

### Pastor's Letter

Dear Friends,

Greetings from myself and fellow-elder Chris Fry. It is hard to believe how much has been happening since the last newsletter. You will read about some of them in these pages.

We have reached out in times of Mission, the building has undergone big structural change, dear members of our fellowship have suffered times of illness—some of it life-threatening—and God has provided for us in miraculous ways.

*We go in faith,  
our own great weakness feeling,  
and needing more each day  
your grace to know;  
yet from our hearts a song of triumph pealing,  
'We trust in you, and in your name we go'*

God has made the Christian life to be this extraordinary mixture of strength and weakness, of vulnerability and protection, of human frailty and Divine Sovereignty. And this is what we have been finding. Paul experienced the same things which he records in 1 Corinthians 4.

*We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed but not in despair; persecuted but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed... (vv8,9).*

God tends to put his servants into this position when he is using them. The result is a curious combination – like finding “treasure in jars of clay”. But it is calculated “*to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us.*” (v.7) And furthermore the trials and troubles of God's people serve to remind them of the true perspective within which their lives are positioned.

*... our light momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. (v.17).*

We are meant to focus on the glory that awaits – that is the only way to make sense of the present.

*We fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal. (v.18)*

So let us continue to trust him, living and speaking in bold faith. Let us continue to pray for the working of his miraculous, resurrection-power Almightyness. Let us not be surprised at trials that show our weakness. And let us continue to focus our eyes on the time when he will make all things new.

With all best wishes in the Lord Jesus,

*Philip Wells.*

# News from the Pews

*Here we have some members' experiences of the Christian life at Calvary and elsewhere. Sorry about the title: I could not resist it even though we do not actually have pews! (Ed.)*

## **Thanking God for the Universal Church: One Sojourning Family's Experience**

*How good and pleasant it is when brothers live together in unity! (Psalm 133:1)*

We came to visit Calvary on our second Sunday in the United Kingdom. The first Sunday was spent trying to figure out where to buy groceries, how to navigate the bus system, and unpacking our clothes. Having come from the United States with my husband and three-month-old son, we weren't sure what to expect. We'd been direly warned that Britain's church was dead; dominated by liberal Anglicans and an aging faithful few suffering in the pews. With trepidation, we prayed and scouted websites. To our surprise we found many independent, evangelical churches just in Brighton. We had a choice, and we chose to visit Calvary first because it seemed a very close fit for us doctrinally, and there were lots of events scheduled like a regular parents and toddlers group, and monthly men's breakfasts.

We were warmly greeted on our arrival at the church, the sermon was sound and edifying, and we were invited to share lunch at the home of Brenda and Steve Ellacott. The Ellacotts graciously entertained us for the whole afternoon and we joined them in returning for the evening service. The ministry of the Word, the fellowship of the saints, and the time in

prayer were just what we needed after a hard first week away from home. We were so thankful to the Lord for guiding us to a new church home so quickly, and thankful to the members of Calvary for their warm welcome and encouragement. As we left the church, we realized that we'd had a false preconception about the state of church life in Britain. Instead of remembering the universality of the gospel, we'd gotten caught up in cultural prejudices. God's people and his church are everywhere. The gospel truly does transcend borders and we are just as much brother and sisters with believers in Pakistan, Iraq, and Uganda as we are with believers who happen to share our nationality.

Over the months our church family has shared their homes and meals with us, given us lifts, prayed with and for us, and given us much needed advice. They've shared their lives, their homes, and their time with us. When I look back at the church in Acts, I see the same thing happening. When I think of my church experiences at home, I can share much of the same testimony. This is the beauty of the gift of the Church that Christ has died for. This is a vital means of spiritual, emotional, and physical strength that God has given us all as we sojourn on this earth. For we are all strangers and pilgrims. Let us not neglect this means of blessing and serving one another. I thank God for the beauty of the church, imperfect as she may be, and pray that I may

serve more faithfully in the body of Christ.

