

LBC Update

December 2020



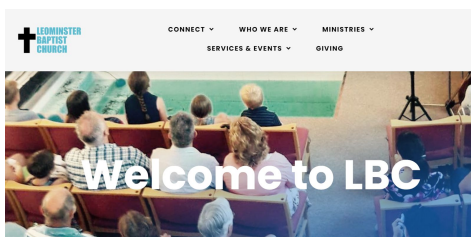
What's going on?

The church building was slowly opening up with some groups beginning to meet but, due to the new lockdown, those had to be put on pause.



But it is a great opportunity for people to get their knitting needles out to create these angels which will be hung from the church railings during December in the same way rainbows were hung during lockdown 1.0 with an invitation to the public to help themselves and take them home. Contact Anne (07464 975737) if you would like the knitting instructions.

LBC Website



<https://leobc.online>

We have a new website that should be able to manage live streaming and online services better. It will also be an easier site to find out information and keep up to date with what is going on. Have a look and let us know what you think.

Hampers

★We need your help by Friday 12th Dec★

We would like to put some hampers together for the ladies that use our local foodshare and foodbank facilities. We want to show them that they are loved and cared for and not forgotten, especially at this time of year when they may not receive any gifts to open themselves. 📺

"How can I help?" we hear you ask! Fill a box or a bag with items from this list...

Shampoo	Lip balm	Hairbrush	Socks
Conditioner	Hand cream	Flannel	Chocolate
Bodywash	Deodorant	Tissues	Biscuits
Moisturiser	Hand sanitizer	Candle	Facemask (pampering type!)

★or you can donate something, as many or few items as you wish (there will be a box by the wheelie bin store at church, or if you are shielding then a pick up can be arranged.)

★or you can donate money towards it and we'll shop for you - we can arrange pick up for this or give out bank details - just contact one of us and we can sort it out

If you would like to help, please can you let us know asap. Thank you in advance.

Leanna Dale 01568 613625 or 07742 355239

Sarah Desborough 01568 750601 or 07974 011873

Craftathon

Would you like to help The Alzheimer's Society from the comfort of your own home?



Norfolk House are holding their annual fundraiser but in a fun, Covid safe way on December 4th in the afternoon. Charlene Barnett, the Well-Being Officer at Norfolk House, invites you to "join them" by ordering a Christmas (or birthday) Card kit for £2 each to make at home. All proceeds will go to the Alzheimer's Society.

Each kit is complete with self-adhesive components so no glue or scissors are needed. Make your card an original by adding or leaving off anything including a selection of greetings. Instructions and an inspiration sheet are included but you will need stamps if you want to send it to someone so don't forget to get some in.

You can place your order for a kit by email or phone for delivery and donation collection after the 2nd December - dennisdowney1@uwclub.net or 01568 614411 (leave a message if busy)

Please order ASAP so Sue Downey has time to prepare the kits.

P.S Why not post a picture of your completed creation(s) in the next newsletter by sending photos to Chris at riceandco@hotmail.com or via WhatsApp.

Leominster Food Share

Cutting down on food waste, increasing access to fresh food

Food Share is an initiative that started earlier in the year when the pandemic took hold. It is supported by local supermarkets and food shops - on a near daily basis we collect “excess” food that would otherwise be thrown away and then make it available to those in the community who could make good use of it. In recent months it has also been supplemented by generous donations from local landowners with surplus produce. It means that fresh food is available to supplement the non-perishables supplied at the Food Bank and also means that food is available on a regular basis for those who don't qualify for food parcels from the Food Bank.

Food Share is available as follows:-

Tuesdays 11:30-12noon Unit 1 Hinton Terrace, New Street

Wednesdays 2-2:45pm Baptist Church, Etnam Street

Fridays 11:30-12noon Unit 1 Hinton Terrace, New Street

Saturdays 2-2:45pm Community Centre Carpark

We also have occasional ‘pop up’ Food Shares around Leominster. Absolutely everyone is welcome so do please share this information with anyone who you think would benefit. For more information, contact Anne (07464 975737)

Family News

Our young people have been finding lots of ways to keep busy and keep smiling



Spending time with family in the great outdoors



Reasons to smile - bonfire night preparations, winning at draughts and finding that first smile



"One day I'll be climbing that high"



Cycling and recycling!

Gwen Trigg has moved into Charles Court Care Home, The Ploughman, Hereford, HR2 6GG

Ministry And Mission

Open Doors in a time of pandemic



The coronavirus pandemic has sent shockwaves around the world and persecuted Christians are amongst the hardest hit by nationwide lockdowns. In India, many church leaders were left on the brink of poverty and starvation. But Open Doors partners were able to deliver vital aid and stand with them in prayer. One church leader, Bala*, says, "There is no income from the church but God has been providing for our day-to-day needs. Last week all our groceries were finished and we had no option but to wait for God's provision. In due time, God has enabled your team to help us. Thank you for providing all the things we need". 76,000 Christians in India have so far been provided with coronavirus relief aid thanks to prayer and support from Open Doors.

