
Time for a hearty Christmas!

**I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you;
I will remove from you your heart of stone and give
you a heart of flesh.**

Ezekiel 36:26

In Dr Seuss's classic Christmas tale, *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*, the Grinch suffers from having a small heart. The source of his problem is his lack of understanding of the meaning of Christmas. As the story goes, the Grinch tries to put a stop to Christmas, but in the end, he comes to understand what Christmas is all about and his heart grows three sizes! This makes a big difference in his life.

I'm not sure what Dr Seuss's intentions were when he wrote the story back in 1957, but it certainly comes across as a Christian parable that parallels the change that takes place in a person's life when he or she comes to understand the true meaning of Christmas: the birth of Jesus, God's Son, who was born to save His people from their sins (Matthew 1:21).

When the Good News of Jesus dawns upon a person, God replaces the old heart of stone with a new heart – and a new person emerges. As the Apostle Paul wrote, 'If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation, the old has gone, the new has come!' (2 Corinthians 5:17). We celebrate Christmas because of the power Jesus has brought to change our hearts!

Praying you have a God-blessed
Christmas and New Year.

**Your friends and pastors,
Gary & Helen**



WHO'S WHO



Gary & Helen Spicer
Senior Pastors and Site Pastors of Mosaic@Hope
Contact: via Tina



Dave & Leah Boden
Site Pastors of Mosaic@Grace
daveboden@mosaicchurch.co.uk



Chris Spicer is the Teaching Pastor at Mosaic
chris@mosaicchurch.co.uk
Tina Spicer is the Church Administrator
info@mosaicchurch.co.uk | 024 7663 3500

The Lions Experience

Darren Armstrong – founder and director of the Bolton-based *Be Strong* rehabilitation project – talks about his experience of the very first Lions programme.

‘When I first signed up for The Lions I imagined it to be just another Christian project. However, it has been one of the most exhilarating experiences I’ve ever had. I’ve met people who’ve changed my life; people who really know the true meaning of ‘Kingdom heartedness’; people who are not changed or influenced by the world. I’m indebted to The Lions and would love to stay connected to this awesome move of God and the people involved.

‘I would also like to thank Gary Spicer and his lovely wife Helen who came to The Lions with their lives and hearts wide open and I am truly inspired by their testimony. I am so excited for the future of Mosaic Church and its work with the most destitute in society, a vision that is very close to my heart and I pray that God lavishes his many blessings upon you.’

To find out more, check out www.thelions.org.uk

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS EVENTS



There's still time to catch up with **Advent: A Journey of Celebration**. The booklet, which includes a daily Bible Reading, Thought for the Day and space for personal notes, looks at a number of key individuals from Christ's family tree to help us see how these characters reveal aspects of the life and ministry of the coming Messiah. It's a great way to prepare our hearts and minds



A special experience at our Advent launch

We visited the stable and touched the straw
And smelled the frankincense and myrrh
Humility and deity
God in flesh
Humanity touching heaven and changing earth.



And we wrote in a Visitor's Book which will be on the information table during December for you to read.

WHAT'S YOUR STORY?

I'd had a great day canoeing the Wye rapids with my brother and nephew. The waves had swamped our boat, so we'd been for an unexpected swim, but I had a strong sense that we were safe in God's hands.

Driving back home I was thinking about finding wild fruit for making wine and preserves. North of Stratford I felt God leading me to turn into a country lane, but my search for fruit seemed to be in vain. Then I felt God clearly telling me to stop 50 yards from the junction – opposite was a tree covered with apples. Not only that, it was on public land!

But the fruit wasn't ripe, so two months later, en route to my parent's house, we went to see if the apples were still there. Amazingly they were – despite the fact that the road was well used and the tree would have been passed by many people – so we picked them. I've made most of the fruit into a delicious chutney to keep or to give away and have been eating the rest as they've ripened.



The science I love and teach has no explanation for this experience. Science is a good servant to be respected, but the Lord is the master. Hearing a voice in your head may or may not be God speaking – we can only know that God was intervening in a supernatural way by the fruits and blessings that come from such experiences. In response, we give the glory to Him.

Richard Kay



Mosaic Men Men's Breakfast

Date for your diary
Saturday 8th February
Hope Centre

WALKING THE JOURNEY

Are you tired? Worn out? Burned out on religion? Come to me. Get away with me and you'll recover your life. I'll show you how to take a real rest. Walk with me and work with me – watch how I do it. Learn the unforced rhythms of grace. I won't lay anything heavy or ill-fitting on you. Keep company with me and you'll learn to live freely and lightly.

