Churches Together in Harborough

Newsletter June 2024

Please pass on this information to your church in any appropriate way. Please check our website for any updates. https://www.harboroughchurches.org.uk/

The **'How Green is Your Future'** event organised by Harborough Eco Church for Monday, 10th June has had to be cancelled due to councillors being bound by rules about their engagements pre the General Election. It is hoped that we can reschedule in the autumn.

The Bower House is holding a stall at the Carnival on Saturday 8th June in the grounds af the Cube (12-4pm) and would really love to see people.
There will be a 'bags, bottles and boxes' tombola, a 'Lucky Lollipop' and 'Lucky Dip' table, as well as leaflets about the Bower House and a prayer wheel where people can anonymously add the things they would like to be prayed for.

Attached is a leaflet for Sandra Saunders CPD event on the 29th June. "Understanding and Working with Sudden and Traumatic Loss" (It is aimed at therapists but people are welcome to book if they are interested.)
Their is a bi-weekly Prayer Meeting being held at the Bower House to pray for the work of the Bower House. The next prayer time is Tuesday 18th June from 2-3pm. All are welcome to attend.

Choral Evensong this coming Sunday 9th June , 4pm at St Hugh. Leicester Cathedral choir are visiting and it would be lovely to welcome others to join with us. Please see attach a poster.

St Mary's Catholic Church Husbands Bosworth on Thursday 20th June- DIY Retreat Day 10-4- There is an optional programme of worship but the idea is that people can use the church and grounds for their own quiet time. Starts with Mass at 10am and finishes with Prayers at 3pm

Saturday 29th June- Megga Booksale, Refreshments and Open Day 10-4. 1000s of books available! In aid of our development and restoration fund

Thursday 4th July- The World through Glass- Talk by renowned stained glass artist, Aidan Mcrae Tompson

Saturday 13th July- Concert in Church 7:30pm by Welford in Harmony

Torch Trust

Dear Friends. You are invited to our
monthly coffee morning every third Thursday of each month, at Torch House from 10:30am – 12:30pm.

It is with sadness CTH has learned of the death of Derek Williams. Our prayers and condolences are with his family at this time. Derek was actively involved as Communications Officer on the Executive Committee of CTH. Last month he wrote an article for the Harborough Mail that is attached with this Newsletter. May he Rest in Peace and Rise in Glory.

The next newsletter will be issued in July. Please send any information to Maureen Douglas at maureen.e.douglas@btinternet.com . Please note that your contribution may be reduced or edited according to the space available. We are unable to reproduce posters.

Article by Derek Williams, published in *Harborough Mail*, 9th May 2024.



Last November, I was told that I had the incurable, untreatable and life-shortening Motor Neurone Disease. In view of my rapid decline over the previous six months, I don't have much time left on earth.

It was not a surprise. Clearly I had something more than age-related frailty. A simple internet search had already suggested something like MND. But it was a wake-up call. I am going to die. Soon.

So are we all, sometime. But we prefer not to think about it, beyond perhaps making a will and taking out life insurance "just in case something happens". For me, the supreme question now is, "What happens next?"

In the short term, the NHS, Motor Neurone Disease Association, Social services, and our local charity and hospice LOROS (with its MND specialists) sprang into action. I couldn't have asked for more. But what of the long term?

My Christian faith reminds me that "God so loved the world that he gave his Son Jesus Christ, so that whoever believes (trusts) in him will not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:16). That is a given for me, confirmed and reinforced by the fact that Jesus rose from the dead, which we celebrate at Easter. But what exactly does that eternal life – or Heaven, as we call it – consist of?

Surprisingly, the Bible says very little about it. That is probably because heaven is a different dimension to the one we live in. We can't imagine a parallel universe!

Jesus told us that we would be with him. St Paul positively looked forward to that while languishing in a Roman jail (but nevertheless, he concluded that continuing to share his faith and waiting for God's timing was more beneficial to the people in the churches he cared for than his own comfort).

Paul also wrote that we (and the whole of creation) would be "redeemed" and changed – implying that there will be some continuity between this world and the "New heavens and new earth" we are promised at the end of the world. Until then, Paul suggests, those who have died "sleep". (But "until then" might be a meaningless term when time itself ceases and melds into a timeless eternity.)

Contrary to some misconceptions, the Bible's final book Revelation offers little more (it's mostly about spiritual conflict in the present), except to emphasise heaven as a place of light, joy, peace and the clear presence of God. Our popular images are mostly pure speculation. So, I wait to see.

Meanwhile, Jesus' death on the cross enables me to sing (in the words of a modern hymn): "No guilt in life, no fear in death… Here in the power of Christ I'll stand." Think about it!

Derek Williams is an ordained Anglican who has worked as an editor, writer and media relations adviser for a number of Christian agencies, including the Diocese of Peterborough and Billy Graham. He is the author of more than a dozen books, and has most recently served Churches Together in Harborough as Communications Officer.

Sandra Saunders: “Understanding and Working With Sudden and Traumatic Loss”

Sandra suffered her own sudden and traumatic bereavement, when both her husband and son died in a walking accident in the French Alps in 2013.

Sandra started working with the bereaved by training with Cruse in 2018. She went on to complete her Post Graduate Diploma in Integrative Counselling, worked as a volunteer counsellor for the Bower House until 2023 and now works in Private Practice in Bedford.

Sandra uses her story of hope in the midst of devastating loss, to help others going through grief and equip those working with the bereaved. She works with Care for the Family as part of their Bereaved Parent Support Team, delivers training for Cruse on Sudden and Traumatic Bereavement, as well as working as a bereavement volunteer.

Through a mixture of storytelling, teaching, discissions and times of personal and group reflection Sandra will cover:

- **An overview of grief theory and how it can be applied in the therapy room.**
- **The impacts and challenges of sudden and traumatic bereavement.**
- **The impact of losing multiple members of the nuclear family and the challenges of child loss.**
- **Moving forward following devastating loss, using a lens of meaning making.**

SATURDAY 29TH JUNE 2024: 9:30AM - 1PM

AT: HARBOROUGH COMMUNITY CHURCH,121 BATH STREET,MARKET HARBOROUGH, LEICESTERSHIRE.
LE16 9JL

Cost: £45 (Concessionary rate of £25 for Bower House Volunteers)

CPD (3 hours) certificate provided by email after the event.

To Book a Place: telephone, email or sign up at the Bower House...

Sign up at the Bower House (Counsellors’ Common Room Notice Board)

(01858) 469257

officeadmin@bowerhousecounselling.org