For believers from Muslim backgrounds in North Africa and the Middle East, knowing where to turn with questions about the Christian faith or discipleship is difficult. Many are asking their questions on-line and Christians like Mariam* have been able to reach them with the answers they are looking for. In the spring, together with her team and the support of Open Doors partners, she started a series of daily devotionals addressing different fears related to Covid-19 such as that of losing a loved one or the fear of isolation, to help believers understand the situation with a proper theology of the loving God. Mariam says "We have already been in touch with around a hundred people, having deep conversations, and so far nearly 3,000 people from several Arab countries have subscribed to this series. We try to help people discover that God loves them. Yes, it is a big crisis and it is normal to be afraid. But we want to give people hope"

**names changed for security reasons*

SGA



Slavic Gospel Association – one of the missions which we at LBC support - is this year celebrating its 70th Anniversary. In October they usually have an annual conference but, because of the Covid crisis, it was an online event this year. They have now produced the three sessions on DVDs. Bep and I have watched these and found them heart-warming, encouraging and challenging with brief reports from a variety of national believers, pastors, and evangelists from countries in Eastern Europe, Central Asia and the far east of Russia. Each lasts about an hour and are all worthwhile watching either to get acquainted with their work for the Lord or as a reminder for further prayer for their staff, contacts and furtherance of the gospel.

If you would like to borrow the DVDs, please contact Ken on 01568 615166

New Life project

Adonia, Julio and all the team at the New Life project in Santa Faz, Guatemala, want to say a huge “Gracias” for the donation from LBC which, along with some individual donations given around harvest time, meant that we were able to send them £720 - as in previous years this will be used specifically to fund a Holiday Bible School for the children in the community at the beginning of December, with any left over money being used for Christmas celebrations.

The theme for the bible school will be “God is in every stage of my life”, looking at the story of Job and with the main bible verse being Psalm 31 : 15 “My times are in your hands; deliver me from the hands of my enemies, from those who pursue me”. So pertinent!! As with so many things this year, Covid-19 means that they will be working with smaller groups for shorter periods of time in order to reach around 100 children during the week. But, regardless, they have planned a packed programme of worship, games, crafts and bible teaching, not forgetting daily healthy snacks to make sure they are nourished both physically and spiritually.

BCM reminder



Each Christmas, Birmingham City Mission distributes gifts to thousands of children in the city. This year it's not going to be easy to hold a toy collection at LBC, so BCM has set up a special ToyLink Appeal page. Any donations given on this page will be spent on the ToyLink project, supporting many hundreds of struggling families this Christmas.

Donating with give.net is really easy and completely secure. If you are a UK taxpayer, please confirm that you would like to reclaim Gift Aid on your donation. This will add 25p to every £1 you give. Thank you very much. The link is give.net/toylink

Shoebox appeal update



Samaritan's Purse have extended their appeal to take account of the new lockdown. Shoeboxes will need to be packed and ready during the first week of December. They can be deposited in the plastic box in the covered area outside the store - down to the left hand side of the church building. Information on what can go in the boxes can be found at

www.samaritans-purse.org.uk/what-we-do/operation-christmas-child

Yorkshire Camps update

This month we were able to run all the October half term day camps which went really well. I feel like the camps ran very smoothly, all involved had a great time and the campers went home having learned something new. Camps start with all the campers arriving and we play little games with them in our bubbles as they arrive. Then we would go out to play a larger game after the welcome. James and I invented a game called Teddy Bear's picnic which was essentially a

treasure hunt game to find laminated food items for the Teddy that were hidden around the woods which we ran on the first two camps. I feel like I gained a lot of experience controlling kids in this and I think the kids enjoyed it too. We ran other activities that I mentioned in the previous newsletter and also we played lacrosse with the older campers during the fourth camp.

In the first two camps I had a lot of water poured on my head during a quiz where campers tried to fill up a bottle on my head which they could do if they got an answer correct. During the third camp I ran my first dorm time to discuss what Dan had been speaking about in the meetings (About how the bible pointed forward to Jesus in the old testament and how we can look back to Jesus now). I Found the kids to be very responsive and chatty and they seemed to have understood a lot from Dan's talks and seemed to have a greater appreciation of the great gift of Jesus to us all. On the fourth camp I was on the crew team which was quite a nice end to the run of camps and we made sure that everything was kept clean and all the games and activities were set up while the dorm leaders looked after the kids.



Now the lockdown has started we have had to cancel upcoming camps but that hasn't stopped us! During the final week we have been in full creative swing and we created a two part video for the camp that should have been this Saturday complete with games, quizzes, fun, and of course a message. We have also been putting together a Christmas themed magazine aimed at young people which we will be sending out that has a few games, puzzles, devotions, creative things to do and interviews with training team members. On the side we have been asked by a few local churches to record some carols for them.

So there is plenty of stuff happening here aside from the estate days and the Leyland course which has now been moved to zoom. We finished off the week on Saturday when we took a day trip on our bikes and cycled down to Bolton Abbey and had a picnic and a wander around the place. My calves got a very good workout on some of those hills!

