

★ We were conscious of opposition from one local trader, and probably as a result of this a Council Officer came and enquired about what we were doing. He did not forbid us, or tell us to do things differently, although he expressed the view that the bottom of Anne Street might be a better place than the existing one at Marshall's Row. However we feel we should maintain a presence at the latter since we have cultivated some long-term relationships with several visitors to, and traders in, the market

★ On both Sundays we were able to give clear teaching about the gospel, the wrath of God and the cross of Jesus (June 29th); and the promise that God can give a new heart (July 6th).

The total cost of the week came to approximately £600 including speakers expenses and printing. We thank God for these opportunities to begin to proclaim (like Paul in Corinth) the good news of "Christ and him crucified", and at least people were given the opportunity to

know more and hear more. No-one who was there on London Road will be able to say on the Day of Judgment "you knew that I faced the danger of wrath, hell and judgment, yet you made no effort to tell me of God's mercy and salvation in Jesus Christ, and warn me of what was coming!".

We continue to experience the tension between thanksgiving and tears. We have to report that no-one professed faith, and only one or two newcomers came to the church on Sunday as a direct result of contact on the street. Nevertheless, we are encouraged to refine our approach and keep on keeping on—not just one week a year, but 52 weeks a year. It has been good for the church to express "gospel intentionality" practically, and get outside our comfort-zone for the Lord. In the end we may not know how God has used these efforts in his kingdom until the Last Day itself.

Philip Wells

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



Newsletter

Winter 2008/09

Guarding the heart

Dear friends,

It is sometimes said that the only purpose of the church being on earth is so that she can evangelise. It is of course true that Almighty God's intention is that we redeemed sinners should have the honour and privilege of telling other sinners about Christ and his salvation. Christ will build his church, and he will use us, and people like us, to fulfil his eternal plan.

But I do not believe that is the only reason that he leaves us here on earth. Recently we were looking at the subject of "Spiritual Transformation". I have to admit that I was struck by what an important and personally challenging subject it is. Surely there is a great truth that God is not only interested in numbers and evangelistic growth, but also (and this is the point) he is concerned about what sort of people we are becoming. Our ongoing transformation is the gradual change into the likeness of Christ. It raises all sorts of tensions and questions: we are expected to change, but indwelling sin will always be with us. We are not saved by our good deeds, but we can't be saved without good deeds. There is already no condemnation in Christ, but judgement will be "according to good works". We are active in the process, but nothing will be achieved without the gospel and the work of the indwelling Holy Spirit: *If by*

the Spirit you mortify the deeds of the flesh you will live (Romans 8:13b).

Above all this is a matter of the heart, or better, heart and mind together. I was struck by the weight of texts that talk about being spiritually minded, or (in the more literal translation of the Authorised Version), having the mind of the Spirit rather than the mind of the flesh. Here the mind/heart is the deep core of our being, where we long for things, weigh things, decide what we are really about, plan and scheme and interpret situations.

We are told to guard our hearts (*Above all else guard your heart, for it is the wellspring of life* Proverbs 4:23). Well, do we? The puritan John Flavel said it is a daily work to keep our hearts, "to feed and weed", as we might say. Let us then fix our affections on things above where Christ is (see Colossians 3:1-4), so that he is the one we most desire and his ways and kingdom are where our hearts are set.

Yours in the service of the King,

Philip Wells
(Elder)

Students

We thank God for the regular attendance of students at our Sunday services and our international café on Saturdays. Several foreign students have felt at home at Calvary and have either been encouraged in their Christian walk whilst away from home or wonderfully introduced to Jesus Christ for the first time. We particularly remember Mika from South Korea who, over her 6-month stay, experienced an increasing fluency in the English language and a growing desire to know the Lord and earnestly study the Bible. She returned home late September and, whilst we miss her, we are so encouraged to learn that she has found a church to attend and is reading Scripture daily. We also remember fondly others who have returned to their home nation or to the international mission field and are delighted to receive regular news from them. We think in particular of Sara from Sweden, Loida from Spain and Johan from The Netherlands (now working in Zimbabwe).

We are also delighted to have others still amongst us, not least Jesse & Helem from Brazil who are due to return home in December after 6 months with us. They have been studying English at Olivet School with a view to attending Wycliffe Bible Translators School in a year or so in preparation for their return to the mission field in East Timor. We have so appreciated their fellowship and practical support both in building maintenance and Calvary International Café and we shall surely miss them when they depart and prepare for the arrival of their first child due in May.

We look forward in the weeks and months ahead to supporting many more students, British and international, during their academic life in Brighton and pray that some will choose to remain with us and be part of the spiritual family here at Calvary.

Christina Summers



Events week, July 2008

London Road is a busy, but slightly run-down, shopping street in urban Brighton. Our church building faces London Road and backs onto a residential area of Victorian terraced housing, much of it in multiple occupation. There are 2000 residents, as well as many shops, offices, pubs and other small business in the immediate locality. The recently-redeveloped brown field site near the main station has a new Sainsburys, new flats, and eco-housing. Much more development is planned.

