

Richards Ramble:

The direction of the wind can make a huge difference. Towards the end of April, the wind has been blowing from the north and has brought with it cold and rainy weather - colder than we would normally expect at this time of year. Had it been coming from the south, it would have blown across the Sahara and brought with it higher temperatures than we would normally expect in Spring.

In May, we celebrate the coming of the Spirit whose sound was like a mighty wind (Acts 2:2). The breath of God (*pneuma*) blowing across the church transformed and empowered her to carry out the mission which Jesus had given to her, as we see unfolded in the rest of the Book of Acts.

In John 3:8, Jesus said, "The wind blows where it wishes and you hear the sound of it, but do not know where it comes from and where it is going; so is everyone who is born of the Spirit". At this time we pray, "Father let your wind blow afresh across the church and enable us to carry out your mission in Beverley."

God bless. **Richard**




BEVERLEY Community Church

FUNDRAISER for foodbank FUNDRAISER

MURDER AT THE PIZZERIA

MURDER MYSTERY NIGHT

24TH MAY @ 7PM (BEVERLEY MEMORIAL HALL).

Pizzas and pudds (bring your beverage of choice).

This fundraising event is FREE.

To book, look out for the sign-up sheet or email: carolynb@beverleycommunitychurch.org



God did 'immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine' at the Chosen Women Weekend Away at Wydale.

Joy Blundell spoke beautifully on self-acceptance and allowing others to see our vulnerabilities. She brought her coaching model to support our thinking around Purpose, Practices and People and Andy Crouch's Strong and Weak Model. It was thought provoking and inspiring. Throughout

the weekend, we were encouraged to bring Jesus' love, peace and grace into our individual communities and being woven together into a beautiful tapestry. We had special times of worship beautifully led by Natalie, Alex and Hannah. A time for personal reflections, praying for one another and ministering to one another. There were also great times of fun and laughter! Thank you, Jakki for the games evening. It was truly hilarious! Thank you, Dawn for leading a beautiful walk. It was a weekend of real blessings and favour. Thank you, Ladies! **Maxine**



At the end of 2023, Maxine suggested that we lead not one, but 2 marriage courses for people in the church. Was she trying to tell me something?!! Over the course of 5 weeks (for the "pre-marriage" course) and 7 weeks (for the "full fat" version for married couples), we listened to the reflections, advice and strategies for building an excellent marriage offered by Nicky and Sila Lee of Holy Trinity Brompton Church, along with interviews made with several couples. Everybody involved thought the course was excellent - the only criticism being that it could have been better called "the marriage enrichment course", to avoid any impression that you would only take part if "your marriage was in trouble". We also appreciated the discussions we had in privacy. Not to mention the weekly delicious puddings!! As a veteran with 33 years of marriage under his belt, I can honestly say that this was probably the best "Christian" course I've ever followed, even though there is actually little that is overtly "Christian" in the course itself. It was full of practical ideas for improving your marriage, such as asking your partner "What would you like me to do for you today?" - important, because it stops you focusing on yourself and your needs, and to concentrate instead on those of your partner. Maxine can testify to the power of this, as her morning bowl of porridge is now even more exotic since the course! We would both thoroughly recommend this course to any married couple - with a Christian faith or not - as a way of strengthening one of God's greatest gifts to us all, and a vital building block in our society. **Andrew & Maxine**

May at a glance		
Sun	5th	10.30 Slow Cooker Sunday 18.00 Prayer Meeting Online - see Peter S for link (45 mins)
Tue	7th	19.00 Homegroups
Fri	10th	9.30 Men & Coffee @Cafe V 10.30 Ladies Bible Study meet for coffee @ Browns
Sun	12th	10.30 BCC Service 18.00 Prayer Meeting Online - see Peter S for link (45 mins)
Mon	13th	10.30 Oranges & Lemons 14.00 Figham House Outreach 19.30 Wider Leaders' Meeting
Tue	14th	19.00 Homegroups
Fri	17th	9.30 Men & Coffee @Cafe V 10.00 Ladies Bible Study meet @ Armstrongs Prayer Room
Sat	18th	10.00 Basileia Bible School
Sun	19th	10.30 BCC Service 18.00 Prayer Meeting Online - see Peter S for link (45 mins)
Mon	20th	10.30 Oranges & Lemons 14.00 Lindum House Outreach
Tue	21st	19.00 Homegroups
Fri	24th	9.30 Men & Coffee @Cafe V 10.00 Ladies Bible Study meet @ Armstrongs Prayer Room 19.00 Murder Mystery Evening
Sat	25th	11.00 Up Hill Down All Walking Group
Sun	26th	10.00 Wellbeing stall @ back of church 10.30 BCC Service 18.30
Tue	28th	19.00 Homegroups
Fri	31st	9.30 Men & Coffee @Cafe V 10.00 Ladies Bible Study meet for prayer & worship @ Armstrongs
Sun	2nd	10.30 Slow Cooker Sunday 18.00 Prayer Meeting Online - see Peter S for link (45 mins)



