

Knowle Green Church

The Voice



The message of the cross is foolish to those who are headed for destruction! But we who are being saved know it is the very power of God

**DECEMBER / FEBRUARY
2012 /13**

**Knowle Green Congregational Church
Clitheroe Road, Knowle Green,
Longridge.
PR3 2YQ**

Tel: 01254 878 394

www.knowlegreen.org.uk/church

Knowle Green is an independent Church affiliated to the Congregational Federation. Our ultimate loyalty is to Christ Himself and to His Word. We seek in our dealings to be guided by the Holy Scriptures and aim to build a spiritual house worthy and fit for the Lord Jesus.

If you would like to know more about our fellowship here you are welcome to speak to our Pastor, who can be contacted at the Manse, or by telephone (see above) or speak to one of the Deacons on duty, who will be happy to provide more information.

From the Pastor's Desk

"For God so loved the world, that he gave..."

As we approach the new season many gifts will be exchanged. Gifts given to those whom **we deem deserving** i.e., close friends, family members and the odd stranger. I have to say I am very impressed with the Christmas story with the quality of the gifts rather than the quantity. In each case none of the recipients you could argue, were deserving of their gifts. Let us consider the following for example:

God gave His Son to the World (Ungodly sinful people).

The wise men of the East gave Jesus gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Gifts to a stranger they did not personally know.

The angel gave messages of Good news to Joseph and Mary. Mary certainly did not think she deserved to be the one appointed to carry the Saviour of the World.

Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit "Blessed are thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb".

When Jesus was 8 days old his parents offered a sacrificial gift according to the law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons." In our giving over the Christmas period, did we give to anyone whom we thought was undeserving?

Jesus retorted "As you give unto the least of these you do unto me" Paraphrased: As you give unto the

undeserving you do it unto me" It doesn't take much to give the undeserving a handshake does it? It doesn't take much to meet a need. Does it? It doesn't take much to offer hospitality. Does it? The Christian is mandated to be Mission minded and Mission focused to the undeserving. Jesus said ***Go into the world, and preach the Good News to every creature. (Mark 16:15)*** Being a **Christian is being a Missionary in the world we live in. Mission is giving of ourselves. How much of ourselves must we give to God? 5%? 10% 50%? 90%? Jesus gave everything even unto death. "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life". (John 3;16). As you do unto these you do unto me.** The bottom line is we are **ALL undeserving and yet in love God still gave His best in Jesus. Receive the gift of Jesus and eternal life this Christmas and New Year.**

God Bless You

Pastor Chris.



Be thankful and praise the LORD as you enter his temple. The LORD is good! His love and faithfulness will last forever.

Psalm 100:4-5

We know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

Romans 8:28

Overview of our Church Services

Our Services are Open to all and you are most cordially invited to attend any or all.

9. 45am Devotional Service

This takes place every Sunday morning excluding the 1st Sunday in the month. This Service is facilitated by a Church member. It is Devotional in orientation, is an open Service and attendees are encouraged (optional) to take part through reading of Scripture; sharing of testimonies; choose a hymn/Worship song etc. This Service offers you the opportunity to be still; Seek God and listen to what God through the Holy Spirit is saying; to share; encourage ; bless and share in the Believers Breaking of Bread.

11.00am Family Service

This is a traditionally structured family Service. It is led from the front by the Pastor of the Church (1st and 2nd of the month) and invited speakers thereafter.

2.30pm Agape Fellowship Meeting (1st Sunday ONLY)

This is a 'MUST' for all. It takes place every 1st Sunday. We recognise the fact that increasingly Christians are becoming more isolated and marginalized hence this Service. It is more of a celebration/fellowship meeting. We share a meal (bring and share). This follows on after our usual tea/coffee recess. The gathering gives insight into the Church and the opportunity to meet Church members. We also recognise that we have a number who travel in and miss out on fellowship hence the need to be part of the family

*and enjoy each other's fellowship. Knowle Green remains unspoilt and is a designated 'Area of natural outstanding beauty'. On a good day take the opportunity to explore the Ribble Valley. If you have not come prepared (brought food with you) **please do still join us.** Your fellowship means a lot to us.* _____

JUST FOR FUN – WHO'S SHOE

The answers to this quiz are all the name of a type of footwear. So can you tell which shoe is...?

