

**WORLE  
BAPTIST  
CHURCH**

**ANNUAL REPORT  
2010/2011**

# **LEADERSHIP TEAM**

**2010/2011**

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# **REPORTS**



**PASTOR  
YOUTH & COMMUNITY WORKER  
TREASURER**

## **From the Pastor**

There is a well known prayer that says:

*Let nothing disturb you*

*Let nothing affright you*

*All things are passing, God never changes.*

*Patient endurance attains all things;*

*Those who have God find they lack nothing*

*God alone suffices.*

The year that has passed has been one where we have again seen the faithfulness of God and many good things happening, but at times it has been turbulent as some of life's events and personal tragedies have rocked us as a fellowship. There are things that happen that are unexplained, frightening and disturbing and writing this report reminds us of these things and the words of this prayer. I am grateful that we have a fellowship who love God and among whom it is proved that God is sufficient as we hold onto Him.

It has been great this year to see the church grow both in numbers and in depth. It has been wonderful to welcome a number of people and families as they have joined the church and the general buzz and enthusiasm in church life has been good. The trip to Soul Survivor with the young people and the development of the involvement of young people in the worship and ministry of the church has been great to see. Other highlights in the year have been the holiday club (Rocky's Plaice) and the visit of Doug Horley (at school and at church) where good numbers of children responded to Jesus. Our celebration at Easter and Christmas were again fabulous times of engagement with the community and the weekend at home was a great success.

A personal highlight during this year was my time of sabbatical which was a huge privilege as a period for reading, reflection and learning. Trips to Northumbria and Albania were challenging and rewarding and as the coming year unfolds the vision and links which were made will I hope bear fruit. It was a credit to the church (though not surprising), how well things went without me and I am grateful to everyone for giving me the time and taking the lead in the worship and ministry at WBC. Thank you to the leadership team of the church who continue to offer faithful service and strength to the church.

The focus for 2011 is now on the mission of the church as we study the book of Acts and consider what it means to be serving the God of mission. I expect this call to mission to increasingly shape our church life in the coming months and years.

At the close of this year I particularly want to thank Clare Stephenson for the way that she has served the church over these years on her placement with us. The development in the young people has been great to see.

We go on into the rest of 2011 with great faith. God is sufficient.

*Peter Lynch*

## **Youth and Community Workers Report**

*‘The longest journey is the journey inward’*  
(Hammarskjold, Dag Hjalmar Agne Carl,  
secretary-general of UN 1953-1961).

This quote seems to sum up my year. While working and studying there is sometimes little time for reflection, though when you get some it’s amazing how God speaks. He continues to refine me. I have at times over the year struggled with my faith and part of that is just having quality time with God. During this year I have felt that for the time being it has been right to step away from training with the BUGB as a youth specialist and to concentrate on completing my studies and looking after my health. The year has been one of positive achievements and I have been able to develop my skills, knowledge and understanding of youth and community work.

During my second placement with North Somerset Youth Service I had a huge learning curve but enjoyed working and sharing my faith in a non-faith based environment with adults and young people. Following completion I was asked to apply for work and in July obtained a job one evening a week. This is giving me valuable experience, knowledge and skills within the area of youth and community work.

Personal highlights this year have been the completion of the JNC Qualification in Youth Work (Joint Negotiating Committee) and also completing the first two years of the Masters degree. A BIG Sigh of relief followed. Just the dissertation to complete now.

WEBAY retreat (for youth specialists in WEBA) was a time of quiet reflection and a time to remember that there are time of highs and lows within Christian Ministry and it is about being equipped to cope in the low periods that keep you going. The time away gave me a place to recognise when I need to retreat for reflection. God has been helping me to learn to recognise He is and will always be powerful and faithful enough to turn up.

Soul Survivor was an amazing experience for myself and the young people, with fun, laughter, great encounters with God, as well as some very reluctant teenagers being encouraged to wash up and some even more interesting moments of letting down my tent! We look forward to repeating that again this year although without the tent being let down I hope!

I am greatly thankful to each member of WBC for their support, encouragement and prayers throughout the three years of my course and placement working here. I appreciate the commitment of all to the vision of youth work undertaken within the community of North Worle.