One of the things we have been praying for was to move all sorts of people on one stage in the process of coming to Jesus ... whether it be initial contact, developing friendships, explaining the gospel in detail etc.

★ Interdependence: We are grateful to City Gate (Robbie), BHCM (Tony and Colleen), Haywards Heath Evangelical Church (Jim and Ben), Immanuel (Molly), and our own people who gave up time at work etc (Christina, Chris, Mark, Brenda, Roger, Anthony, Martyn. Also Tom Price (Damaris.org) who was with us for two complete days. We are also grateful to the many other churches who prayed for us.

★ In the end we gave out nearly 5000 packs of literature to homes (including the new homes in the New England Quarter) and passers-by.

We are grateful to God for 60+ or more shorter or longer conversations with people whom we got to know by name

and for whom we can continue to pray. (It is worth noting that when people actually came to events it was generally as a result of personal invitations from someone that they already knew.)

★ Some non Church-going people came to the Treasure Hunt, and Sports Event.

A number of international students came to the film evening (“Juno”) and the BeThinking talk.

Some 20 men, about half of whom were non-Christians, came to the men’s breakfast. At least three others sent apologies and asked to come another time.

At the “Any Questions” aka “Grill a Christian” event there was a smaller number of non-Christians present than last year at this time, but compared with last year the questions were less hostile and more in the nature of enquiry. There were some very good questions and answers, including subjects which might not otherwise have been touched on (e.g. “Is God a Socialist or a Tory?”)

★ We were able to develop our relationship with a local diner and pub. A significant door of opportunity opened in a large new local language school centre for many foreign students during an introductory visit.

★ We met up with a number of believers (5-8?) and this was a mutual encouragement.

Community

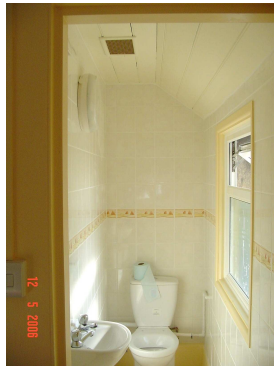
The Lord has graciously answered our prayers for greater involvement in community affairs and we are excited to be part of a number of new and continuing ventures in the area. Much of the momentum has been gained because of the overdue acknowledgement by the Council and other agencies that the London Road area is in urgent need of attention physically, socially, economically and aesthetically. We have a real part to play here as we offer our improved facilities and our input into the new groups that have recently been formed such as

‘Another London Road’, ‘London Road Traders’ Association’ and a ‘Local Action Team’. Additionally, the premises are regularly used by residents’ groups. Suddenly the throughput of people using the building has grown significantly and we look forward to truly being salt and light in the area round about. What a thrill it is to pray for real Brighton issues as they arise and are wrestled with inside our very walls!

Christina Summers



In 2006, the Upper Hall was redeveloped in partnership with the Brighton and Hove City Mission, who are now based here.



Sheffield Park Camp

The photos on this and the facing page record two of the memorable activities from the weekend spent camping near Sheffield Park, with the added atmosphere of tooting from steam engines of the Bluebell Railway.

An early start with physical jerks before breakfast! It was something like PE from the 1970's but more fun!

As evening approached it is time for the camp fire; it only takes a spark. The folks seated in the background tried hard not to show too much interest in the contri-

bution of the two youngsters; who didn't want to retreat once the logs were ablaze. Their older brother, (out of shot) was more circumspect. They all had fun toasting marshmallows later when the embers glowed in the dark.

It's a beautiful spot and we hope to be back there with everyone next August. There's plenty of space if you'd like to give it a try.

The Kinrosses



Building Works

In late 2004 we reached a gracious agreement with the Railway Mission concerning our continued occupancy of the Viaduct Road building and early in 2005 began a programme of refurbishment works which are illustrated in the following photographs, with widespread redecoration throughout the building, all financed by a share of the proceeds from the earlier sale of 70/71 Viaduct Road, a legacy, monies from BHCM in lieu of rent for the Upper Hall and the sacrificial giving of many friends. We have been humbled by the generosity of so many, the timing of all things, competitive pricing, co-operative relationships with contractors, and the safety of all concerned. We are so pleased to be able to enjoy the building and share it with others. It is truly proving to be a place fit for the work of God's kingdom in Brighton in the 21st century.

Chris Fry



Re-slatting the roof

The new mezzanine floor creates extra space, with a welcoming entrance and dedicated creche area below.



The Kitchen before...



and after.

Refurbishment and redecoration of the building have made it attractive to outside community groups (see the article 'Community' on the next page.)



The random odd chairs are samples for possible replacement of our current 60s style seating.



The 'folding wall' between the Main and Back Halls replaces the roller shutters which had served since 1894.