Matt 11:28–30

As part of our recent series 'The Journey' we have been exploring how we are on a journey to model the values of Jesus in our individual lives and express them together in and beyond our church community and it has the potential to take Mosaic Church to places we have never been before.

The Journey

So how do we get to where we need to go? How do we really express Jesus' heart as individuals and a community? Jesus simply says, 'Watch how I do it'. See how he lived. By doing so we will find ways to live free and travel light.



God is showing us, as a church, how to **Connect, Enjoy, Empower, Give, Honour and Transform**. These six simple words provide a framework to help identify ways in which we can embody the life of Jesus together and our prayer is that they will reflect the heart and soul of the church.

Why not take some time to consider what they mean to you?

Dave & Leah Boden

'As I walked out the door toward the gate that would lead to my freedom I knew that if I didn't leave my bitterness and hatred behind I'd still be in prison.' Nelson Mandela



KIDS CORNER

Mosaic@Hope Children's Church

Jelly Beans 6 months to 3 years:

Downstairs in the nursery. Please note that children must be collected by their parents as soon as the service is over.



GLOW 4 to 6 years: Ground floor nursery.

LEAP FROG 7 to 11 years: Ground floor Henley room.

Mosaic@Grace there is an optional multi-age session for the children every Sunday run by parents.



Families First event – save the date!

**Saturday, 22nd February 2014
9.30am to 12.30pm**

We are running a very special morning for all Mosaic families to include fun times for our children of all ages and teaching time for parents/carers.

Please save the date as this will be a great opportunity to journey with you as you experience the joys and sometimes heartaches of parenting. Venue TBC.

Why not consider taking your whole family to the **One Event, 2014**? You can reduce costs by working as a volunteer. The big top events, teaching sessions and activities for all children's age groups are incredible. It's a very special time to grow as individuals and families. See www.one-event.org.uk for info.



For further information about Children's Church and Noah's Ark, contact Viv Kibble: viv@lwad.co.uk.

Parenting can seem like the hardest job in the world but also the most rewarding! Thousands of people have gone before us, blazed a trail of motherhood and fatherhood, but none have had quite the same as our individual experiences with *our* children. Our children are unique; through the challenges and the cheers, through the victories and the tears, they are *our* children – you are handpicked by God, you are the best parents for your children.



Despite the lack of ‘parenting for dummies’ on our ever increasing ‘advice’ book collection, God has given us wisdom, grace and fresh mercies every morning to aid us on our journey. One of my favourite items in our spiritual ‘tool box’ is His peace. The Bible tells us to pursue peace, to hunt it down and carry it wherever we go. God’s peace is too great for us to understand; it’s beyond human understanding, but we encounter it in the midst of the storm if we seek it and it guards our hearts and mind.

Then you will experience God’s peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus (Phil 4:7).

Mother Teresa said, ‘Peace begins with a smile’. Now that’s a great way to greet our children first thing in the morning. Start as you mean to go on. Let’s pursue God’s peace for perfect protection in our parenting! You’re doing a great job – keep going!

Leah Boden

STOP PRESS
Noah’s Ark resumes on Monday 6th January 2014.

IdENTITY



Tis the season to be jolly, have fun and eat cake and we are experts at all three. We've lots of exciting events planned for the festive period, ending 2013 with a Christmas party extravaganza!

We are also incredibly excited about what God has in store for us all in 2014.

During the autumn season we encouraged the youth to be beacons in their schools and within their friendship groups. We also looked at what it means for us as Christians to have faith. We were inspired by teaching that helped us increase our courage and develop our confidence in who we are and what we believe as young Christians.

Over the next few weeks we will be focusing on understanding the gift that God has given us all and reminding ourselves of the true meaning of Christmas. In celebration of this we will be having plenty of festivities. Check out our Christmas schedule on Facebook and make sure all you young people get along to our fun-packed Christmas events.

Friday 20th December
iDentity Christmas Extravaganza
7.30pm @ Hope

On behalf of iDentity youth I would like to wish everyone at Mosaic Church a very happy Christmas and an incredibly blessed 2014!