*Clare Stephenson*

## **Treasurer's Report**

2009 proved to be a very challenging year on many fronts, particularly in achieving the budgets that we ambitiously set the previous year. We were therefore slightly cautious and aimed to be realistic when we looked at setting the budgets for 2010.

So it was very encouraging to find that although there was no real improvement in the country's economic situation, as a church, through God's goodness, we not only met but exceeded the 2010 income budget for the general fund

This was driven in the main by a significant increase in giving (+14%) at £44,339 against the budget and 18% against last years giving. This in turn will have a positive effect on the gift aid rebate we receive, particularly as more of the church donors registered for gift aid. The gift aid amount for 2010 (paid 2011) will be in the region of £10,500. Government changes to tax relief on gift aided donations will slightly reduce the amount(-2%) we can reclaim as a rebate.

We also saw an increase in donations via standing order and this also makes a real difference as although not guaranteed, this typically remains a fairly consistent and constant contribution throughout the year. The income from hall and room hire also exceeded budget as the Pre School honoured their commitment to increase payments from April onwards. Thank-you Rosemary for managing the room and hall hire bookings. Additional income was also generated by Meeting point and Groundbreakers by their gifting back to the general fund from their receipts.

The increase in general giving helped to offset the lower building fund budget and actually ended the year +£243 ahead of the £7000 budget set.

We still need to keep focused on clearing this loan, however, it is good to remind ourselves that through faithful giving we now have just £60,000 remaining and are on track to pay this off by 2015 - several years ahead of the original schedule.

The St Georges fund is currently £1300. The funds in this account have been ring fenced solely for furthering God's work at this primary school where we continue to build on our already close working relationship.

Expenditure was broadly in line with the budget however there was an overspend on printing (+127%) at £1,476 and we are actively reviewing the options available to us to ensure where we need to print, this is done in the most efficient and economical way.

Although the balance that we carry forward into 2011( £3,980) is again tighter than we would ideally like, we need to continue to prayerfully look forward as God continues to reveal his vision and the course that WBC will take over the coming years.

Peter H and I have now had a full year in treasury partnership and this continues to work very well as we divide the responsibilities for managing the churches finances. We would also like to once again thank Liz Sims for her ongoing commitment to the all important banking and very much appreciate the time she dedicates to this.

*Nigel Loveridge*

**REPORTS ON CHILDREN'S  
AND YOUTH WORK**



**Sunday's  
TWIST BELIEF  
YOUNG CRUSADERS  
SCARY BOLTS  
CRECHE**

## **Twist Belief (secondary school years 7 +, ages 11 plus)**

Twist Belief is the church group for secondary age young people. The group meet on Sunday mornings with between ten and fourteen, and visit a variety of homes in the evenings. The evenings are a time to relax, eat snacks, and play games and to follow up some of the morning session or to run a new programme alongside. The evenings are longer and thus offer more time and flexibility for discussion. About eight to ten young people attend. Praise God for the desire that these young people want to know more of God.

This group has largely had me as the sole leader and in September 2010 Andrea Perry joined the group as an additional leader and this has proved invaluable for my sanity!

The school proves to continue to be a place young people enjoy going on a Sunday morning, however, physically the young people have grown and chairs and tables are not adequate for some. Their height has somewhat entertained them as I now have to look up to most of them who tower above me! Over the course of the year the group and I have been working on discipleship with the study of 1 Peter during the mornings and now the new “Energize” material is proving a real blessing.

In the evenings we sit on the floor or sofas in people’s homes and this has been a more relaxed and cosy environment. We have continued with quiet times as a way of starting and bringing ourselves before God. We have covered a variety of material such as: The Gospel according to the Simpson’s, sex and relationships and are now looking at the Nooma series which is developing more thought provoking conversations about what they believe.

**Fun and laughter** – Some of the group over the course of the year have developed somewhat of an obsession with the hazard warning lights on my car and their height means that I cannot read what they write in the dirt on its roof. The water fight at the end of July always proves to be lots of fun and again I managed to walk away completely dry. Really not sure how!