*And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching. (Hebrews 10: 24–25)*

*Brian, Jordan & Iain Douglas*

**Being part of the Church at Calvary: Viewpoint from a family with children of Primary School age (and younger).**

At the outset we want to start by counting the Lord's blessings to us as a family within the local church at Calvary. (The list is not exhaustive!)

- Love and interest for the children and for us parents from the fellowship: we are all thankful for the willing carers after the service.
- Full use of the crèche and Sunday Club- thanks to all the workers
- Front row places at baptismal services!

Matthew (almost nine and a half) can answer most questions during the children's talk. He tries out the piano afterwards; looking for a lesson? He has wanted to stay and listen to some sermons with the grown-ups during the past. During two summer holidays he has been content to be with his sister in Sunday Club. Chloe (almost 7) helped her younger brother experience informal Sunday Club sessions this holiday. She reads more and gets fully involved in Sunday Club. She is happiest when talk-

ing about dogs or other pets. Jonathan (now 3 years old) is happy to be with every crèche helper. He is excited about Sunday Club and will probably be ready to transfer up in January.

Matthew and Chloe have the benefit of attending a Church of England school with a Biblical ethos. They are used to hearing the truths of the scriptures at school and at home which helps them to participate and feel at home on Sundays. All three of them would be thrilled to have more children coming to join them on Sundays. Please continue to pray with us for more families to be added to the church. It is with great joy that we now have the use of the new crèche completed as part of the building project that took place this autumn. It is a wonderful space for parents/helpers with little Iain and Eben from which to view and hear clearly.

Please pray for the Sunday Club:

- Selection of ongoing teaching material to be finalised
- Knowing how to cater for the balance of ages in 2008
- Gospel fruit.

*Roger & Julie Kinross*

**Born Again 1952**

*So I will be with thee: I will not fail thee, nor forsake thee. (Psalm 71:17,18)*

That was a promise made to Joshua (1:5). Well, I can truly say that this is my testimony too over the past 55 years. As a young teenager I came to faith believing that Jesus was the only Way, the Truth and the Life, and that in love and mercy He

found me and I trusted in Him, and that Jesus died to forgive our sin and accept us as His own. I believed as Scripture says that God chose us before the foundation of the world. Looking back I know now that the Lord had a plan for my life: My mother sent me to Sunday school at the age of five along with my brother and sister. It was there that I learnt the stories of Jesus and many other stories from the Bible. I had a lovely class teacher whom we all loved very much. So I was part of our local Methodist church all through my young years in the village where we lived in South Wales. We were very much part of the Second World War as our own village had an RAF camp. We had many night raids due to the camp flying out RAF personnel day and night over to Germany. We even had a big bomb drop at the end of our avenue but it landed the other end from us where there was a service personnel Christian rest and recreation room. I think that some were killed or injured that night, but I could see that God's hand was upon me even in that situation because the bomb could have easily landed our end of the avenue. How the Lord graciously brought us through that war time!

I was by then in the youth group at church. Our Pastor, Rev. Kendrick, took us to a Youth for Christ rally where we had ministry from Stephen Olford and Alan Redpath. The message was on The Cross and how Jesus died for our sin. That night I realised I needed Jesus' forgiveness and for Him to come into my life as my Saviour—that changed my life. I enjoyed Bible studies and I was allowed to help in the Sunday School at that time. I remember going into the class that Sunday

morning after the youth rally and knowing that, as I was telling the little ones the story in the lesson, it was all so different: it now came from my heart not my head. I praise God that for me it was confirmation that Jesus had saved me. Also, the hymns I had learnt from childhood were now so much more meaningful to me. I used to give testimonies in song at the church. Sometimes I used to help Pastor with the children's club group and later, when I married Graham, I helped with the YPF.

