

Bristo Baptist

M a g a z i n e

September / October 2006

Doing a New Thing



Bristo Baptist Church

41 Buckingham Terrace / 1 Queensferry Road, Edinburgh EH4 3DJ

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Editorial



See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?

(Isaiah 43: 19a NIV).

I've been involved in Bristo for twenty-eight years now. In that time there have been many changes. Not just in the congregation, which is natural over such a long period, but in the way we 'do church' and in the way we worship. And I can guarantee that even in another year or two, things will be different again.

Why? Because God is a God who loves to do new things and see His people do new things. He is the Creator and 'makes all things new' (**Rev. 21: 5 AV**). Not only when Christ comes again but NOW in our own lives (**2 Cor. 5: 17**).

In this issue you'll read about several ways God is 'doing a new thing' in Bristo and its people. A special welcome to our four young interns – not only is the intern programme a new thing for Bristo but each of them is doing a new thing too. Encourage them!

Robert Mill

Dear Friends,

Doing a New Thing!

Well, we certainly are.

As always, there are new people coming among us at Bristo. And in mid-August, our interns started up, and we welcome Tima (team leader) and Yulia (children's work liaison), together with Matt (youth work liaison) and Lesley (worship and praise liaison) to join us in our ministry team. I am delighted to have these motivated people join the folk of Bristo in this new season of advancing the work of God's Kingdom together.

And then there is the autumn programme! The weekend at Allnacriche, welcoming of foreign students, working with local schools and making contact with the community. These are important activities. But when added to all the busyness of our daily lives and the strain of rushed relationships, it can all sometimes feel or seem a bit much.



And that's why it is so important that we spend time in the presence of the rescuing, reviving, refreshing and renewing God, Thing. Newness is the nature of God's presence. Like fresh air gushing into a stuffy, stale room. Our heavenly Father well knows that we easily get into ruts of routine and grooves of godlessness. So He is always ready to renew and revive us with the presence and power of His Spirit.

Two things about this. Firstly, the New Thing is not an unknown path. Because the journey along which God our Father longs to take us further is into the path of Jesus Christ. If you want to know where God is leading you, look at what happens with Jesus! As Jesus Himself said, *anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing (John 14: 12)*. Now, this means not that we have to try extra hard; but rather, that God will enable us to operate in that same dimension of ministry and faith that Jesus operated in: *I tell you the truth, the Son can do nothing by*

himself; he can do only what he sees his Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son also does (John 5: 19). Our getting into this way is possible only because of what Jesus has done for us all. And what a relief this is! It's God Himself who will enable us to get out of the trenches of despair and get into the paths of purposeful productivity.

Secondly, this is only a path that it is possible to enter if first we find the way to the place of the enabling and guidance that comes through the Holy Spirit. It is the Spirit who guides us into the New Thing. It is the Spirit who shows us and tutors us in the way of Jesus. We have to meet with and open ourselves to the presence and touch of the Holy Spirit upon our lives.

So, as bright summer draws to a close and the cooler shades of autumn come towards us, take time to gather in the presence of the Spirit and to be still before God. And let Him guide and enable us in the path of the New Thing that He is doing.

In His love,
Jim

PRESENTATION TO MEL AND JANICE

In advance of their final move south to Crewe, a presentation to Mel and Janice Clarke took place during the morning service on Sunday 27th August. The church had commissioned William Revolva to do a painting, and this was unveiled during the presentation to reveal a beautiful picture, titled "Descending Glory". It is a skyscape showing the Bristo building silhouetted against early morning light, with a descending angelic being in the form of a dove.

Janice will be writing a 'farewell message' in a future issue when they eventually move south.

Robert Mill



INTERNS DOING A NEW THING AT BRISTO

The Bristo fellowship welcomed four interns during August and they are settling down to life in our midst and considering ways in which they can reach out, especially among the community of international students. They will also be running a holiday club some time during the October school holiday week.

Their time is to be spent partly working or doing volunteer work in the community, partly studying theology by distance learning and partly in ministry activities among the fellowship. Tima, Yulia and Lesley live in the church flat and Matt lives with his parents on the south side of Edinburgh.

But first, here is a little background about each of them.