**Funding for musical instruments** – The group at the end of 2009 sent in a joint application for funding for their continuing development with music and serving us as a church. Taking a small group over to Cardiff was a lot of fun and this gave our young people the opportunity to make decisions about the quality of the musical instruments we purchased.

Thanks to Alistair and the adults of the worship group for their patience and perseverance of continuing to develop the Sunday group through music. I have been honoured and privileged to see this group develop in confidence throughout the year and their talent continues to amaze me. Praise God for the blessing we have of talented young people and musical ability.

**Soul Survivor** saw a real faith growth in many of our young people who began to support each other further in prayer and developed them as a group who could work together. Please pray for them as we approach year 2 of this event.

**Shepherd's Supper** – We made a DVD of this year's event and watched it back as part of reflecting and learning from it. YP felt disappointed that there were less people there than they would have liked but this was hampered by snow and ice as well as the illness of some. This is something that the young people understood.

*Clare Stephenson*

## **Sunday School – Young Crusaders (school years 4 – 6, ages approx 8-11)**

From September to December we covered a variety of subjects with leaders working on a month on month off rota. Since January we have been following the new resource from Urban Saints “Energize”. This means that the children have been learning about the life of Jesus and are now looking at the Parables that Jesus told. As a leader I have found this new resource easy to access and use and the children appear to be enjoying the way in which they have been learning about Jesus and the bible.

We have been encouraging the children to look-up passages in their Bibles so that they find it easier to navigate their way around them. This is necessary because not all our children are familiar with looking through their bibles and we have some new additions to our group.

The children have become very good at working together even though they may not see each other outside of church/group. This obviously makes the atmosphere much nicer when we form into small groups as each and every child feels included in discussions and decisions.

As always it is good to see the children telling their parents what they have been learning about, and this would be even better if the parents could come over to the school when the service finishes and see what they have been doing. This way we, as leaders, will know when it is good for us to come back over.

The leaders in this group work on a month on, month off basis. Sarah & Becky did January and Sandra & Carol February. This will continue for the foreseeable future.

Thank you for your continuing support in our work with your children. The Young Crusaders have been a joy to work with and I am certainly looking forward to helping them further their knowledge of Jesus in the months ahead.

*Sarah Vowles*

### **Sunday School – Scary Bolts (school years pre school – Year 3, ages 3 -8)**

The group has been split into two separate groups, one for the 3 – 5's and one for the 5 – 8's. The groups are getting well and the children get on well together. Our aims for this group are to make them feel safe and comfortable and to provide a happy place for them to come and learn about each other and that God is always there for them.

The new material that we are using is a great help and contains a lot of good ideas. The children seem to be enjoying it and this makes our task much easier.

Please continue to pray for the Scary Bolts and all the teachers for God's provision and that we will accomplish his will for this group.

*Jenny Hadley, Louise Lynch, Rosemary Herbert, Amanda Burge.*

## **Crèche**

The Crèche is provided on Sunday mornings when the children and young people leave to go to their various groups. We aim to provide a time when the children can play and enjoy themselves whilst their parents remain to participate in the rest of the service.

My thanks to Lesley, Sarah and Rosemary who have been willing helpers on the Crèche Rota team.

*Sue Wright*

**REPORTS ON CHILDREN'S  
AND YOUTH WORK**

**Midweek**

**WOMBATS TODDLER GROUP  
BADGERS TODDLER GROUP  
GROUNDBREAKERS AND DESERT  
DETECTIVES  
FUN MASTERS  
NUMBER 43  
TUESDAY NIGHT YOUTH CLUBS  
SCHOOL WORK**

## **WOMBATS Toddler Group**

Toddlers has said fond farewell to Andrea & Sandra and we now have a new team, Sam, Carol, Pauline and Janice. Elaine has very kindly stepped in to do the kitchen duties, which means the parents no longer have a rota for this. They were so pleased they even knitted a tea cosy for her!!