Much has gone by since we lived in that village most of my married life. Yes, there has been much sadness when my marriage ended, but the Lord has still kept His hand upon me and never left me or forsaken me through all the tears. When I come to the Lord in prayer I know He hears and answers me. I could tell of many prayers that God has answered, and I praise Him for the many people He has brought into my Christian life who have been an encouragement and have loved me and prayed for me. Also the ones God has laid on my heart to pray for and seen come to faith in Jesus Christ, or have been encouraged in their walk on this pilgrim way. I just say thank you to my Saviour and praise Him for the past and go on trusting Him for the days remaining to me to serve Him all the days of my life that I may dwell in His house forever (Psalm 23:6).

*Enid Tipples*

*(Since writing this testimony, Enid has suffered a heart attack, and also learned of the death of her brother in a road traffic accident. However she has recovered well and is still testifying to the Lord's goodness. Ed.)*

# Parents and Toddlers

Our intrepid (and omnipresent) ex-BBC reporter, armed with state-of-the-art recording equipment (what a state it was), went to interview a very passionate *and* compassionate member of Calvary wonderfully gifted in ministering to the needs of all: Katy Fry, who can usually be tracked down by the vapour trails she leaves behind her all over Brighton!

The interview began with a sound check (the equipment, not Katy) and a rapid-fire series of warm-up questions about...nothing of any substance really.

*What's your favourite colour?*

Yellow

*What's your favourite place in the UK?*

Uuuh...Somerset (note it wasn't "aarr, Somerset")

*How many brothers and sisters do you have?*

One sister, one brother

*When is your birthday?*

12th of May (Katy giggles at the incompleteness of this date)

*...yeah, can you finish that?*

19\*\* (dubbed out to protect interviewee....)

*When did you come to Calvary?*

Uh um, 2004...end of

*What's your favourite time of year?*

Spring and summer.....

*Ok that's half of it gone....*

Spring, summer and autumn (cackles of laughter..)

*Alright last one—who's your absolute hero of all time?*

*Ah...aww.....(is she going to say it? Is it Winnie the Pooh? Is it Christopher Robin [an affectionate name for her poor husband, Chris]*

*... is she ... IS SHE ... ????????) ... uuuhhh ... (in a deep whispered but profound voice) ...*

Jesus ... (SHE SAID IT!!!!!!)

Now for the interview proper: Lights, sound and ... action!

*How long have you worked with parents and toddlers in your Christian life?*

Umm, between ten and fourteen years

*So what drew you to that kind of ministry?*

It was a very practical thing because I was asked if I would come and give a helping hand first of all with the Christmas party and then needs...that they were short staffed....as practical as that I have to confess.

*Has it always been a pleasure or are there aspects that, in general, you find a challenge with that kind of ministry?*

Yes umm I've enjoyed it...I enjoy it...I do find it quite a challenge at times as well...do you want me to say in what way?...the little ones, the children I find very easy—I love playing with them and find it very easy but because I'm basically quite a shy person I don't always find it so easy with the mums; I can relate to them but...I can see others can cope with it much easier...so it's just a practical thing. *Specifically at Calvary what have been the main challenges for the team?*

Um, tiredness, busyness...because we'd like to be more prepared just on the practical things of art and craft, and short-staffed because we would love more help really and truly in the kitchen and things like that which isn't the most attractive place to be but just getting teas

and coffees and clearing up...

*Does that mean that these practical things take you away from ministering to the people?*

Absolutely yes, I mean we've been very grateful when Enid or Sarah's popped in and given a helping hand but...

*So what about in the current Calvary situation then—are there any personal hurdles for you?*

Well to be frankly honest there is—and that is what quite a few of us go through at times and that's ups and downs which makes it hard to cope with people. It's never difficult with the children, which is a great blessing...and the little ones...I just don't feel I can give as much as I'd like to in chatting with the mums

*Well, bearing that all in mind then, what spurs you on with it?*

Because there's two of us so that's just great....we spur each other on, and I'm just grateful that Maria's got such a good way with people, she's really good with them...with the mums...so in that aspect we're a good team...and uh it spurs me on because there's a need, such a need in our area and in lots of areas for mums to be able to come in and meet other mums and to be a beacon there...you can feel quite lonely and isolated when you're a mum. It's great because we've got all the toys there and a nice big hall especially good for little boys so they can run around...it's a God-send I think for mums to have that.