- A backward somersault
- A line on a ship
- A type of snake
- An animal used to carry heavy loads
- A dagger
- Part of a car
- Where you find a judge
- Someone who teaches fitness
- Used to move water

(ANSWERS hidden somewhere in the magazine)

Food for thought

- 'God's Elite Army is the only known army where its soldier's take a break in the middle of war'.
- 'You can know the Word of God and no longer hear the Voice of God.' "My sheep hear my Voice."
- 'Everyone who God called he found them working'

Note of Thanks

CMA (Christian Motorcyclist Association) and the regular Bikers wish to publically thank the Church and all who have directly and indirectly helped and supported the biker's breakfast. **Thank You.** The venture is bearing fruit. We habitually now leave open the Church doors during the bikers breakfast and they do make use of it. Some bikers sit for a few minutes; some just explore out of curiosity and Church becomes a talking point. Repeatedly the phrase "**There is a presence in the building**" have been voiced by the bikers who have been able to explore the Church.



One particular biker cannot get over the fact that even though it is a Church based activity we "**do not preach at him.**" He said it took him "**over 2 years to pluck up the courage to come. I cannot understand why it took me so long.**" Last bikers

breakfast he confessed he was suspicious of the "**Church bit**" now he says, "**I love it**" and is on a personal pilgrimage to invite his friends whom are just as equally suspicious. The Bibles are being taken. The relationship with the bikers is now becoming one of friendship. God is blessing this ministry and we are grateful. Please pray for the bikers and workers.



ANSWERS TO JUST FOR FUN QUIZ

5. Mule 4. Moccasin 3. Flip-flop 2. Stiletto 6. Boot 7. Court 8. Trainer 9. Pump

Get your non-biking mates on two wheels

The motorcycle industry's Get On Campaign will once again be offering FREE two-wheel taster sessions to novice: – as well as **born-again – bikers.** For visitors with no experience at all – or even those who have spent some time away and want to get back into biking- the Get On arena should be first port of call. (MOTORCYCLE MONTHLY, Nov. 2012 pg.9)

How to become a **PREMIER** league **HUSBAND**

(or 'How to really love your wife in ways that are meaningful to her!')

I have to confess a number of years ago I attended this seminar and it did myself and our marriage wonders. At the close of the seminar I purchased a car sticker amongst other books on sale for my rear Car window. The car sticker said '***I Love My Wife.***' It drew attention and I had many conversations with strangers over the years. One individual said to me **"You are a brave man to advertise your wife."** Radiant life Ministries have offered to host this one day event here at Knowle Green Church. You do not have to be married to come along. You will learn a lot and be challenged. Just because you sign up does not necessarily mean your marriage is failing, on the contrary it may make what's already good even better.

There is no charge for this event however a love offering will be taken to cover costs and support Radiant life Ministries. It is described as a very practical seminar with principles and dynamics for intimate relationships, ***'that will have an immediate effect on a marriage when and if they are personally applied.'***

The seminar includes a 17 page A4 size work book. The whole event requires 2 and a half hours allowing for a break between two one hour sessions. Please let Pastor Chris know if you are interested in this teaching.

Date: (TBA) Saturday. Further details to follow.

Be Positive

For all the negative things we have to say to ourselves, God has positive answers.

You say: It's impossible.

God says: All things are possible (Luke 18:27)

You say: I'm too tired.

God says: I will give you rest (Matt 11:28-30)

You say: Nobody really loves me.

God says: I love you (John 3:16, 13:34)

You say: I can't go on.

God says: My grace is sufficient (2 Cor 12:9)

You say: I can't figure things out.

God says: I will direct your steps (Proverbs 3:5)

You say: I can't do it

God says: You can do all things (Philippians 4:13)

You say: I'm not able.

God says I am able (2 Corinthians 9:8)

You say: It's not worth it.

God says: I will be worth it (Romans 8:28)

You say: I can't forgive myself

God says: I FORGIVE YOU (1 John 1:9; Rom 8:1)

You say: I can't manage.

God says: I will supply all your need (Phil 4:19)

You say I'm afraid.

God says: I have not given you a spirit of fear (2Tim 1:7)

You say: I'm always worried.

God says: Cast all your cares upon me (1Pet 5:7)

You say: I don't have enough faith.

God says: I have given a measure of faith (Rom 23:3)

You say: I'm not clever enough.