We lost a few parents at the start of the New Year. This was to be expected as a new toddler group had been set up by one of the former mums. Over the months we have gained lots of new parents and have well over 35 on our books now. We had a firework party and a Christmas party which was very successful. A quarterly newsletter is produced which informs the parents of events in toddlers and church too.

We feel it is important to try to get the parents involved in church activities. One of the mums from another church has taken over Melissa's role with the singing and is really keen to teach the children some simple Christian songs.

An application for a grant to replace the toys and to provide some new fun equipment was applied for but this was unsuccessful. It's a really fun time for all of us and we have some really positive feedback from the parents.

*Sam Tyers*

## **Badgers Toddler Group**

This is the time of year when the numbers of mums and toddlers seem to get a little low. I do realize that little ones often have a sleep around lunch time and also with the winter weather this may prove a little difficult for everyone to make each week. We do have a core of mums that have been coming for a number of years and are on their second babies. I always have a good feedback from them that their children look forward to coming and they miss it in the holiday breaks so we must be doing something right.

The mums gel well together and sit in little groups and chat. It has become a nice meeting place for them. We are having a little craft session for the children and encourage the mums to help them with this.

Our numbers are a little low at the moment and we are having between eight to twelve mums each week attending. I am hoping that this will improve as the weather gets a little warmer and sickness this winter seems to have been a contributing factor to our attendance record.

My thanks go out to Sarah and Gemma who do all the teas and coffee as well as helping with the setting up and putting away of all the equipment. I could not manage without them.

*Jenny Hadley*

## **Groundbreakers and Desert Detectives**

I am consistently encouraged by the work that happens on a Friday evening with 7-11 year old children at WBC. The enthusiasm of the children is brilliant. Their enjoyment of worship songs and Bible based DVD's is brilliant. The strength of the team and involvement of some younger leaders has been good. The number of children that stay for Desert Detectives and their desire to learn and pray is also great.

Our format hasn't changed significantly over the last year. We still base the programme around a games, craft, DVD and tuck rotation. We vary things with special games, dance, craft evenings and have been so blessed this year with visits from Doug Horley and special evenings with parents at Easter and Christmas. To see the number of children responding to the appeal at Doug Horley was fantastic.

Our numbers at Groundbreakers tend to be around 50 each week. We have an upper limit of 60 and operate with a waiting list to make sure we are not over-run. Desert Detectives runs straight after Groundbreakers for those children who want to learn more about Christianity and sing/pray together. Numbers at this are consistently over 20 children and it is lovely to see children taking these opportunities to worship and learn.

Our challenges for the coming year are to recognise the journey these children are making in their relationship with God and to develop our young leaders along with those of us who have been around a while, so that the work deepens as well as grows.

*Peter Lynch*

## **Fun Masters – Monday Night Youth Club**

This group is for young people in school year 8 with approximately 24-30 young people attending weekly. They are a particular lively and challenging group.

Over the course of the year there have been many challenges with regards team availability and the lack of additional stand by people to cover at short notice means that the consistency for the young people has been difficult. Behaviour continues to be difficult at times because of the development stage of the girls chasing boys and vice versa. With space in the building limited we have at times had some disruption.

On a positive note this group like being in the outdoors and often play in the garden. A recent scooter competition in the car park was a hit and the night hike was well attended, enjoyable and great fun, especially the hot chocolate, whipping cream and marshmallows at the end.

The future of this group is being reviewed, due to lack of additional leaders (especially men) and it is now being put on hold for a term for consideration.

Please pray for Kay, Dave, and Louise who have given up their time graciously especially arriving straight from work. Pray also for Steve who has stepped in when Kay has been unable to attend.

*Clare Stephenson*

## **Number 43**

The group began in October 2010 to cater for girls that had finished Groundbreakers and were moving to Secondary school. We have between 12-16 girls attending weekly. This is a lively group of girls who enjoy running around as well as the quieter (umm not sure that quiet describes the majority of them!!) activities of cooking, table top games and crafts including glass painting and jewellery making.

The evening usually begins with a run around lively activity with the occasional competitiveness thrown in. This is followed by splitting the group into smaller groups for activities. Over the course of the last couple terms we have enjoyed a fruit kebab with chocolate fountain, flapjacks, peppermint creams and home made burgers. We have also explored issues such as bullying through drama.