Yulia Cheprosova is 22 and is married to **Tima Cheprosov** aged 26. They come from Voronezh, which is 350 miles south-east of Moscow. Their home church has seven hundred members and they were married there in May 2005. They both met Jim in Prague while

studying at the International Baptist Theological Seminary (IBTS). Tima spent three years there doing a Masters in Theology and starting his PhD in Character Formation and Preaching. Yulia did a one year course, the Certificate of Applied Theology. Yulia has two older sisters, and Tima is the second oldest in a family of seven – he has five younger brothers and an older sister. Yulia likes badminton and working with children. Tima plays the piano and likes volleyball and football. They are looking forward to leading the Tuesday cell group in the church flat, to volunteer work in local schools and developing as many contacts with the community as possible.

Matt Baines is 25 and latterly lived in Oldham in Lancashire. He has a qualification in Children's Evangelism and Nurture and has eight years experience in full time and voluntary children's work. His parents moved to Edinburgh at the beginning of August and he has a brother and sister in Blackburn. He likes movies, going to the gym and comic books. As well as getting to

know Edinburgh, Matt is looking forward to developing both as a Christian and as a person and seeing what God has for him next.

Lesley Armistead is 22 and the sister of Gareth who was with us for three months in 2004. She graduated this year with a BA in European Studies and French. She feels the Lord has led her to Scotland for now and she is looking forward to working with the youth and making a contribution to their lives. She is also looking forward to what she can learn from Jim and to

what God is going to do in her life. Lesley is excited about devoting a year of her life to the Lord and about getting to know people in the church. She has found everyone really loving and caring so far and desires to be able to give something back.

So that is just a snippet from each and, if you want to know more, then spend time with each of them, invite them for meals and get to know them. But most of all, please remember them in your prayers.

Andrea Mill



Left to right: Matt, Lesley, Yulia, Tima.

WEDDING

Congratulations to *John and Sonya Cooper* who were married on Friday 24 June. We wish God's richest blessings upon them as they begin their new life together.

HOLIDAY CLUB

There will be a children's holiday club in Bristo during the schools holiday week in October. Watch out for further details on the weekly intimation sheet and, if you have children, bring them, and their friends, along for a FUN TIME!!!!

TREASURER'S REPORT: AUGUST 2006

I'd like this month to summarise the financial progress we've made so far this year as a church.

<u>General Income</u>	<u>Budgeted Income</u>	<u>Income to date</u>
Church Offerings	£40,000	£16,894
Tax Refund	£7,000	
Rent	£2,400	£800
Use of Halls	£8,000	£2,570
Sundries	£200	
Total	£56,700	£20,264

Assuming a required income of £750 a week to meet the expected budget, there is a current projected shortfall of £528.

<u>Special Income</u>	<u>Budgeted Income</u>	<u>Income to date</u>
Designated Offerings	£2,550	£556
Thankoffering & Mission Fund	£3,500	£496
Total	£6,050	£1,052

Giving to the mission fund and designated offerings is considerably down on last year's figures. Please remember to use your monthly designated offering envelopes.

The following table summarises our expenditure so far this year, and with the exception of extra refurbishment expenses we're pretty much exactly on budget.

<u>Expenditure</u>	<u>Budgeted Expenditure</u>	<u>Expenditure to date</u>
Employment	£32,500	£8,320
Supply	£1,000	£100
Energy	£6,200	£1,460
Insurance	£2,880	£2,880
Refurbishment	£1,000	£4,000
Furniture & Equipment	£2,300	
Repairs	£3,000	
Tuning	£150	£98
Council Tax	£2,600	£840
Repairs to Manses	£2,000	
Phone	£800	£240
Office	£500	£40
Subscriptions	£800	
Children & Young People	£650	£185
Outreach / Publicity	£1,200	
Literature & Copyright	£500	
Care Van	£100	
Fellowship	£500	
Sundries	£1,000	£278
10% Tithe to Mission	£5,760	£2,026
Fund from General Income		
Total	£65,440	£20,467

Paul Watson

DOING A NEW THING AT CLAN GATHERING



The Dwelling Place and lunchtime crowd.



Worship in the Dwelling Place.

