

ENGAGE

Edition 25

M A G A Z I N E

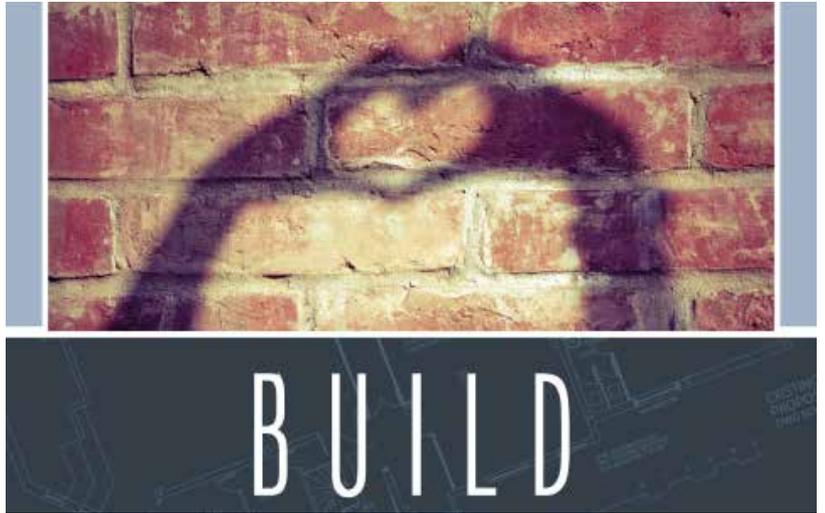
FEB - APR '19

PASTORS LETTER
APPROACH
THE NEW

MOTTO TEXT
RECEIVE
POWER...

MISSION
SIERRA
LEONE





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RECEIVE POWER FROM
THE HOLY SPIRIT
AND BE MY WITNESSES

ACTS 1:8



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Approaching the NEW

How do you respond to 'new' things? I guess many of us will say it depends on what the 'new' actually is, but the truth is that each of us tends to follow a predictable preference path.

Some folks love the 'new' – clothes, events, food, people, places - whack a 'new' label on it and they are there ready to receive, encounter, embrace and promote. Others respond from the complete opposite end of the scale when it comes to 'new' things – they are cautious, questioning, even resisting. 'What was wrong with the old?', 'Is this really better?', 'What are the wider implications?', etc., are questions which drive the opening repines.

On the scale of responses to the 'new', my initial response tends to be found closer to the cautious side of things. Check out my family photos and you will discover that I have a 'consistent' rather than 'trendy' clothing preference. When we eat out at

a restaurant, Cathy says that she can usually predict what I will order. (I order what I know I will like). When we do need to change something or buy a new this or that, I will spend a substantial amount of time researching the best demonstratable solution possible – because what we get I expect to be keeping for a long time!

Cathy however leans towards the other end of the scale. She is usually enthusiastic about the 'new' – new ideas, new approaches, new books, new shoes. In a restaurant she intentionally chooses new things - and even when it turns out to be not so good a choice she insists "It's good to try new things!"



This is not to say that Cathy never researches or is hesitant over the 'new' and I don't like encountering and pursuing 'new' things. The reality however is that Cathy and I, in fact all of us, tend to approach the 'new' in a particular way. (If you don't believe me ask a close friend how you usually respond to 'new' things!)

This is important to identify in ourselves because as we move deeper into a New Year, embrace a new church name (Waypoint Church), move into a new building, invite and welcome new people into the church community, sing new songs in our worship, try new things as a church - follow our God who says *"See, I am doing a new thing."* Isaiah 43:19 – how we respond to 'new' is important.

This is not a call for the keen amongst us to slow down or the hesitant to hurry-up – but a reminder for us all to see what God is doing, and join Him. To seek first God's Kingdom and righteousness.

For those of us who are normally hesitant – we need to ensure courageous faith does not get smothered by caution. For those who are normally more keen for 'new' – ensure wisdom does not get trampled by enthusiasm.

"See, I am doing a new thing." Isaiah 43:19

God's invitation is that we join in with what He is doing.