*Do you and your co-leader, Maria, have any plans on the drawing board for this new season?*

I think it's ongoing really—just to be there...for the community...the mums and the toddlers...nothing specific...just to keep going.

*In what ways do you see God's hand and influence in this work here?*

I certainly see how he's built up friendships with the mums and the little ones. I haven't seen any coming into the church but it's been lovely just to build up those friendships and see that warmth and friendliness and...see the mums get on well...that they enjoy coming and that they relate to us well...and dads! And dads actually, we've had two or three dads come in. I would say this is definitely God's influence because every good gift comes from him and for us to even have the ability to be welcoming and friendly, I would say it is definitely all from him

*When you pray for parents and toddlers what kind of things do you pray for?*

We pray for safety...for the children because I have been in a group once or twice when there have been accidents. We pray the children get on well together and for wisdom in front of the mums in dealing with those times when they might hit out at each other...and we pray for a warm welcome and that there may be natural opportunities to share something in some way of the Lord...we've particularly prayed that God's atmosphere would be there...that His presence would be felt.

*In the context of this ministry to families is there a specific word from the Bible that inspires you?*

*And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.*  
(Galatians 6:9)

*Cut! Excellent!*

*Christina Summers*

# Sermon Tapes

The preaching and exposition of God's Word is central to the life of our church today, as it has been in the past. For over 30 years, sermons preached at the Brighton Railway Mission, or Calvary Evangelical Church, have been recorded onto cassette tape or CD. These have been immensely helpful, particularly to those who have been prevented from attending the main gatherings of the church family, whether through illness, family commitments or other reasons. But they have also enabled people to catch up on sermons they had missed or to listen again to sermons they found particularly helpful. This has resulted in a library of some 1420 cassette tapes. So with the refurbishment of the building, we have been considering what to do with the tape library. Should we continue to make the recordings available for church members and visitors? Two factors in particular have led us to decide no longer to maintain a tape library. First is the decrease in popularity of cassette tapes, with CDs and MP3s leading the way (this is particularly true of personal audio devices and car stereos). Then, secondly, there is the increase in availability of sermon recordings through the internet (on MP3). For almost two years, this is how our own sermons have been made available, at

[www.calvary-brighton.org.uk/sermons](http://www.calvary-brighton.org.uk/sermons)

In this way, we have been joining a large and growing number of churches that have been making their sermons available through this medium. Believers now have easy access to recordings of many of the finest preachers in the world speaking on any topic and any book of the Bible.

This is a wonderful gift from God.

So what should we do with 1400 tapes? We have decided to convert approximately 100 sermons onto one MP3 CD to keep as a lasting record. This will no doubt be useful in its own right, but will also provide a link with the church's past for any who join the church in the years to come. If you would like a copy of this MP3 CD, please get in touch with Anthony Smith

[anthony@calvary-brighton.org.uk](mailto:anthony@calvary-brighton.org.uk)

The cassettes themselves are made available to anyone who would like them for their personal use (some may well have reached Zimbabwe by now!). If anyone would like some, be sure to contact Anthony Smith before the end of January.

As we look back over so many years of preaching at Calvary, we can give thanks for all that the Lord has accomplished in the lives of so many people through this ministry. And we can look forward to the future with confidence that the same Lord is still speaking through the Bible, giving life and strength to his people as his living and active word is preached.

*As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater, so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.*

(Is 55:10-11, NIV)

*Anthony Smith*

## June “Events Week”

It's not as though we've never done anything like this before—far from it. It was just one of those times when the Lord seems to nudge and stir us and remind us of our mandate to go and preach the gospel and gather in the harvest. But who could ever believe that the dry spiritual wastelands of Brighton could possibly give birth to new life in Christ? Then we remembered that we worship the God of miracles – the One who said to Jonah about sinful Nineveh: “Should I not be concerned about that great city?”