Images taken from: www.new-wine-scotland.org/2006_pictures.htm

Robert, Caroline, Adam and I went to the annual CLAN Gathering conference in St. Andrews in July. CLAN stands for Christians Linked Across the Nation and aims to build up and equip the church in Scotland. It is part of New Wine and has grown from around 150 when we first went 9 years ago to about 5,000 this year. Because of this growth, this year CLAN itself did a new thing and moved from its old site at Madras College to a big new site at Strathtyrum next to the University on the west side of the town.

The teaching and worship were excellent as usual and there was also a wide range of seminars and a full range of children's work.

For the first time this year I joined the ministry team having attended a full day of training prior to the event. It was a wonderful experience to pray for people, to see the Holy Spirit come upon them and to witness God at work. Some of them fell down as they met powerfully

with God and I know that was nothing to do with me! One of these was a lady in her seventies who lay on the floor for quite a while. At the end of the evening she came up to me and gave me a big hug because of the amazing meeting with the Lord she had experienced. Another lady the Lord despite a long time of being prayed for. But God is gracious and does not force Himself on anyone.

I learned from taking part on the ministry team that God touched people no matter how I was feeling. My part was just to be obedient and pray.

Adam also did a new thing as a helper for the children's work. He was a real asset when they played sport and games and generally ran around doing whatever he was asked. The leaders said he was a 'star' and did much better than they had expected. Adam gained a lot too as he developed a real sense of responsibility.

Caroline moved up to the Youth age group and enjoyed being part of the older crowd. Robert also was blessed especially by Mark Stibbe's seminars about the church going out into the world to meet the spiritual hunger that is there in society. Mark said his main worry is that the church does not wake up in time and misses out on the golden opportunity to pray for people and see

them experience God. His team testified of when they went to a spiritualists' fair and offered to pray for people and told them far more than the spiritualists – and for free!!

So we all had a great time and would highly recommend it to you for next year.

Andrea Mill

COMING EVENTS

BMS Women's Meeting

The speaker at the BMS Women's meeting on *Wednesday 20 September* will be Doreen Murray from Granton who was with the BMS summer mission in Bulgaria so has special interest for us. The meeting begins at 1 p.m. Information on notice board.

City Praise, 22 October

The next City Praise organised by Origin Scotland will be in the Usher Hall, *Saturday 22 October*. Tickets from £8 /£6 concessions from Usher Hall Box Office or phone 228 1155.

Baptist Union Assembly

This year's Assembly will be from *Friday 27 – Sunday 29 October* in Aberdeen. The theme is 'World Service'. More details from Christine Lumsden, or from the PowerPoint presentation on the BU website (which forgets to give details of date or venue!).

Evangelical Alliance

The Rev. Fred Drummond, the new General Secretary of the Evangelical Alliance has written,

"I think that it can be an exciting adventure as we go forward together. There are many challenges that we all face as we seek to serve Jesus at this time, but the Lord is faithful ... This is a time for us to work together, bringing healing and a prophetic voice into our communities."

He mentions his excitement at his call to be General Secretary and invites us to join him through prayer and partnership as God calls us to make a difference together.

Christine Lumsden

Service Times

Sunday

Morning Celebration (including Junior Church) 11.00 a.m.
 Evening Celebration 6.30 p.m.

Tuesday / Wednesday / Thursday

Cell Groups (refer to weekly sheet for times / locations)

Monday

Prayer Meeting 10.00 a.m.
 International Soup 12 noon
 Badminton Club 6pm - 10pm

Tuesday

Home from Home 1.00 p.m.

Friday

IT Youth Club 7.30 p.m.

Saturday

Morning of Prayer 9.30 a.m.

Treasurer:
 Mr. Paul Watson
 jonahhams@btinternet.com

Minister:
 Rev. Dr James Purves,
 25, Orchard Road South,
 Tel. (Church Office) 332 3682
 (Home) 332 3967
 bristobc@onetel.com

Administrator:
 Miss Christine Lumsden,
 80, Slateford Road,
 Tel. 337 3644
 christinalumsden@btinternet.com

Magazine Editorial Team:

Features Editor:
 Mrs. Andrea Mill,
 Tel. 476 3938
 andrea.mill@blueyonder.co.uk

Editor:
 Dr. Robert Mill,
 59, Craigcrook Avenue,
 Tel. 476 3938
 robert.mill@blueyonder.co.uk

Production Editor:
 Mr. David Polland,
 Tel. 339 4390
 david@queensferry.freerve.co.uk