The first term was about exploring self-esteem/ confidence. We looked at what the world says about women and what God says. This incorporated activities of bin bag fashion, masks and more recently Aimee has spent time with a small group on a musical focus.

Following consultation with this group of young girls they requested that time and space be allocated for discussions when they felt they needed to talk with someone about issues that were concerning them and this has now been sorted out as part of the programme.

Feedback from the group and their parents/carers has been positive with parents expressing their gratitude for the work that is happening, providing a safe place for young people to meet and parents/ carers and young people are keen for the group to continue.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Liz Painter, Diane Beckett, Jo Buchanan Hay and Debbie Dean all who have supported and been part of developing this group. Without them this group would not exist. Peter has also been in once each term, in part to continue the link that the young people have with him from school and Groundbreakers and because they asked if he would.

Aimee and Jess have also been part of the team and have developed their skills with working with this group of young people and have built good relationships with the girls, many of whom see Jess at school. Their dedication and commitment to supporting leaders with this group has been amazing and in so doing have built confidence in other areas of their life.

Please pray for the continued development of the group as transitions and thoughts for the future are made. Pray for our young leaders who are involved in building relationships with the young people as they serve God in the work undertaken at WBC.

## **Tuesday Night Youth Club**

### **Boys Group (Year 10)**

At the end of the summer last year we had a core group of about 12 members. Pete and Ian Smith met with the group for a 'lads night' of bowling prior to Pete heading out on sabbatical and they are due to get together again soon for some more adventurous outdoor activities.

Although weekly youth club is not able to take place at this time, termly opportunities are planned to continue to maintain relationships with these guys.

### **College Crew**

College crew is a small group of young adults (former youth club members) who continue to meet in a variety of locations on alternate Tuesdays. It was good that a couple of the group came to Soul Survivor this year and our evenings are always positive times.

Please pray for them as they find their way in life and as they complete studies alongside employment. Pray that they may (in the current climate) achieve university places or full time employment in their chosen career.

*Clare Stephenson*

## **Work in the Worle/St Georges Schools**

The opportunities for school work in the area of Worle and beyond are encouraging and expanding. There is a very warm welcome and invitation to lead school worship and assemblies at CastleBatch, St Mark's, St Georges, St Martin's, St Paul's (Worlebury), Christchurch and Bournville. There are also great opportunities to participate in RE learning and question and answer sessions about "beliefs" and "being a Christian" at St Martin's, St Mark's and St Georges.

As has been the case for many years, much of what children know of Christianity and worship comes through experience of it at school as there are less families attending church on a regular basis. This makes taking the love of God out into our school communities a real priority. The questions of children about beliefs and faith show that the hunger to learn and to understand spiritual things is as real as it has ever been. The children ask about life, death, does God make a difference, what happens when we die, why doesn't God stop evil, who made God – and all sorts of challenging questions. This makes our work in school and the support of those who spend their time living, working and witnessing in schools more important than it has ever been.

In the coming years I can see this being an increasingly important and developing part of our ministry in the Worle area and we should be praying about this. As we have highlighted before but not yet been able to act on, the cross-over to secondary school and the Christian input after Primary age remains an area of need.

## **St Georges VA Church Primary School**

Worle Baptist Church is part of the foundation (along with the Anglican and Methodist denominations) of St Georges VA Church Primary School and therefore has a special focus in our school work. We continue to support and develop involvement in the school and its community. Peter continues to be the Chair of Governors at the school and is involved in leading worship during the term and on festival/special occasions. Sandra Lucas continues to serve on the Governing Body and Diane Anderson teaches in the school. We have an excellent relationship with the school and particularly with Sandra Medley (the headteacher) and continue to look for ways to support and provide a worship focus to the community. It was good again this year to invite Doug Horley to lead an afternoon of songs, puppets and worship.

