

Roger's Autumn 2017 Prayer Letter and Diary

'As the rain and 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'. Isaiah 55:10-11

Apologies for not sending out a spring prayer letter as all our family came over to us from New Zealand and Canada for a month in early April so we ran out of time! We had a great time with them but it all passed too quickly but we have some wonderful memories.

As we enter this Autumn period of harvest time we are challenged by the events happening around us in our world, as we seek to make sense of it all and bring the hope of the Gospel into the midst of it. In some ways things have not changed much in terms of our human nature but I am encouraged by the words written by Isaiah some 700 years BC. There is a lovely sense as we remain loyal to Christ, His word and work through us will achieve His will and purpose, and as the harvest brings forth the fruit so we will continue to see lives changed through the power of the Lord.

It has been a rather 'bitty' year so far with Jill slowly recovering from her knee replacement operation, and it is still sore when she walks any distance!

My work with Newhaven Youth for Christ at the Open Youth club and on Sunday evenings with teenagers has been good, and we have seen our Sunday evenings grow in numbers from 1 group to 2 and some come to faith. We are trying some new approaches in September tackling some topics which the young people have chosen for us to speak into.

I have been invited to join the leadership team at Seaford Baptist Church which has been good and I have been heading up some outreach and development work on a local estate up at Cradle Hill utilising a portacabin space which the church has obtained to make it into a community resource. It is great to be working alongside Jill again and we have renamed the project 'The Kabin' and have carried out some survey work through the summer. We recently held a bank holiday community event to raise awareness and share some of the plans for the Autumn, and it went well. We plan to run a few regular events for

the community including Mums and Tots, Drop-in morning with Jill, After school club and Arts/crafts club for junior aged children, Soup and Pudding lunch club for the elderly and Home Education group. In the future on the back of these we hope to eventually run Messy Church and Alpha courses etc.

I have been involved with quite a few one-off events which have been fruitful with many responding to Christ, including a Men's event when 12 men responded. I also led a mission in Bexhill in early June. The church members were fully supportive and they had more numbers coming out 'on the doors' than we had team members. The events went well especially the Open Air on Saturday afternoon when many people were impacted. There were around 15 commitments to the Lord and the church followed them up faithfully by running an Alpha course. Amazingly the Alpha course continues to grow and has around 25 people attending at this present time.

Jill and I also managed to get some ballot tickets for Centre Court at Wimbledon and managed to see Roger Federer in imperious form – a great day out.

It is great to report that Jim Fleming our associate evangelist from Belfast has started work in Ireland from 1 August. He is working for two thirds of his time on an estate called Killicomaine, Seagoe, near Portadown, and the other third of his time 'on the road' with TFM as an itinerant evangelist. I will be mentoring him and working alongside him on forthcoming missions. As you can see from the diary, I have ongoing missions coming up in Hungerford, Bicester, Eastbourne and Ireland, and local work at Seaford Baptist Church where a new minister, Andy Machin takes up post on 23 September.

Diary

September

- 7 Open youth club night, NEWHAVEN YFC
- 9 Speaking at Men's Breakfast with WADHURST churches
- 10-20Holidays
- 23/24Our new minister, Andy Machin, being inducted at our church, Seaford Baptist Church, (SBC) over this weekend.
- 25 Kabin team meeting
- 26 Leaders' meeting SBC

28-2 Oct Mission at St Lawrence Church, HUNGERFORD with small team working alongside Rev Mike Saunders.

	Thursday 28 Sept	Friday 29 Sept	Saturday 30 Sept	Sunday 1 Oct	Monday 2 Oct
Am		9.00 Team meeting Café on the Rock Church on't Rock Q & A	8.00 Breakfast for all	11.00 Harvest Festival	9.00 Team meeting 10.00 Door 2 Door
lunch	Meet the team lunch	12.00 Lunch	12.00 lunch	12.00 Harvest Lunch Friends event	Parish Lunch
pm	2.00 Door 2 Door	2.00 Door 2 door	Treasure Hunt	2.30 Reading Gospel Choir and cream teas	
Eve	7.30 Quiz Night	7.30 Barn Dance Friends event fish supper	7.30 Hungerford Town Band	7.30 Time 4 YOUTH	

29-1 Oct Jill away with SBC on Women's Walking weekend!

October

5-8 Mission at Emmanuel church, Bicester with a small team working alongside Rev Ian Biscoe.

	Thursday 5 Oct	Friday 6 Oct	Saturday 7 Oct	Sunday 8 Oct
AM	12.00 Team gather for lunch	9.00 Cherish group café, ECB 9.00 Café chat Door to Door	9.30 Dads' and Lads' breakfast. cafe,	10.30 Harvest Café service, ECB
PM	Door 2 Door	Door 2 Door	4-6 Harvest Meal, Café,	
Evening	7.00 Youth group 8.00 20s – 30s group	Youth event		7.00 Healing and Wholeness service, ECB

- 10 Leaders' meeting SBC
- 17 Kabin team meeting
- 22 Preaching at Mission Preparation service, St Elisabeth Church,
EASTBOURNE.
- 24 Leaders' meeting SBC

November

- 14 Leaders' meeting SBC
- 17-19 Working with Jim Fleming and Bishop Ferran, Glenfield for a mission in the
WEST OF IRELAND.
- 28 Leaders' meeting at SBC

December

- 12 Leaders' meeting at SBC