We decided, therefore, that it was time for us to “stick our necks out for the gospel” so by faith we set the dates for some purposeful outreach which we called an Events Week (we thought the word “mission” would scare the Brighton population!). We also thought that, in order to be obedient to Peter's exhortation to “always be ready to give an answer to everyone who asks you a reason concerning the hope that is in you”, we really needed to open ourselves up to the big questions of life and allow people to quiz us about Christianity's answers to them. We had to show that the gospel is not weak, irrelevant or only for fanatics but is absolutely reasonable. This is the theme that we decided to adopt for the church (and have carried on since): Big Questions Big Answers. In the weeks leading up we earnestly planned and prepared literature, posters and specific events and underpinned it all with a week of prayer.

The main platform for evangelism was a book table (or two) and for at least a

month beforehand we spied out the land every Saturday morning in order to gauge the likely response and get ourselves into the spirit of evangelising. When the week was upon us we hit the ground at a steady pace since we knew we were in for the long-haul—this was not to be a one-off effort but a central vibrant aspect of the life of our church from now on. So we flung open the doors of the much-improved building and the doors of our hearts and let the Lord build His Church. We began each day's “labour” not with the English cup of tea and a biscuit but with a far longer-lasting refreshment – the Word of God and prayer. From 10am until 11am we studied the passage in Acts 17:16–34 in which Paul ministers the gospel in Athens—a city with an international reputation, of great learning, great pomp and much idolatry—Brighton all over! This helped us to pray accurately and in line with God's Word so that it might be written on our hearts and ready to be preached on the street. Then we had a cuppa. From 11am – 4pm (more or less) we went into battle and set up book tables along London Road (outside the closed-down Methodist church) and in Marshalls Row at the Open Market. In all we spoke to people from every nation, background and opinion. We gave out thousands of pieces of literature and completed quite a number of questionnaires which were good ice-breakers and helped us understand how people think. Pastor Philip put on his business mantle and visited many of the local traders with whom he had built relations over the years. In all we had 27 people involved in prayer, outreach and/or door-to-door

invitations. Harvest labourers came from the Arab Evangelical Church, the Brighton and Hove City Mission, Haywards Heath Evangelical Church, Church and Off the Fence. It was such a delight and encouragement to have this support; we are so grateful to God for his wider Body.

The four main events during the week produced mixed results but a very useful indication of our grace as a church and the more challenging areas we need to work on. The men's breakfast kick-started the week and was attended by at least 15, a third of whom were non-Christian acquaintances mainly from the streets round about. On the foundations of a fine cooked meal our Elder Chris Fry presented his professional world of bridge-building with some spectacular photos and scenery—who would have thought that such a topic could be so fascinating?! As a gifted spiritual bridge-builder as well, Chris concluded with a short but memorable reference to the greatest bridge-builder of all time—the Lord Jesus Christ. Conversations were had and relationships with our guests continue. The mid-week Puppet Show for the Parents & Toddlers Group presented by the talented and daring Kate Harper was an event we had looked forward to and worked hard in prayer and outreach to ensure a really good attendance. We spoke to many parents with little ones passing by our book tables and the regular members of the Wednesday group were invited. People were very interested and expressed an intention to come but most disappointingly, on the day, only a small handful were treated to a wonderful show. The next generation is of deep