~ Mark Madavan

RECEIVE POWER FROM THE HOLY SPIRIT AND BE MY WITNESSES

ACTS 1:8

Have you ever been out and about and needed to use your mobile phone, only to discover that you had no signal? (Visit Whiteley Shopping Centre for such an experience.)

For some people this isn't a problem because they don't have a mobile phone – they've never been connected. For others, they never noticed – they've gone about their day assuming it was available if an emergency arose. For others, they take active steps to ensure they keep connection.

The Motto Text for the year is:-

"Receive power from the Holy Spirit and be my witnesses." Acts 1:8

This is a double call from Jesus to

- purposefully plug into the power of God, and;
- purposefully point people to Him

Through Jesus, God has provided a way for us to be in relationship with Him. This is not about Jesus offering us an emergency number to call when in trouble – but an invitation to walk with the Almighty God day by day and to know His power in our lives.

To know this we need to purposefully plug into the power of God – to put our hope in Jesus, to daily invite Jesus into our lives, to seek first the Kingdom of God. And to join God's mission and purposefully point people to Jesus – to be witnesses. This is not a call to theologially explain everything to everyone – but to tell people about what Jesus has done – the power of God in and around you.

The more we purposefully plug into the power of God and purposefully point people to Jesus – the more we will see of the Kingdom of God in our lives, our church, our families, our schools, our work places, our community and beyond.

~ Mark Madavan

BUILD

THE FINISH LINE IS IN SIGHT

I'm told by long distance runners that when the finish line comes into sight they often encounter two things. A burst of emotion - because of what they have achieved and are about to achieve and secondly, a burst of energy to finish well – to do more than stumble over the finish line or worse, stop before crossing the line.

Summer 2018, when building work started on the BUILD project, was like seeing the finish line. (I appreciate it is not about a building but our heart to connect our community with Jesus - but stay with me.). Many people, including me found themselves feeling really emotional – years and years of work, prayer, fundraising and giving have been worth it. We were no longer chasing a concept, an architect's plan, a long-presented solution to a real need – the building work had started, a completion date agreed, the finish line is in sight. It is an emotional thing.

However, there is also a need for a burst of speed – not for the builders to build quicker (although we are asking them

to!) - but financially. Getting to this point has required us to give generously and sacrificially, fund raise creatively and frequently and to commit to give regularly and continuously in order to support a large mortgage. But to ensure that our building is useable with PA, stage lights, a functional café, chairs, etc., we need a financial boost to cross the line.

For those who are new to our church family and have not yet given to this amazing BUILD project, can I encourage you to join with the rest of the church and give a one off gift or commit to give on a monthly basis. For those who have previously given or presently give – can I encourage you to prayerfully consider stretching a little further in your giving to help us cross the finish line.

The finish line is in sight, let's get emotional, dig deep and finish well.

To give towards the BUILD project contact our treasurer@lhfc.org.uk or visit www.lhfc.org.uk/give

~ Mark Madavan



There are 25 SMALL GROUPS which meet in various locations on various days at various times, daytime and evenings. Some are just for women, some run together, talk about football together, worship together, walk together, help other people together. There is not a one-size-fits-all group but a variety that means there is a place for everyone.



Here's a picture of some of our fantastic small group leaders. Different ages, different jobs, different experiences, skills and passions, but all committed to help a group of people grow UP, IN and OUT.



Each small group has something in common.

Every Small Group has three dimensions:

UPWARDS – a growing love for God through prayer, worship and exploring the Bible

INWARDS – a growing love for one another through care, accountability and practical help

OUTWARDS – a growing love for our 'neighbour' through serving, sharing faith and praying

And each one has a distinctive flavour or focus that will help everyone find just the right place to get connected and flourish.

If you like running, walking, football, digging deeper into the Bible, singing, Bible study, coffee and cake, praying, serving others, worship, music, building accountability, relationships and much more, there is a place for you to connect and grow.

Perhaps you've got an idea for a new small group. Let us know what it is and we can help you get it started.

If you want to get connected to a small group, or just learn more:

E-mail smallgroups@lhfc.org.uk
or call Tim Hancock (01489) 579669

We also have evenings when anyone looking to join a group, and everyone already part of a small group, is invited to meet at **THE GATHERING**. The next one is on **WEDNESDAY 22nd MAY at 7.30pm** at the Church. You are welcome to come along to find a place for you to get involved.