God says I give you wisdom (1 Corinthians 1:30)

You say: I feel all alone

God says: I will never leave you or forsake you (Heb 13:5)



**Theme: 'Be holy because I, the LORD
your God, am holy'**

(Leviticus 19:2)

August Tuesday 20th – Sunday 25th 2013

August 2012 we had our first ever Ribble Valley Family Bible Week. We were all tremendously blessed and it was well received. It is a family orientated Bible week with inspirational Biblical teaching at the core. We have dedicated activities/meetings for children and young people. You will have ample opportunities for rest; fun; reflection; refreshment, quality Christian fellowship, attend seminars and explore the Ribble Valley (designated as an area of natural outstanding beauty). You certainly will leave blessed and encouraged. The Camp offers facilities for Caravanning, Camping, B&B etc. This Camp is unique. We would encourage you to come and join us this year. Please come with expectations of a living Word, a living Saviour and His power to change lives.

Prayer for Israel

The meetings usually take place on the 4th Wednesday of each month, in the cabin, from 13:30 hours to 15:30 hours. Please note the December meeting will be brought forward to the 3rd Wednesday due to the Christmas holidays

Next meetings

19th December 2012

23rd January 2013

27th February 2013

Please pray for Israel, the LORD's land and His people at this critical time in World history. They are surrounded by nations and people who want to wipe them off the map. Psalm 83 describes something of the ancient hatred that comes down through the generations between the sons of Ishmael, Lot and Esau and those chosen by God by an everlasting covenant (that is the sons of Abraham through Isaac and Jacob).

The Middle East is in turmoil, but prophesy is being fulfilled.

Pray for many both in Israel and in the surrounding nations to come to salvation through the Lord Jesus Christ.

We would also encourage you to take one of the "Prayer for Israel" bulletins for November/December which are on the leaflet rack in the Sunday school, or ask Richard or Maureen for one.

There are two really encouraging and informative articles in this issue. The first is the "How should we pray at this time" by Keith Parker, the second is "How to pray for the Messianic Body" by Ofer Amitai. Both these men of God are excellent Spirit-filled teachers of the Word, who conclude their articles with a number of prayer items to help us pray at this time.

The Lord bless you as you bless His land and His people.



Boys Club

Knowle Green, Congregational Church, Clitheroe Road,
Knowle Green, Longridge. PR3 2YQ

Tel: 01254 878394

Day: Every other Monday

Time: 6.30pm-8.00pm

Age Group: 8-16year olds

Forget the gadgets: The Wii; The Xbox; Computer games; The Blackberry. Why not dare to be different?

God always calls us into vineyards to work & harvest not to sit on a fence. The harvest is plentiful but the labourers are few.

Update

Work is in hand weather permitting to re-lay the passage in front of the Sunday school building.

Church DVD Library

It was suggested and agreed that we set up the above facility. It will be situated in the vicinity next to the Church book shelf. Jean Hoole and Annette Dickinson will be responsible for the management of it ensuring that loaned DVD's are duly returned. Two week loan period only; then they need to be renewed.

This is a **Ministry** with the aim of, and a good opportunity, to share the gospel; to encourage and bless through DVD's.

If you feel able to provide finance towards the purchase of DVD's for the Library, donate old DVD's; loan your DVD to the Church etc, any help, assistance will be greatly appreciated.

All DVD's will be secured in a locked cabinet and only accessible via Jean or Annette. We are looking for Inspirational DVD's, Teaching; Worship; True stories; Biographies, (Inspiring and motivational). Examples such as:-

Deep in my heart

A woman's search against the odds, for her emotional roots to find that place in her heart called home

The Story lady

A retired widow, who isn't content to just settle down, after being turned down for a variety of volunteer jobs, she discovers the world of television and puts on her own children's hour, the show becomes an overnight success.

12 Angry Men (An emotional charged Court drama)

One jury member against the odds (out of conviction for truth and justice) was able to steer 12 others jury members from sentencing an innocent man to death. (Conviction v Culpable convenience).

