



   **BacktoChurchSunday**

The Rev Tim Hatwell  
and the congregation of  
**Bishop Ridley Church**  
would like to welcome you  
to a special  
Back **to** Church  
Service at 10.30am on  
Sunday 27th September

**comeasyou**are

Please complete our  
survey on the  
back page

## Times of Services

Sunday	9.00 am	Holy Communion
	10.30 am	Family Worship
	6.30 pm	Dubsters - a group for 11-14 year olds*
	7.00 pm	3 Dub a group for 14-19 year olds*
Monday	9.00 am	Morning Prayer

\* for details contact church office

## Weekday activities

Monday	6.15 pm	Brownies
Tuesday	6.00 pm	Rainbows
Wednesday	10-12	Babes & Toddlers
	2.00 pm	Wednesday Fellowship 2nd + 4th in term time
	7.00 pm	Music Group practice

## Leaders

Brownies	Sue Davies	020 8301 5531
Rainbows	Pat Waters	020 8304 6748
Babes & Toddlers	Sam Bird	via office
Wednesday Fellowship		via office
Vicar	Rev. Tim Hatwell	020 8298 0065
Church Wardens	Adrian Haughton and Stan Tither	via office
Lay Reader	Fred Woodley	020 8303 7374
Verger	Jack Woodcock	020 8303 1255
Church Office	Clare Wooton	020 8303 9998
	(Administrator)	

Website [www.brchurch.org.uk](http://www.brchurch.org.uk)

My thanks to everyone who has contributed to this magazine whether by writing articles or in printing and distributing it to the parish.

Les Brett (editor)

The views expressed in this magazine are those of individual writers and may not represent those of the whole church.

When you have finished with this magazine please put it in your green recycling box

Sharing the love of Jesus in our community.

Dear Parishioners, Residents and Friends,  
**Back to Church Sunday – 27th September**

The very first Back to Church Sunday was held in Greater Manchester in 2004 when 160 churches united around a ‘missing you’ message on one single Sunday in September. On that Sunday, BBC Radio 4 news bulletins carried the story of one day when more than 1000 people came back to church again.

Those first 160 churches were spurred on by the Bishop of Manchester, Nigel McCulloch, who launched Back to Church Sunday at St Ann’s Church in the city centre. Children from a Church of England Primary School in Ainsworth joined the Bishop and sang ‘when the saints come marching in’ for the TV cameras.

Since then, ‘Back to Church Sunday’ has gone from strength to strength. In only 5 years, thousands of churches throughout the United Kingdom from a variety of denominations have celebrated this special day on the last Sunday of September. Indeed, figures show that in 2008, 37,000 people came back to church through the invitation of friend.

I don’t know how many of you have some background in going to church, even if it is only once a year at Christmas, or for a baptism, wedding or funeral. If you are not someone who has been to church for a while, then I hope that at the very least you have a friend who is willing to invite you to come along and join us at Bishop Ridley (or any other church, come to that) at the main service on the morning of 27th September.

If you don’t know of anyone who goes to church, perhaps you would consider coming along anyway. I hope you will be surprised at the welcome you get and that you will enjoy the service.

Celia Lawton-Livingstone was invited by her friend Carole to St Luke’s, Colchester, on Back to Church Sunday 2008. She commented: “I was surprised when I got to the church that morning. It was different to what I’d imagined, and the people were very friendly. I didn’t feel like they were trying to shove religion down my throat, they let me make up my own mind. It was a very relaxed and welcoming atmosphere, just like one big family. I would recommend it to others: you never know where it could lead you. My whole life has changed completely in the last year.” Now Celia is attending regularly and hopes to be confirmed later this year.

So, may I invite you to join us for our special Back to Church Sunday service at 10.30am on Sunday 27th September.

We’d love to welcome you to Bishop Ridley Church.

We do invite you to...**comeasyouare**

Sincerely yours,  
Tim Hatwell  
Vicar

## Home Groups

For the past couple of years many of the congregation have enjoyed an Easter morning breakfast in the scout hut over the road from the church.

Chief goods and bottle washers (Sue, who helps run the Brownies, and her husband Hugh) were in charge of the kitchen and the event was organised by the 'Green Team', the home group which meets in a house in The Green, who did the shopping, setting up taking of orders, waiting on tables and clearing up.



This is just one example of a home group truly functioning as a team to show the love of God to friends and neighbours; I'm sure there are many others.

The Green Team meets once a week in term time, though I believe other groups meet fortnightly; frequency doesn't matter. What does matter is studying God's Word and the resulting friendships which develop and the care and love which members show for each other. We get to the Lord better and we also get to know one another better.

Discussions can be initiated by any number of methods: - reading a particular Christian book; listening to a tape or CD; studying a passage in the Bible. Everyone has a chance to voice opinions, or not, if they are a bit shy and retiring. There's usually a drink and a biscuit, and within a few weeks of starting to meet the small fellowship will have grown in faith, companionship and maybe numbers.