Josh Spicer & the iDentity Youth Team



FIND US ON FACEBOOK
www.facebook.com/groups/identity.mosaic

MOSAIC IN THE COMMUNITY

We are so pleased to announce that at our first ever **Cherished** fundraising event in November we raised over £2,000! It was a fantastic night with great sense of church community, all made possible with the support of those who gave of their time and talents. We are grateful to:

- Sandra Godley for compering and doing such a fab job with the auction
- Josie and John, and the Nexus Band for their entertainment
- Andy Grizzle and Mark Jarvis for PA
- Mandy Sandu for a brilliant curry
- Tracey Hayes for the fab christmas cake
- the youth for serving the meal – you did an excellent job
- Richard Blower for stepping in to do some amazing work in the kitchen
- everyone who donated items for the raffle and auction and donated money on the night.



And a massive thank you to everyone else behind the scenes – you know who you are – and to all church family and their friends who attended on the night to support us.

Helen Spicer, Carolann Docherty & the Cherished Team



Richard Blower, our Hope Centre Manager, was recently presented with a Community Award by a local organisation called WATCH (Working Actively To Change Hillfields) in recognition of the work and support he has given to children and families living in Hillfields.

In the course of his day at the Hope Centre, Richard has taken the initiative to work with the many agencies in the Hillfields locality and in organising the wonderful Pantomime each January.

We congratulate him as he works in our neighbourhood with great enthusiasm and zeal. WELL DONE RICHARD! We are proud of you.

OUTREACH

The exhaust and catalytic converter on the new Mercedes van was stolen last night by thieves who broke into the Hope Centre car park. In the aftermath of this we have had to deal with lengthy phone calls to insurers and van repairers. But what upsets me most is the fact that a vehicle used by the community to support the community has been targeted by one or two selfish individuals.



Isaiah 54 reminds us that we are called to inhabit desolate places and none more so than our new Foodbank distribution point in Stoke Aldermoor (see picture below). Several years after St Catherine's Church was forced to abandon its building because of escalating repair costs, the re-establishment of a physical presence of church in that community has been made by Coventry Foodbank, and the twenty-foot shipping container will start to distribute food in the New Year.



It also represents an ever growing network of relationships between churches across the city who have been moved by the Holy Spirit to stand in the gap in their local community. The change is subtle yet relentless, exciting and yet overwhelming. With Hope 14 a month away, God's timing in waking up the sleeping giant that is His church in His city is perfect.

Over 31,000 people fed, fourteen churches distributing food, 300 organisations signposting people to us and four Job Clubs started, so in the scheme of this, a stolen catalytic converter is just a distraction and an irrelevance in furthering His Kingdom.

Gavin Kibble

GRACE COURSE



The New Year brings the dawn of an exciting 6-week **Grace Course** at Mosaic Church that will complement the Freedom in Christ course. It is designed to help Christians rediscover their first love for God so that we can go on to love others and make a great impact on the world. Its objective is to enable Christians to experience God's grace in such a deep and real way that love for Him becomes the main motivator in our lives.

It teaches the wonderful truths of grace but has an emphasis on helping people **experience** that grace. There are practical exercises, times of listening to God and a gentle ministry component. Below are some testimonies from participants:

'For the first time in the decades that I've been a Christian, I'm suddenly *getting* grace – it is amazing and shocking!'

'Very exciting. I have heard again the truth of God's love for me and have been able to identify misconceptions and false beliefs.'

'The Grace Course has introduced Christ back into my life.'

'Wonderful revelation on grace.'

The course will take place on Sunday evenings and will begin in mid-January. For further information and to book your place, contact Seamus & Mee Lee.



Courtesy of www.atimetolaugh.com.au/

MOSAIC CHURCH – one church, two expressions



Mosaic@Grace
Grace Academy
Wigston Rd CV2 2RH



Mosaic@Hope
Sparkbrook Street
Hillfields CV1 5LB

www.mosaicchurch.co.uk

Sunday services 10.00am for coffee 10.30am start

Tithes and offerings

The giving of our tithes and offerings is an important part of our worship at Mosaic. The total amount between August and October came to £31,520, (budget: £33,493). If you would like more information on giving through standing order or gift aid please contact Gavin Kibble (gavin.kibble@sky.com).

Taking care at Mosaic

As part of our safeguarding policy can we ask everyone to be alert to any dangers for the children, young people and vulnerable adults of Mosaic Church. This applies to all areas of both premises, but especially the cafe, corridors and car park.

Mosaic Church info database

If you'd like your contact details to be added to the database so you're kept informed of what's going on at Mosaic, please fill in a contact card available at the info desk.

Acknowledgements

Thank you to all who contributed to this edition of Mosaic News, and to David Niblack, Christopher Elwell and George Hoden for permission to use their photographs. Please note that some of the portraits are for illustrative purposes only.

Please note that details in this issue were correct at the time of going to press and may be subject to change.