Edge is our Friday night open youth group and leading up to Christmas we had some amazing evenings. These included an 'Edge Factor Christmas special', our termly inflatable nights and also our regular food themes!

We've had many highlights already but two in particular are new faces amongst our Edge leadership team and also one night we had 107 young people!

We've already kicked off Edge this year and the numbers are really high and the new leaders are coming back (fools!) and we are looking forward to a fun packed half term with lots of activities, including the amazing 'sweeper' from total wipe-out and the annual Instagram challenge night.

Unfortunately we have had to pause Central for the time being due to lack of

growth. We had a great bunch of young people who loved Central, however, they weren't inviting their friends! We will reconsider starting something at the end of this academic year.

What it has meant though is that we are able to invite those young people who were attending Central to mix back in with the Edge and we've even gained some awesome Central leaders as part of our Edge team.

We are confident that at this stage it's the right thing to do and we are excited about the space this leaves in terms of what new thing might grow out of this opportunity, please keep praying for wisdom!

~ *Jim Privett*



WINDOW OF OPPORTUNITY

Christian research has shown that 64% of adult Christians make their first commitment to follow Jesus as a child. (Barna Group)

In KFJ (Kids for Jesus), our Sunday Children's Ministry, the team currently welcomes around 65 children each week.

The children are divided into groups by age so that we can provide care and activities that reflect their developmental stage.

Caring for our Under 5s.

Our prime focus in our youngest groups is to care for the kids and introduce them to God's love through simple Bible stories, crafts and songs.

Engaging our kids in School Years R-4.

We have recently tweaked the format of the morning for these children to help them to engage with both the sessions

and with their faith journey. Each week has more energy, interaction and choice. The kids are loving the changes!

Stretching our older kids in School Years 5-6.

A more discussion based programme gives the kids opportunities to stretch their thinking, own their faith and prepare them for the move up to our Youth Ministry at the end of Year 6.

We are so thankful for the team of volunteers who serve in KFJ each month. There is always room for more - especially as we grow - so if you would like to be part of shaping a child's future come and get involved.

****Coming soon****

A new church name gives us a great opportunity for new names for our KFJ groups.

~ Claire Johnson



MISSION

mission@lhfc.org.uk



Our Sierra Leone mission trip exceeded all expectation, from cultural experience, to involvement in the work. As a team of six we set out to Sierra Leone during October half-term to meet a charity founded by Verity in 2007.

Enable the Children (ETC) aims to provide physical therapy for disabled children as well as beginning to break down the stigma surrounding them. On both Saturdays we were lucky enough to witness this first hand in an autism and a Dad's support group. Whilst the ETC team gave a talk to the parents we had the opportunity to look after their children. They certainly had plenty of energy and it was great fun. Simon and

Kevin also spoke about their experiences. We were told disability tends to be seen as something that only happens in Africa, so for them to be able to share was wonderful. *"The network of fathers is still in its infancy but it is encouraging to know that not all the caring is being left to the mothers, as is often the case. We were able to share some of our experiences which seemed so minor given the day-to-day challenges that these fathers and families face. They were so inspiring, cheerful and committed and it was a privilege to be with them."* Kevin

For 3 days we got to see the inspiring work of the ETC team out in the community. Split up among them we



got to experience the days of the autism team, physio teams and the government hospital clinic. Being able to walk around the city and see the way people live was certainly eye opening. One case that stuck out for me was a little boy named Umaru. We were told by his mother that he doesn't like sleeping and could clearly see that this was because of his utter love for life. Umaru had very tight hamstrings so, after playing with a balloon for a while, he was measured for a standing frame as it was clear he preferred to stretch standing up!

There were some cases which were much more complex. A high number of physically disabled children rarely leave the house due to a combination of difficult terrain for wheelchair use and being a target for abuse in the community. There is still a lot of work to do to change this but, as we have seen, it is certainly going in the right direction.

During our time off we were able to enjoy some the new experiences Freetown had

to offer. A highlight was definitely the street food. We tried plantain chips and bought young coconuts from the side of the road. Verity's knowledge of the local language definitely impressed us all, but I think the most enthusiastic Krio learner had to be Simon who happily greeted everyone we met. "Aw Di bodi"!