concern to us and we long to welcome in and support the many young families in our area. Our third advertised event was a talk given on the following Saturday evening under the general banner of 'BeThinking' which is a website-based ministry providing excellent Christian thinking and communicating resources. Brian Douglas, an American DPhil candidate at Sussex University and member of Calvary, spoke very captivantly on some of the big culture questions levelled at the Christian faith: are reason and faith opposed? Does Christianity breed violence, intolerance and hatred? Is Christianity simply a set of rules? Aren't all religions essentially the same? It was a masterful demonstration of how to defend the faith and a "cosy" number attended (including students). It's well worth listening to Brian on the Calvary website! The closing event took place on the Sunday evening following some very clear teaching by Philip in the morning service on *Why does God allow suffering?* Having delivered around 1800 invites to houses in the local area and handed out hundreds more we really had some hopes of a good attendance at the 'Any Questions' session. In the end around 30? people made up an audience very curious to see how this new venture at Calvary would turn out! We had a panel of 4 'Calvarians' ready and willing to attempt to answer random questions submitted before the start and filtered by Pastor Philip who was our very experienced chair person. The responses were admirable and certainly comprehensive so that only 5 questions were dealt with in the allotted time. However, several people remained behind afterwards to ask any burning unanswered questions at their

leisure. On the whole it was successful in as much as we proved we could meet the challenge of this kind of confrontation by enquiring strangers and, with further practice, feel that this may well be a key regular event to hold within our community.

Since that week we have continued to set up shop with our book table in the Open Market every Saturday almost without exception. It is now starting to pay dividends as our faces have become familiar with passers-by and relationships of trust and concern are being cultivated. We have since had a second time of outreach (aptly named “Events Week 2”) in October, including another go at “Any Questions?”

*Christina Summers*

## **Building for the Future**

Following some years of uncertainty concerning the church being able to continue in the original Brighton Railway Mission building, the situation changed in late 2004 with agreement between ourselves and the Railway Mission. Since then we have re-slatted much of the roof, undertaken extensive external and internal repairs and redecoration, refurbished the upper hall as offices and associated facilities for the Brighton & Hove City Mission, brought the main hall back into use, replaced the shutter door between the main and back halls, renovated the Viaduct Road frontage with wheelchair accessible ramps flanked by brick walls and railings and generally improved access into and through the building.

This year we embarked on the final stage

of renovation works (as currently envisaged) involving provision of new entrance and crèche areas beneath a new mezzanine floor at the west end of the main hall, improved toilet facilities including a wheelchair-accessible unit and enlargement and renovation of the kitchen. These we believe are works necessary to sustain and grow the church’s ministry in a 21st Century setting.

Following extended negotiations and review of the specification a budget of £50,000 was set aside for this work and we engaged Jonathan Hook—who had done excellent work in the renovation of the Upper Hall in 2005—to do the necessary entrance, crèche, mezzanine floor and toilet works. At the same time we decided to have an Autumn Thanksgiving Offering with a target of £10,000 to help towards the cost and invited past and present friends of the church to be involved. We have been deeply humbled by the most generous giving which resulted in a total offering (including Gift Aid increments) of £21,710. Coupled with a legacy of £17,000 and an anonymous gift from overseas of £12,000—both received this year—we have received a total sum of £50,710 of ‘unexpected’ giving to set against the £50,000 building works budget. We have been heartened by God’s obvious provision, the love and kindness of His people and the remembrance that the church that Jesus Christ builds is truly world-wide.

The building work has gone very well and was substantially completed in late November. Jonathan has worked tirelessly and conscientiously, there have been no reportable accidents, the quality of

work has been high and it seems that those who worked on the job enjoyed it. At the end of the work we held a small 'thank-you' event and were able to give a number of the workers New Testaments and Psalms as a mark of our gratitude and an explanation of what we believe and the good news we want to bring to others—which the building work has enabled. Work on the kitchen is due to begin in January 2008 and we are continuing to decorate and furnish the 'new' areas. (Photos to be included in the next newsletter—or come and see it for yourselves!) On the Sunday following completion of the work we prayed that God would send new visitors on that day as a sign of his intent to build the spiritual church and we saw a number. Please pray on for the building of the church of Jesus Christ.

*Chris Fry*

## **Church Secretary**

Earlier in the year, Steve Ellacott (Publications) and Ray Wingate (Church Secretary/Acting Treasurer) were re-elected as deacons, following the expiry of their three-year term of office in May as well as Roger Kinross (Care Coordinator) whose term expired in September. Following a period assisting the deacons, Anthony Smith was elected as deacon to assist with the church administration.