This Thursday I gave my talk on 1 Thessalonians 2:7-12 to the course. I got some valuable feedback and lots of encouraging thoughts on it. The course has been extremely jam packed and informative so far and I'm looking forward to continuing to go through the bible in the bible overview course and to hear other people's talks on their passages from Thessalonians. On Wednesdays we have started a zoom bible study and we have had kids from as far away as South France joining us! God's hand has certainly been at play because we had about twelve kids signed up but then in the days running up to the first session the number went up to forty and we still have more people signing up.

This Sunday we were allowed to go to the local church for the remembrance service despite the lockdown and we sang 'Here is Love' for them at the war memorial. I remain massively grateful to everyone who has been supporting me through prayer and financially and I pray that you are all doing well. Here are some prayer points that you might think about:

1. Pray that our work will continue to reach people as we enter this new lockdown and we can no longer welcome kids into the building.

2. Pray for the zoom bible studies that Dan and Dave who are running them have wisdom in planning talks and games and that more and more people join up.
3. Pray that our creative juices continue flowing and that we can finish all the projects we start and that they flourish and are effective.
4. Thank God that we're in such a beautiful place to be locked down in and that this whole area will be blessed.

Alexander Gloag

Youth & Family

When I last wrote I shared about all the up and coming activities we had planned for the youth. Well, as you may have worked out - they haven't happened! But, staying positive, I'll just share a little bit about what has happened in November rather than what hasn't.

This month, three members of our church family have all turned 4! Can you work out who?

Our Sunbeams children have received a scavenger hunt and many have taken part, getting them out to explore. The 'life-illuminated-in-a-bag' bags were all successfully delivered and very well received by the primary children that got them – especially the sugary treats that they contained! Skittles and games have been posted out, taking our lockdown tally of bags of skittles eaten to 120 bags!



We have managed to move the older secondary N-ergize youngsters onto Zoom and have been having weekly discussions. This is a group made up of just girls and during the week beforehand they have been encouraged to watch the relevant Alpha video so that we can discuss it together over Zoom.

November has been a great opportunity to look ahead and start Christmas planning. Although we are still unsure what we will be able to do in person, we have a few things in the pipeline.

Starting off the Christmas season, each week through Advent we will have a family friendly 'thought' using the Advent wreath as a guide. Look out for the first instalment on Monday 30th. Also, I'm fairly certain that whatever age you are, it's nice to get a present at Christmastime.

Hannah

Coming Up

Christmas 2020

No-one knows what Christmas will be like this year - what we do know is that the message of Christmas hasn't changed. We are trying to plan for things we know will be possible to do within the likely restrictions. Here are some ways we are planning to celebrate the wonderful message of Christmas. Note them all down in pencil as details are subject to change.

Sunday December 6th and 13th

We still don't know what will be possible and/or appropriate in terms of services on these dates. It will depend on government advice that goes along with the recent decision to put Herefordshire into tier 2. Please look out for further emails and information in the coming weeks.

Nativity Scene

We will be setting up a nativity scene at the church as a beacon of hope during Christmas. If you want to join in there is a movement for Christians to set up their own beacons of hope in their own home windows. See more here: <https://www.adventlights.com/>

Sunday December 20th- Outdoor Nativity and Candlelight Service 4:00 pm

As we are unlikely to be able to have our normal candlelight service, we are planning to have an outdoor candlelight service with a few special guests and surprises thrown in too.

December 25th- Home Church family Service

The current limits on meeting together would mean Christmas day will be strange for everyone. However, do not fear - we will be preparing a Christmas day family service similar to our Easter Sunday service that can be seen by everyone and will include contributions from the whole church family.

You are warmly invited to contribute to the service with a short video clip that greets the rest of the church family with a wave, a spirited dance or whatever takes your fancy (along the lines of the compilation that we put together for the Easter Sunday service but this time feel free to don festive attire). Please send your video as soon as possible to either Marie or Dean by email or WhatsApp. If you don't have any way of recording your contribution, let us know and we will send someone round to film you. This is your moment to shine and brighten up everyone's Christmas Day so don't hold back!

December 25th- Christmas Day lunch

We are in touch with a number of people who may well be alone at Christmas due to the current situation. We would love to be able to provide some support for these people in the form of a meal. However, it would be too much for one or two people to manage so we would like to ask if there is anyone who might consider preparing an extra meal along with their own and delivering it on Christmas day to bless these people - let us know if you can help.

Contact details

Enquiries:	office@leobc.co.uk	
Pastor: Dean Burgis	dean@leobc.co.uk	07756 082544
Pastoral worker: Marie Gittoes	marie@leobc.co.uk	07769 153200
Youth & Family worker: Hannah Harris	youthwork@leobc.co.uk	07545 393100
Secretary: Jeremy Clark		01432 830845
Treasurer: Jackie Kosciecha		01544 340220

Please send contributions - news, forthcoming activities, testimonies, photos etc. - for the next newsletter, due to go out during the first week of January, to Chris at riceandco@hotmail.com