The school has been inspected in the last term by Ofsted and the church schools inspectorate. These inspections have gone very well and the school is particularly praised for its values, the care and well being of the children and for its Christian ethos. Peter presided at the official opening of the “Oasis Prayer Room as a place in school where people can pray and find some quiet or talk with others. John Staddon was commissioned to make a cross for the room. The hope for this room is that it can become a place that is used by the school and community for pastoral and prayer support for those in any kind of need. As we look toward the year ahead there is scope for the development of our work.

*Peter Lynch*

# **THROUGH THE WEEK**

**MEETING POINT  
PRAYER AND LISTENING  
MINISTRY  
SANCTUARY  
WORSHIP GROUP  
HOME GROUPS  
MISSION**

## Meeting Point

Once again the number of people over a certain age coming to Meeting Point on Monday afternoons has increased and we now have a regular attendance of over 40. It seems that the group is much appreciated by its members who often mention it to and recruit their friends. The noisy chatter at the start and at tea time shows that people enjoy meeting old friends and new people. Many value the opportunity of a regular event which gives some structure to their week.

We have had an interesting mix of speakers this year on a variety of subjects, together with musical afternoons and the occasional meal together. One of the highlights recently was the visit of our pastor Peter speaking about his family's recent visit to Iceland. We also had two very successful outings to East Lambrook Gardens and to Monkton Elms, near Taunton. Following the success of our first Songs of Praise we repeated it this year on a summer Sunday afternoon. We celebrate Christmas and Easter by including visits from our pastor and choirs from Castle Batch School. We also heard about the work of the Air Ambulance and the Salvation Army. For the second year running many members brought children's toys and other items for Samaritan's Purse shoeboxes. £70 was also raised through a bring and buy sale towards the cost of dispatching the 38 boxes which were eventually sent. They are distributed to children and families in Eastern Europe and Africa.

For many, Meeting Point makes it plain that Worle Baptist Church has its eyes on its local community and wants to make people of all ages welcome. What we stand for as a Christian community is also hopefully made clear and we particularly welcome the fact that one of our members has recently decided to be baptised.

*The Team: David and Sue Wright, Jenny Hadley, Pete Lacey.*

## **Prayer and Listening Ministry**

*(NA 1:7) The LORD is good, a refuge in times of trouble. He cares for those who trust in him*

This is a quiet space on Wednesday mornings between 9.45 and 11.30am available to anyone who would like to come along to the prayer room for a chat or to share a concern and then receive prayer. It's always a privilege to offer this ministry and a real blessing as I see God answering prayers.

Other times are available by arrangement for anyone unable to make Wednesday mornings.

*Liz Cundy*

## **Sanctuary**

A meaningful, quiet, food filled pause for breath and worship in the middle of the week. Sanctuary is a simple formula of coffee, led worship (for 30 minutes) and a shared lunch on a Wednesday at church that gives opportunity for fellowship, sharing lives and prayer for one another.

It has been a good year of meeting together and it is a group that is deeply appreciated by those that attend. The doors are always open to any who want to join in this simple time of worship. It has been good to welcome a couple of new faces and we continue to pray faithfully for those who have had to move on from the group and those needing prayer support in our church.

*Peter Lynch*

## **Worship Group**

This has been a really encouraging year all round for the worship group. We have been blessed by a number of new members joining the group which has given us the opportunity to diversify the style and type of music we are able to bring to services. Similarly, the development of young people within the group has continued so that they are now an integral part of practices and services. Their time at Soul Survivor last summer seemed to give a new impetus to their desire to worship God and we are really seeing the benefits of this in Church each week. It is also fantastic to see a PA rota in place - this is a thankless job which at times requires a thick skin and Paul has worked tremendously hard on his own over recent years.

As always, I would encourage everyone in the Church to share their ideas and thoughts on worship so that all feel included, but at the same time reflect on the fact that notwithstanding the group's role to provide music each week, the act of worship is a corporate one for which we all share responsibility, and one that relies on each one of us coming with a heart of worship to God.