It's a worthwhile and enjoyable way to spend an evening. Why don't you find a home group to join or even start one up yourself? I'm sure you won't regret it

Margaret Robinson.

# **JOB ANNOUNCEMENT**

The Kingdom of God is hiring!

Are you ready to apply? Do you qualify?

**JOB TITLE:**

Disciples for Christ

**JOB DESCRIPTION:**

Tell the dying world how to live through Jesus Christ

**NUMBER OF AVAILABLE POSITIONS:**

Unlimited; everyone is welcome--preachers, teachers, singers, musicians, missionaries, custodians, food servers, and numerous others that we just can't list them all here

**EXCEPTION TO AVAILABLE POSITIONS:**

The vacancy of BOSS has already been filled by the Holy Spirit

**QUALIFICATIONS:**

Must have previously sinned and been blood washed; must be willing to press toward the mark of the high calling in Christ Jesus

**EXPERIENCE NEEDED:**

None necessary; experience will be earned through on-the-job training

**EDUCATION:**

The Holy Spirit will teach you all things

**BENEFIT PACKAGE/SALARY:**

God (the employer) shall supply all your needs according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus

**Medical Aid Insurance:**

Access to the Master Physician Plan

**PACKAGE ALSO INCLUDES:**

Love, joy, peace, patience, long suffering; Lawyer, Comforter, and a Wonderful Counselor

## Fruits

In each blank is the name of a fruit found in the Bible (unless otherwise stated)

1. Which most famous fruit of the holy Land is not even mentioned in the Bible?
2. He kept him as the .....of his eye
3. The rod of Aaron yielded.....
4. A golden bell and a .....upon the hem of the robe (of the priest)
5. The fathers have eaten sour....., and the children's teeth are set on edge.
6. I was a herdsman and gatherer of.....
7. Now learn the parable of the ..... tree.
8. Lo in her mouth was a .....leaf.
9. We remember the cucumbers, and the .....', and the leeks and .....
10. When thou hearest then sound in the tops of the .....tree, then bestir yourself



## Looking back

The theme of this magazine is 'Back to Church' and it prompted me to look at my life and how the church has played a part in it.

As a youngster the nearest church to us was a Methodist Mission. I went there every Sunday afternoon for the children's service, Tuesday evening for cubs and Friday evening for scripture lessons. On Wednesday evenings I attended the local Anglican Church for choir for choir practice and I sang in the choir on Sunday mornings and at special services. As a teenager I graduated to Scouts with the inevitable Parade services. I enjoyed life in the Scouts especially when we went to Gilwell, the Mecca of the Scout movement.

When I left school I got a job in the City as an office boy in a company connected with the Stock Exchange. I was able to join the 1<sup>st</sup> Cadet Battalion of the Royal Fusiliers. We wore the uniform of WW 1 soldiers, tunics with brass buttons, trousers with puttees and webbing which we had to blancoe; we felt like proper soldiers and attended many church services and were always in the Lord Mayors Show.

We did our drills and training either inside the Stock Exchange or in the Guildhall, beneath the statues of Gog and Magog, and on the Parade ground of the Honourable Artillery Company barracks in City road. We often did guard duty there. One of our training officers was Regimental Sgt Major Britten, reputed at that time to have the loudest voice in the British Army; he was in the Coldstream Guards.

Our company perfected a system of physical training where no orders were given and we gave our display to the sound of a whistle and the music played by our drum and fife band. We got so good at it that we were often called on to give PT displays. One of these was in Brussels as guests of the Belgian Stock Exchange in front of King Leopold. On another occasion our whole battalion went to Paris and we gave our display in front of President Le-Brun. After this we went to a service at the tomb of the unknown warrior followed by a march led by our full brass band through the Arc de Triomphe and along the Champs Elysee. It seemed as though the whole of Paris was out to cheer us on; it was a most memorable occasion. I think they thought we were the British Expeditionary Force as Hitler was beginning to cause problems then.

When World War II came I joined the RAF and again there were many church services, including some very sad ones when we were burying fellow members who had died in combat. I was in firing parties over the graves of comrades a number of times; I remember them all on Remembrance Day.

After the war I joined the Metropolitan Police and although we had church services they were not as often as in previous years. The vicar from the church a short distance from the Police station was a regular visitor to the station and the married quarters where we lived. As a Class 1 driver I was permanently drive a police area car and there were a number of times when I muttered a fervent prayer for divine intervention when we were

on our way to an emergency call!

The vicar was very resourceful and knew where to come when he needed help. They had an old coach, in very good order, which they used to take church members to various functions and also to take the Scouts on camping trips. The vicar always asked our superintendent for the loan of a police driver to drive the coach and he seemed to like me because he always sent the vicar to me and gave me permission to drive the coach in lieu of duty. I enjoyed this as a break from routine.