The presence of God through all of this was very clear to us all. The ETC team's passions are rooted in really strong faith. We paid a visit to Pastor Jonathan's church on Sunday up in the mountains. A tiny little church in a predominately Muslim community. It is making such a difference for the pastor to be preaching God's love for every child. Making sure parents know that their child is special and perfect in His eyes.

God has definitely been speaking for the silent through ETC. Please pray that He will continue to inspire, to change minds, to support and to love our children and their families out in Sierra Leone.

~ Lizzie Jackson



60 SECONDS WITH: IZZY MADAVAN

Izzy was born in Andover where her Dad, Mark, was an Assistant Minister at Andover BC. The family moved to Locks Heath a couple of years later when he took up his present role as Senior Minister with us at LHFC.

After Izzy completed her secondary schooling at Brookfield School, she attended Barton Peveril Sixth-Form College in Eastleigh. There she took Maths, Graphic Design and Product Design at A' level before leaving in June 2018. She has secured a place at the Arts University Bournemouth with effect from September this year to follow a degree course in Graphic Design.

Whilst on her year out, before going to University this year, Izzy is working as an intern at our church and putting her talent to good use by producing graphic designs for Christmas 2018, the 2019 Motto Text and sermon presentations, in addition to leaflets and flyers for other events.

Izzy has enjoyed exploring different aspects of design and creative communication and would like to eventually secure employment in that field. She is keen to employ her talent in a meaningful and worthwhile way to bring good and value to the lives of others.

Coming from a musical family, Izzy enjoys playing music, is fond of jazz, and obtained her grade 8 trumpet when she was 16 years old. She was a member of the Hampshire County Youth Band playing the trumpet which

included a tour of Croatia in 2017. At one point she was playing in over half a dozen bands regularly.

On a Sunday in our church services Izzy can be seen on stage singing with the worship team. Offstage she works with young people of all ages including the little ones of 'KFJ' on a Sunday morning, through to the girls of 'Discovery' and the teenage 'Edge' youth group on a Friday night. She finds all of these activities very rewarding and great fun.

In the autumn of 2018, Izzy travelled with five others from our church to Sierra Leone to work with a charity called 'Enable the Children', supporting disabled children and their families by sharing faith, hope and love. The trip was 10 days long and Izzy was extremely impacted as she visited homes, communities and a hospital where the physiotherapists supported vulnerable disabled children. She especially enjoyed playing with the children and attending a very hot African church!

In 2017, Izzy took part in the 'Tough Mudder Challenge' to raise money for our BUILD project. She completed the 10k obstacle-filled mud-laden run alongside

Hannah Marum and together they had plenty of messy fun whilst raising over £2000.

Looking back on her faith journey, Izzy says she has been attending church since her first week of life! She can point to many significant moments at events such as Spring Harvest, Connect Group retreats, Big Church Day Out and other Christian events over the years which have inspired her to grow in her faith. Also, seeing people involved at bigger events and festivals who have dedicated their lives to serving God has definitely been inspiring for her. Izzy feels that regularly attending retreats and festivals has been a great way to build friendships and to increase her passion for God.

Izzy considers herself fortunate to have received encouragement from so many people and is particularly grateful for her friendship group and her leaders at LHFC who have modelled to her that 'serving really does release blessing'.



Favourite holiday destination

I'd like to go back to Singapore one day. And I did think that Nice was nice!

Favourite relaxation

A head massage from my Dad

Your worst habit

I bite my nails

Your favourite Praise music

'Hosanna' by Hillsong Worship
'Revelation Song' by Jesus Culture

Your favourite pop music

Playlist of 2000's classics – great for loud singing in the car with friends!

Your favourite film of all time

'The Incredibles'

Favourite TV show

'White Collar' on Netflix

Any phobias?

I really don't like looking down on clouds. I'm not afraid of going above the clouds it's just looking down on them! I'm not keen on the curvature of the earth either.

If you could have an endless supply of any food, what would you get?

Margherita Pizza (I have taste-tested these in four continents!)

RECEIVE

ACTS 1:8

POWER

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LHFC Motto Text 2019

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