Elsewhere in this issue, Chris Fry reports on the current building work progress and plans. The legacy from Win Hughes will amount to around £17,000. In the summer we had a very generous overseas

anonymous donation of £12,000 of which we used £2,000 towards general funds and the balance to the building work. Chris has reported on the very generous responses to the 'appeal' for £10,000 for the planned building work. The Lord is able to do more than we ask or imagine as the total, once Gift Aid claims have been made, will be more than double what we had asked for! We trust that the donors, along with the gifts, as from those who have been unable to, will join in our prayers that the spiritual building of the church will prosper even more!

Elsie Taylor is able to join us on Sunday mornings as her health permits and Colleen Moss has moved into a flat just off Edward Street after a period of living with members of her family and ill-health and also has again been able to join us. Enid Tipples suffered a serious heart attack on the way to one of the prayer meetings for the second of our 'Events Week' outreaches but Katy Fry was able to call urgently for an ambulance and following treatment Enid is now recovering well.

The 'BeThinking talks' which have followed on from the earlier 'L'Abri' talks in conjunction with the University of Sussex CU continue from time to time and are available to listen on the calvary website as MP3 downloads. Anthony has been busy keeping the site up to date and including improvements such as a list of events on Google calendars. Following an e-mail from Australia asking if we really did have our Christmas morning service at a strange time, we discovered that access elsewhere in the world shows

our service times as ‘local (wherever you are) time’!

I have been very grateful to Anthony for taking much of the burden of the Secretarial and administrative work from me at the present time. Christine was progressing quite well after the six weeks of Chemo and radiotherapy to the end of May and then the maintenance phase of Chemotherapy, having very few of the anticipated side effects. The scans for the July and September joint neuro and oncology clinics too seemed very positive with agreement for her to continue with the final two chemotherapy treatments, but within a few days of the September clinic she was admitted to Hospital on Sunday 23rd September with painful and weeping legs and a urinary infection. After a period in the Royal Sussex County A&E, short-stay and then Chichester wards she was transferred to Brighton General Hospital (from where she was taken by ambulance to the Cancer Centre for her fifth chemo treatment) Knoll House Intermediate Care in Hove. But following two overnight falls she was admitted to the Martlets Hospice on Saturday 13th October, her sixth move in six weeks. During the weeks in the Martlets they have stabilised some of the problems from the long-term steroid use, including steroid induced diabetes, but she has not regained her mobility. The diagnosis is that the brain tumour (Glioblastoma Multiforme) has returned which is affecting the upper body muscles and balance. It is also now again affecting her sight which seems to be deteriorating further. On 15th November Chris returned home—we have a hospital bed in the downstairs back room and an electric

recliner chair in the front room. Carers come in four times daily as two need to operate the electric hoist to move Chris around and the District and MacMillan Nurses come in regularly.

In view of this we are so grateful that under the Lord’s providence we were both able to attend on Sunday 9 September to give thanks to the Lord’s faithfulness to us on our Ruby Wedding Day. We had stood (just a few hours later almost in the very spot where we were sitting) 40 years previously when the late Les Hill conducted our wedding. Chris was only able to attend one further Sunday Morning service at Calvary, though we have appreciated being able to catch up on missed Sunday sermons by MP3 downloads (I passed ‘milestone 65’ in June and the family purchased me a Dell Laptop, which has proved useful for this). We are so grateful for the support and prayers of so many together with that of our Elders and Deacons the forbearance of late finance reports and the odd errors. In the last edition of the newsletter we said that ‘we are in the Lord’s hands and we pray that His gracious will might be done’. That is still our prayer.

*Ray Wimgate*

## **Who are We?**

Calvary Evangelical Church is a registered charity, no. 1089327. To find out more about us, check out [www.calvary-brighton.org.uk](http://www.calvary-brighton.org.uk)