STOP PRESS FOR YOUR DIARY

Month / Date	Time	Event
December		
Sunday 8 th	7.00pm	Carol singing at Alston Lodge & Park House
Monday 31 st	7.30pm	New Year's Eve Celebrations
We will be meeting in the Sunday school to fellowship, Worship and to Pray the New Year in. A time to build bridges, renew relationship and encourage each other. It is suitable for all family members.		
January		
21 st – 26 th	7.30pm	Week of Prayer and Fasting.
We will gather each evening to pray for specific items.		
Friday 18 th	Noon to eat for 12.30pm	Senior's Fellowship Meal
Monday 21 st	Life of Faith (Girls Club) resume	
Tuesday 22 nd	House Groups resume.	
Thursday 31 st	Thursday Fellowship resumes	
Monday 28 th	Boys Club resume	
February		
1 st – 3 rd	Capernwray Students Preliminary visit	
Saturday 10 th	9.00am	Men's breakfast
March		
1 st -10 th	Capernwray students here for a week	
7 th and 8 th	Holiday at Home	

Board Notices

The deadline for the Spring 2013 edition of Voice is 13th January, 2013. If you have any ideas, articles or thoughts for the magazine, please pass them on to Pastor Chris.

Deacon's Meetings

Deadline for agenda for the Deacon's meeting is the last Sunday prior to the Deacons meeting the following Tuesday. The Deacon's meeting is always the first Tuesday of each month.

Notices

We will be making more use of our IT systems. Please do take notes as all notices in the future will feature on the screen.

Working Rota

All persons practically involved in areas of Church work will be given personal copies of their respective rota. If you wish to swap please arrange it between yourselves. This avoids any confusion/ misunderstanding. Copy of the deacons DUTY ROTA will be posted in the Church foyer as well as the Church Notice board.

Activities

We are having Capernwray students over on the 1st – 3rd February and 1st – 10th March. If you wish to offer hospitality then please speak to Pastor Chris. Most of these students are overseas students new to the UK and seeking their calling. They are here for outreach purposes. They are a blessing and have been a blessing to those who have hosted them. If you feel able to help with accommodation needs, wish to invite them over for tea or offer hospitality then please let Pastor Chris know as he is in the middle of co-ordinating the weekend programme.

GENERAL CLEANING/TIDYING OF THE CHURCH PREMISES

Thank you for tidying up after yourselves and keep up the good work up. Please support Ray as she takes on the role of 'temporary cleaner'. It is encouraging to see our young people coming through and taking on responsibilities. Please be an encourager.

DEC 2012 Voice Magazine

You may have realised there is something different about this edition of the magazine. This is because the previous editor (Carolyn) has unfortunately had to relocate due to family circumstances. 'Two artists don't paint the same'. The problem starts when we compare ourselves with others. Change of any form and shape is always challenging but the Lord helps us to grow. Please bear with the new format; until we find someone with the gifting, desire and vision for this Ministry, like any work done unto the Lord, willingness, availability and commitment are the requirements. We are grateful for our stand-in Editor, Andrew Rowland, for his willingness, availability and commitment to get the job done. Thank you Andrew.



The Red Flower

The wind blows, combative in its strides.

The grass beneath my pillaged boots,
crushes as the frost is marked with my footsteps.

In between the tarnished gravestones I pace,
Commemorating my friends who I once walked, abreast with.
Their precious names, stained helplessly on the white marble.

A red poppy, marks each grave, displaying,
Strength, Vitality, Courage, Honour.

Scarce my ears can hear the arduous cries,
the grumble of the guns, and the bitter calls of order.

As I come to the end of Flanders field,
the exalting red flowers wave blissfully with the wind,
Beckoning the lost ones to lie down and sleep.

May they sleep peacefully and undisturbed,
for the brave of them is well deserved.

Let us glorify them for ever more,
as the poppy's say upon the floor.

As they now lie down to rest.
We wear the red flower upon our chest.

By Annie Mills

Wedding

Richard Briggs and Devan Lucas

We joyfully anticipate the wedding of Richard and Devan on Saturday 1st December. The fellowship's love and prayers are with this precious happy couple on their wedding day and as they learn to serve the Lord Jesus Christ together as one. We send them every blessing.

Let love and faithfulness never leave you; bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart. Then you will win favour and a good name in the sight of God and man. (Proverb 3:3-4)

Thursday Fellowship

The fellowship meets in the Sunday school on the last Thursday of each month at 2:00 pm. The meeting commences with hymns and prayers, followed by a speaker and concluding with tea and cakes.

Everyone is welcome to attend and transport is available as required. November 29th Mel & Mandy will be speaking about Mozambique. December 20th is our Christmas Party. January 31st will have a "group of people reflecting on their trip to Israel".

Tom & I would like to thank Tony & Pat for taking the meeting on the 25th October when we were in Israel. Many people have said that they enjoyed the meeting very much.