*Alistair Perry*

## **Reports from Home/Small Groups**

### **Tuesday Women's Small Group**

I hope that the following reading from 'The Message' describes something of what we are about and aim for as a group:

*(COLL 3:15-17) Let the peace of Christ keep you in tune with each other, in step with each other. None of this going off and doing your own thing. And cultivate thankfulness. Let the Word of Christ—the Message—have the run of the house. Give it plenty of room in your lives. Instruct and direct one another using good common sense. And sing, sing your hearts out to God! Let every detail in your lives—words, actions, whatever—be done in the name of the Master, Jesus, thanking God the Father every step of the way.*

As a group of about 8 women we meet every Tuesday to worship, pray and discuss what God is saying to us through His word. At the beginning of the year we started a new study entitled 'Celebrating friendship' a women of faith study which helped us to reflect, know God's heart and pray together about different aspects of friendship. Each week also included a challenge entitled 'friendship booster' which encouraged us to put into action the topics we'd been discussing.

Although this was a very good study we found, like many others, that each session was taking at least 2 weeks to complete which can sometimes be difficult if you miss a week. We therefore decided to try Scripture Union's 'WordLive' for small groups. This is an 'online' weekly study which is quite varied in content and also relates to daily bible studies which can be delivered to your 'Inbox' every day. We find it works well and actually manage to finish it every week!

Highlight of the year was Janice' baptism and I've also been really encouraged by seeing members of the group become more involved in the outreach of the church.

Quotes from some of the group when asked why they came each week were:

- “ Encourages me and strengthens my faith”,
- “Gives me a sense of belonging and a place where I can be honest about everything”,
- “A place to share my problems”,
- “A Calm and tranquil place in the middle of the day”
- “ Somewhere I don't need to be on my best behaviour!”

*Liz Cundy*

## **Tuesday Evening Home Group**

This group, which meets weekly, has been in existence for many years but has not remained static. Whilst some members have moved on, others have come to take their place. We have room for more!

We continue with our pattern of worship, prayer, the sharing of news and the study of God's word. For all of us the group has proved a major source of support when we or those near to us have been going through difficult times.

We spent much time this year learning a lot from the Letter to the Hebrews in the New Testament. The fact that we had a couple of years ago based our Bible study on the Old Testament book Leviticus helped us appreciate the Hebrews letter in a new light.

We also realised what a dramatic and life-changing message the first century Christians brought to the people of their time – that Jesus is the Way to God. We also need to be sure that this is the centre of what we stand for as Christians and what we need to share with the world.

The second part of the year found us looking at a number of favourite Psalms which encourage and challenge us in different circumstances and so often give words to our praise and worship of God.

And now Jeremiah – a faithful man who stuck to his task despite opposition and indifference. Many things to be learned here, we are sure.

*David and Sue Wright*

## **Tuesday Evening Home Group**

*(Matt.18:20) For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them."*

Greeted with a friendly smile, graciously welcomed into a comfortable warm room, hospitably served with tea/coffee and generous portions of cake! There's a buzz of conversation from the small gathering interrupted frequently by bursts of spontaneous laughter!

The scene gradually changes – we acknowledge the presence of our Lord and sing to Him – 2 or maybe 3 worship songs with pauses of quiet reflection and prayer between – a time for supporting each other as we lift cares and needs to our Father –

for remembering too our Church and the world - bringing it all to Him.

As we break the stillness Bibles are opened – we are ready and prepared to dig into God’s word\*\*.

Not heavy, no lectures, just reading and listening, just interactive discussion with healthy debate. This is the opportunity for learning and growing, unlocking the scripture and applying its relevance into our daily lives.

That’s Tuesday Home Group at Bramblewood 7.45 – 10pm. A valued spiritual break during the week.

\*\*

Bible Studies in 2010 were mainly from the following publications:

- 1. REVELATION ‘The Triumph of God’ from the Scripture Union Lifebuilder Series.*
- 2. TRUST ‘Enduring Hope’ from Spring Harvest Interactive Series.*

*Malcolm and Liz Cundy*

## **Thursday Evening Home Group**

*(Matt. 5:4-16 (Message) 14-16) "Here's another way to put it: You're here to be light, bringing out the God-colours in the world. God is not a secret to be kept. We're going public with this, as public as a city on a hill. If I make you light-bearers, you don't think I'm going to hide you under a bucket, do you? I'm putting you on a light stand. Now that I've put you there on a hilltop, on a*

*light stand—shine! Keep open house; be generous with your lives. By opening up to others, you'll prompt people to open up with God, this generous Father in heaven”.*

Originating from the 2009 Alpha Course, we have become an established and well rooted home group meeting each week from 7.30pm until around 10pm. Like most groups our aim is to provide hospitality, friendship and support to one another as we meet to worship God, pray, study and discuss what God is saying to us through His word.

