists previously, it seemed we had found our new church home and family, albeit a stunningly large one.

When we were convinced we had settled, in very early November, God was sending impulses not to forget the AB'S Stylists family. I popped back and gave one of the men a copy of the weekly service sheet, details of the service times and told them that we thought it a lovely church with a commitment to baptising people by full immersion. Soon after the three brothers

and their lovely mother began to attend our evening service. Coincidentally, and unexpectedly, shortly afterwards they all also began to attend the same Housegroup as me, at Roger and Kate's.

On Sunday April 3rd 2016, Naeleh Jokar, and her three sons, Amir, Abbas, and Rasoul Naderi (together with Jolene Wood & Leon Gordon) were baptised by full immersion having confessed their faith in our Lord Jesus Christ. There was much applause and congratulations!

So we have settled at St John the Evangelist and I have retrospectively detected how God had been preparing us for this wonderful family, seemingly of His choosing. The studying of John and my beginning to evangelise culminated in ending up here. St John's had apparently been praying to perform God's outreach work with the local shops on Welling High Street, and we will have to see how that ministry proceeds. Could be fun.

**Mike Cosser**



## First time Safari!

The trip this year saw 5 of us travel to Uganda: Kay & David Andrewartha, Loretta, Sue and me. We were unable to fly directly to Entebbe this time so we had to fly via Doha which made the journey a little longer. 2016 saw the Presidential elections which was a little unfortunate as this meant the children were a week later going back to school. Luckily we had planned our safari at the beginning of the week which meant we did not lose too much time at the school. We were welcomed as usual by the school band which is always a moving few moments. To see Alice, John, all the teachers and children greet us so warmly is always very special as they show so much love towards us.

We made the usual 2500 bread rolls and over 2000 cakes, never an easy thing to do. It is a long day and hard work but to see the children's faces when they make them and even more so when they get to eat them makes it all worth it. We were also able to give some to the deaf school in the town.

This year, thirty children went on an over-night safari with Sue, Loretta and two teachers. The children had a fantastic

time, going on a boat ride on Lake Edward and getting to see animals which they will probably never see again. I stayed behind as I had been invited as guest of honour at the vocational centre sports and sanitation awards ceremony (yes sanitation!). I had to make a speech, present the prizes and start the African dancing. In all there were over 250 students present.

There are more and more children joining the school and more wanting to board. The exam results are still the best in the district. We were able to take some money out with us that had been donated by the wonderful people of St John's. This was spent on 4x10000ltr water tanks for the nursery and a number of fire extinguishers for each of the



buildings (not Sue's idea). We also used it for the baking as the cost of ingredients for baking is getting very expensive. We couldn't stop it now though; we are known as the 'Doughnut People'! The exchange rate is very high, great for us but not for Ugandans.

Everybody sends their love from Uganda to St John's and they always ask us to say thank you for what you do for them. On our return we received a heart-warming letter from Geoffrey the headmaster of the school. This was really humbling for Sue and me too and we felt a great deal of

pride in what he said about the people of St John's (do look on the website to read it!). You are always in their prayers and they ask that you keep praying for them.

**God Bless,  
Steve Read**





# Cubs do music

2nd Welling Cub Scouts had a great opportunity to do their Musician stage 1 badge in April inside St John's. A huge thank you goes to Dominic and Billy-Jo O'Leary who helped me organise this badge as well as to all the other participants -



Doug Snow who kindly showed us his lovely organ (which the Cubs had a GREAT time playing!), Keith McGill who showed us how to play the guitar, clarinet and harmonica, Dominic who shared his passion for percussion instruments, Charlotte O'Leary who beautifully played the piano and the clarinet, Kate Foot who revealed her talent for saxophone and Miriam Giles &



Nicola Foot who showed us how to enjoy singing! Thank you also to Alison Read, Val Gompers, Julie Conquest and Jo

Hebouche for their kind assistance. We so enjoyed the session so well done everyone; it was such a lovely co-operation and work in harmony! Once again a big thank you for a beautiful evening that filled our hearts with the love of music!

**Lucie Brasova**  
2nd Welling Cub Scout leader

# St J Danson

League Table										
POS		P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS	
1	St Marys West Croydon	18	13	2	3	71	24	47	41	
2	Heart 2 Heart	18	13	2	3	63	24	39	41	
3	New Life	18	11	1	6	44	37	7	34	
4	Selhurst United	18	11	2	5	61	42	19	32	
5	Emmanuel Lightning	17	7	5	5	44	23	21	26	
6	St John's Danson	17	6	3	8	34	38	-4	21	
7	Christ Central	18	6	2	10	47	64	-17	20	
8	St Marks Battersea Power	18	6	2	10	26	47	-21	20	
9	Trinity Baptist	18	4	3	11	42	69	-27	15	
10	FC Sidcup	18	0	2	16	12	76	-64	2	

As the football season came to an end, the boys ended up in a respectful 6<sup>th</sup> in the league. After a flying start and thrashing the eventual league champions 5-1, the St John's Danson team gradually faded due to injuries. Despite this, they managed a closely fought semi-final in the cup. Even though the Danson boys had a rough second half to the season, they secured more points and a higher league position than the previous season and will be looking for a top four finish as next year's target.

**Rob Still**

# Holiday Club

Holiday Club this year took place in our church; we moved all the chairs to the sides to have a great big space for faith and fun. The programme was all about 'superheroes – go make a difference'. Our aim was to show the children that being a superhero doesn't always mean doing something big, even 20p can save the day for someone else.

We had different age groups named after different superheroes, such as The Incredibles, Supermen, Spidermen, etc. The children had the chance to decorate their group spaces, make badges and create their own superhero costumes. Every morning we met in the Hero Headquarters (AKA the blue carpet!) to do some hero training and worship. We learnt about stories of heroes in the Bible but also from heroes of today, and how we can 'go and make a difference'.

Afterwards we had a variety of activities prepared such as games, decorating and building stuff and a booklet which we filled in within our groups.

The children were asked to do little 20p jobs at home or bring something in to sell to raise money for The Leprosy Mission as a part of starting to 'go and make a difference', which they did! A big thank you to everyone who supported and encouraged them in raising money.

After three heroic days we had an indoor picnic to finish the club for this year, but we hope that the children won't finish to look for differences and changes they can make, everywhere and for everyone because every single one of them can be a 'superhero – go make a difference'.

**Elisa Stauß**



# A different approach



**Are you a techie, tech-phobic or somewhere in-between?**

The St John's folk that I know seem to fall into the last category. Maybe you shop

online at Tesco, Amazon or Argos. But are unsure about Facebook, etc...

Did you know that the Notice Sheet, Prayer Diary and Grapevine are all available on the church website? You can read these documents on the website or you can download them to your hard drive to read later and for reference. The email containing the Notice Sheet was fraught with technical problems but the good news is that if you're missing this service, it will download in exactly the same format from the website. Getting your documents in this way is ecologically friendly too because it involves no paper or ink.



Registering at the site to access the documents is very easy: it's safer than Tesco or Amazon (we don't ask for your credit card details!) and it's safer than Facebook (we only accept St John's folk so you won't get 'hacked', 'spammed' or 'trolled'). Communication in a church of any size is essential but more and more difficult as we grow larger, when it becomes increasingly difficult if we don't try to get on board with online communication where we are able to.

Oh, and by the way, if you feel that you are too old to embrace this new approach, and other technology... I shall be 75 in August, God willing!

**Sammi Strong**

Please see [www.stjohnswelling.org.uk](http://www.stjohnswelling.org.uk) and click on 'Register' (top right). If you are having difficulties please speak to Kate or Nicola Foot.