COME WORSHIP and FELLOWSHIP

In December, January, February 2013 CHILDREN leave after the second hymn with their teachers

	Time	Speaker
December		
Dec. 2	11.00am	Lance Lambert (From Israel)
	2.30pm	Walter Crick - Radiant Life Ministries)
Dec. 9	11.00am	Pastor Chris. Okpoti
Dec. 16	11.00am	Pastor Chris. Okpoti
Dec. 23	11.00am	Nativity Service
	6.30pm	Carol by Candlelight Service led by Pastor Chris Okpoti
Dec. 25	11.00am	Christmas Day Family Service
Dec. 30	11.00am	Jos and Diane Daun
January		
Jan. 6	11.00am	Robin Clark
Jan. 13	11.00am	Mel and Mandy (Mozambique)
Jan. 20	11.00am	Pastor Chris. Okpoti
Jan. 27	11.00am	Nigel Grimshaw
February		
Feb. 3	11.00am	Pastor Chris. Okpoti with Capernwray Students
	2.30pm	TBA
Feb. 10	11.00am	Pastor Chris. Okpoti
Feb. 17	11.00am	Colin Le-Noury
Feb. 24	11.00am	Alan Marsden

Regular Weekly Fortnightly Schedule of Meetings/Activities

Sunday	9.45am –10.30am	Holy Communion and time of Open Worship	Weekly (not the 1st Sunday of the month)
	11.00am –12noon	Family Service	Weekly
Monday	6.30pm-8.30pm	Life of Faith Girls Group	Alternate Weeks
	6.30pm-8.00pm	Boys Club	Alternate Weeks
Tuesday	9.00pm-10.00am	Prayer Meeting	Weekly
	7.30pm-9.30pm	House Group @ the Manse	Weekly (not 1 st week of the month)
Wednesday	10.00am-12noon	Art Group (All ages)	Weekly
	7.30pm-9.00pm	House Group in Longridge	Fortnightly

Regular Weekly Monthly/Quarterly Schedule of Meetings/Activities

	11.00am-12:00 noon 2.Sunday 30pm-3.30pm	Family Communion Service Agape Fellowship Mtg	1 st Sunday in the month 1 st Sunday in the month
Tuesday	7.30pm-9.00pm	Deacons Meeting	1 st Tuesday of the month
Wednesday	9.00am	Finance Group	Usually last week of the month (or as required)
	1.30pm-3.30pm	Prayer for Israel	Last Wednesday of the month
Thursday	10.00am-3.00pm	ACE Home School Support/Fellowship Group	Usually 3rd week of the month
	2.00pm-3.30pm 7.30pm-9.00pm	Thursday Fellowship (All Ages) Building Committee	Usually last Thursday of the month Quarterly
Friday	7.00am-6.00pm	Day of Prayer and fasting	Last Friday of the month
	7.30pm-9.00pm	Prayer Meeting	
Saturday	9.00am-12noon	Bikers Breakfast - Last Saturday of the month	Monthly (Mar-Oct)
	9.00am-10.30am	Men's Breakfast	Quarterly

SEE NOTICE BOARD FOR OTHER ACTIVITIES

Luke 2:5-20

Mary was engaged to Joseph and travelled with him to Bethlehem. She was soon going to have a baby, and while they were there, she gave birth to her first-born son. She dressed him in baby clothes and laid him on a bed of hay, because there was no room for them in the inn.

The Shepherds

That night in the fields near Bethlehem some shepherds were guarding their sheep. All at once an angel came down to them from the Lord, and the brightness of the Lord's glory flashed around them. The shepherds were frightened. But the angel said, "Don't be afraid! I have good news for you, which will make everyone happy. This very day in King David's hometown a Saviour was born for you. He is Christ the Lord. You will know who he is, because you will find him dressed in baby clothes and lying on a bed of hay."

Suddenly many other angels came down from heaven and joined in praising God. They said:

"Praise God in heaven!

Peace on earth to everyone

who pleases God."

After the angels had left and gone back to heaven, the shepherds said to each other, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see what the Lord has told us about." They hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and they saw the baby lying on a bed of hay.

When the shepherds saw Jesus, they told his parents what the angel had said about him. Everyone listened and was surprised. But Mary kept thinking about all this and wondering what it meant.

As the shepherds returned to their sheep, they were praising God and saying wonderful things about him. Everything they had seen and heard was just as the angel had said