To drive a coach with paying passenger you need a PSV licence which I did not have; this was not a problem as my passengers did not pay any fares. On one occasion I was taking a coach full of singing scouts to a campsite in Hertfordshire when we were stopped by the local constabulary and I was asked for my PSV licence. I told the officer that it was a coach owned by the church and the passengers did not pay any fares. This would have been OK but one of the scouts who had been listening to the conversation shouted out “Does that meant that you are going to give all our fare money back?” There was silence for a moment then the scout master grabbed him by the woggle and threatened him with cookhouse fatigues for the holiday and told him to tell the truth. After he confessed he was only joking we were on our way.

My attendance at church during that time was rather sparse. Then in 2004, after 62 year of married bliss my dear wife Gracie passed away and I was devastated. I needed help, spiritual help, and I came to Bishop Ridley for that help which was quickly forthcoming. I found help and consolation among the many friends I found there. They were so kind and many of them were in the same situation as me having lost loving partners; together we found strength in each other. It was, and still is, so good to have so many friends to help me when I need them and their comfort. Each time that I go to the church I feel that I am close to my Gracie as I know she is in God’s heaven, and for me going to church brings her nearer to me.

So once again I am a regular member of the church, or as regular as I can be and I remind you once again of the theme of this magazine – “Back to Church”  
God Bless, Bill Clark

## **Quiz Answers**

1. Dates
2. Apple Deut 32.10
3. Almonds Numb 17.8
4. Pomegranate Exod 28.34
5. Grapes Ezek 18.2
6. Sycamore Fruit (Wild Fig) Amos 7.14
7. Fig Matt 24.32
8. Olive Gen 8.11
9. Melons and Garlic Numb 11.5
10. Mulberry/Balsam (depending on version of Bible consulted.) 2 Sam 5.24



## Love is...

Many years ago Christian Family Magazine took a look at 1 Corinthians chapter 13 where St Paul talks about love. This is what they came up with as a more modern interpretation set in the midst of family life:

Love is patient - even when milk is spilled for the third time in one day.

Love is kind -and never says what we deserve to hear.

Love does not envy - when he sleeps and you are up all night with sick children.

Love does not boast - even when you've lost 5 pounds and she hasn't.

Love is not proud - but is willing to be the first to say "I'm sorry".

Love is not rude - but speaks to family members as courteously as to guests.

Love is not self-seeking - even if it IS your turn to choose,

Love is not easily angered - even if he did forget your anniversary.

Love keeps no record of wrongs - and never says "I told you so!"

Love does not delight in evil—but rejoices in the truth.

Love always protects - the innocent until proven guilty.

Love always trusts - and expects the best of others.

Love always hopes - to reconcile differences.

Love perseveres - in accepting family members AS THEY ARE, not as you want them to be.

Love never fails to make a strong and loving family.



# Back 2Church

Back to Church Sunday : 27<sup>th</sup> Sept 2009

“Come as you are” special service - 10.30am

What is a church?

A common misconception is that it is a building, some ancient edifices, others modern. However, a church comprises the people who attend and are, if you like, “living stones” of the church, wherever they are located in the community to share their faith and love of Jesus.

Why don't people go to church?

Many reasons are given, some are easily understandable others less so. For example, in a survey of the parish many years ago, I was advised by the parents at one home I called at that they had fallen out with the vicar who had requested that they should attend church if they were considering having their child baptised. I asked how old the child was and learnt that he was now 21. In that time we had had 3 vicars and there had been many changes in many aspects of church life. I asked if it want time to relent and pay the church a visit; “maybe” was their reply. Why do we hold on to past hurts which cloud our judgement for the future?

There's one thing to be sure, God's love never changes. He always keeps the door open and offers a warm welcome, with arms open wide to receive you,

What have you go to lose?

Well that's another story, but you should know that Jesus died for us all so that we can have the opportunity of enjoying a life-changing relationship with God.

We as a church want to share the love of God in our community. We'd love to see you at this special service. Please 'come as you are' with an open mind and heart. You'll find a warm welcome awaits you from the church family but most of all, from God, who will be overjoyed to see you, as each one of us is so special, valued and loved by him.

Stan Tither.

Please complete our survey  
then tear off and return to:

Church Administrator  
The Vicarage  
Bishop Ridley Church  
The Green

# Parish Survey



*Please circle or tick your responses*

1 How often do you attend church?

Weekly

Monthly

Once or twice a year

Never

2 If you attend a church, which one do you go to?

3 If you never or hardly ever go are there any particular reasons?

We would be pleased to hear your honest opinions.

4 If we were able to address your reason(s) for not coming to church would you consider attending an event or service we invited you to?

Yes

No

If 'yes' could you please let us know your name and contact details so that we can get in touch with you:

Name

Address

Tel

Email

Many thanks for your help. The information provided will be used solely to understand how we can serve our community to the best of our ability.