We attended the Marriage Course between February and March this year. We really enjoyed it, and have got a lot out of it and this is why - There was a welcoming, friendly and atmosphere at Maxine & Andrew's, where we met each Thursday night with four other couples, including Nat & Sean who helped to lead. Each evening started with refreshments, including some lovely puddings. We then watched several video clips on a different specific theme each week, interspersed with private discussion as couples in separate rooms. What did we get out of it? It was really good to have protected time to talk through issues which affect us all as couples. Themes included communication, how to deal with disagreement, saying sorry and forgiving. After 25 years together, we were reassured that we knew each other well. We were also happy to discover new things we didn't know about each other, to help us get on together even better. Making some small changes has helped us appreciate each other more, which has been really great for us as we prepare to enter a new phase of life together. We would really like to thank Maxine, Andrew, Sean and Nat for hosting and supporting the course and can't recommend it highly enough to other couples if it runs again.

David & Marie



In 2019 I was accepted as a dental team volunteer with Mercy Ships and was scheduled to serve in Senegal in April 2020. When Covid began to spread worldwide, Mercy Ships suspended the volunteer programme for dentistry so I didn't get the chance to serve. The dental programme has resumed and in a few weeks I will join the Africa Mercy dental team in Madagascar for 6 weeks to provide dental care for crew, day crew and selected hospital patients and their care givers.

Mercy Ships is a faith-based international development organisation founded

in 1978 that follows the 2000 year old model of Jesus by "bringing hope and healing to the forgotten poor", helping people of all faiths and none.

Now operating both *Global Mercy* and *Africa Mercy* (charity-run hospital ships) they deliver free, vital medical care to some of the world's least developed countries. With the *Africa Mercy* serving in Madagascar in 2024 and the *Global Mercy* serving in Sierra Leone, there is the opportunity to double the hope and healing, and double the impact. The floating hospitals are staffed almost entirely by volunteers from up to 40 nations who all give their time and expertise for free to help treat dental and eye problems, cleft lips and palates, tumours, club feet, child birth injuries and various other medical conditions.

During the Africa Mercy's 10-month stay in Madagascar, Mercy Ships plans to provide life-changing surgeries onboard and to provide dental care to crew and patients. Volunteers also work closely with host nations to improve the way healthcare is delivered across the country, by training and mentoring local medical staff, and renovating hospitals and clinics. All of this is provided at no cost to the recipients and will help to improve the healthcare provision in Madagascar long after the ship leaves port.

The work of Mercy Ships would not be possible without volunteers. With 2 hospital ships they now need 3,000 volunteers per year to bring hope and healing. Mercy Ships doesn't just take doctors, dentists and nurses – each ship is a small city, with cooks, teachers, receptionists, mechanics, IT specialists, engineers and cleaners. There are around 400 volunteers on each hospital ship at any one time and 1,000, from up to 40 different nations, serve onboard throughout the year.

Mercy Ships creates the opportunity to use your specific skills to bring something important to communities that is not easily available there. This is done without taking an opportunity away from the local population. They fulfil an immediate need by supplementing the care available in the country with specialized surgical care, post-op care, and palliative care. At the same time, they want to work themselves out of a job, by training others through various Medical Capacity Building programmes.

The Volunteer Crew live onboard in a community which is about receiving and giving. All crew serving with Mercy Ships worldwide follow the core values:

Love God, Love and serve others, Be people of integrity, Be people of excellence in all they say and do. They freely share their time, talents, energy, and space with others – the crew, the patients, and the surrounding country. It is a unique environment where you benefit from being around other people who have other strengths and talents.

Further information can be found on their website www.mercyships.org.uk or

<https://www.youtube.com/user/MercyShipsGB/>

Micah 6 v 8

To act justly, love mercy and to walk humbly with your God

Janette