At the start of the year, carrying on in the ‘Alpha style’ of watching a DVD followed by discussion we worked our way through ‘A life Worth Living’, a course based on the message of Philippians and hopefully answering the question of ‘What happens next’ when we become a Christian. This was followed by Nicki Gumbel’s new series of ‘Challenging Lifestyle’ DVDs based on the Sermon on the Mount. Jesus teaching here, is as radical today as it was then and should always be a ‘must’ to revisit no matter how long you’ve been a Christian. Towards the end of the year we moved to a Spring Harvest Bible Study ‘Enduring Hope’ which has helped us to look at how we can trust in God in all of life’s circumstances .

Even though most members of this group were already Christians when we started, we have all found the courses thought provoking and challenging, so perhaps sometimes it’s really worth going back and looking again at the basics of what we believe, how we should live our lives and what God is calling us to. We do thank God for this group and especially for the good relationships and love for one another that has developed as we’ve got to know one another better.

*Malcolm and Liz Cundy*

## **Thursday Home Group**

A new home group was started this year based in the home of Paul and Jo Hopkins. As a group we decided to meet every two weeks as this seemed to fit most easily with the schedules of those in the group. Initially a core group formed and we have had some good times together. Unfortunately some of the demands of work and life have made meeting recently more difficult, but the plan for this year is to pick things up again and to work with discipleship themes in order to support one another. This group is likely to focus on specific themes for fixed periods of time (termly) that others can join as they see appropriate.

*Peter Lynch*

## **Mission**

Worle Baptist Church is committed to supporting and developing its vision and involvement in world mission. The notable events of this year have been:

Andrew Dean has taken on the role as our BMS representative. The church continues to give £2000 per year to BMS as part of its giving.

We had a helpful and encouraging visit from Judy Cook who we support in her work with Hope home in Thailand. Judy's prayer letters and information are regularly circulated.

The Butchers family returned to the UK after their time in Ecuador with BMS.

As part of Peter's sabbatical he visited the BMS team in Albania working in two church planting situations in Vlora and Shkoze, Tirana, and the GDQ International School in Tirana. It is hoped that these links will lead to ongoing partnerships in the future.

Dave and Julie Bowden spent some of their summer vacation working with Mission Direct in the earthquake area of Haiti and the Dominican Republic. It was good to pray and support that work in a small way.

*Peter Lynch*

## **WEEKLY ACTIVITIES**

### **Sunday**

10.00 – 10.15am Prayer in the Prayer Room

10.30am Worship and Teaching

(Communion is held on the 2nd Sunday of each month)

Twist Belief Secondary school children

Young Crusaders for children in years 4 – 6

Scary Bolts for pre school - school years 3

Crèche for babies to pre-school children

6.45pm Youth Group

6.00pm X – Gen for all the family (Every 5 weeks)

7.00pm Prayer and Praise, often following on from the themes of the Morning Teaching

### **Monday**

2.00pm Meeting Point

7.00pm Monday Night Youth Club for year 7's

### **Tuesday**

10.00am Wombats Toddler Group

1.00pm Small Group

7.00pm Number 43 club for Girls in year 7

Tuesday Night Youth Club for year 10's

7.45pm Home Group

## **Wednesday**

9.00am	Praying for the Community
10.00am	Prayer and Listening Ministry
11.00am	Sanctuary
8.00pm	Worship Group Music Practice

## **Thursday**

1.45pm	Badgers Toddler Group
7.30pm	Home Group
7.45pm	Home Group (alternate weeks)

## **Friday**

6.00pm	Groundbreakers
7.15pm	Desert Detectives Bible Study

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