

An evensong service to celebrate the contribution older people make to church and society, and to explore the spiritual challenges and opportunities ageing brings.

Preacher: Rt Revd Jack Nicholls (former Bishop of Sheffield)

All are welcome.

For information contact Linda Craven-(Outlook Member) at linda.craven@southwark.anglican.org or, Chris Chapman, Spiritual Formation Adviser at chris.chapman@southwark.anglican.org

'ON AVERAGE CHURCHGOERS LIVE 4 YEARS LONGER THAN THOSE IN THE GENERAL POPULATION-partly because of less smoking and excess drinking'
Peter Brierley

Average life span in the UK:
Population 2010: 79 years
Churchgoers 2010: 83 years
Population 2050: 87 years?
Churchgoers 2050: 92 years?

IT'S ONLY A FEW DAYS AWAY NOW AND THIS IS ALMOST YOUR LAST CHANCE NOT TO MISS OUT, BY NOT ATTENDING THE OUTLOOK NATIONAL CONFERENCE

"Expanding the Vision" 21-24 June, King's Park, Northampton.

Fully residential. All rooms are en suite, and all meals are included: £200 per person. Details and/or booking form from the Outlook office. Day Visitors are welcome too.

Some very wise words sent by a friend to encourage those who are going through what feels like a 'storm':-
LIFE ISN'T ABOUT WAITING FOR THE STORM TO PASS...
IT'S LEARNING HOW TO DANCE IN THE RAIN !

I do hope that you have found this Newsletter helpful in your own ministry of evangelism amongst the over 55's. Through all of our mailings we seek to encourage this vital and fruitful ministry, which we truly believe is very much on God's Heart too and that which is on His Heart carries His Blessing. Can I encourage you to keep on keeping on with what you are doing already, but to seek God for more grace and strength to continue on and allow Him to grow your ministry into the future. If you feel that Outlook Trust can be of any assistance to you in this, then please feel free to contact us. Or, if you would like to join us in Membership please complete the tear off slip with your details and send it back to the office. Lastly, if you would like to make a donation then you can now do it online through our website.

Every blessing to each one of you
Norman V. Critchell
Director

NEWSLETTER – SUMMER 2011

A QUITE AMAZING LADY

The following is an extract from a letter I received from N.R. one of our long-term Members. She has given me permission to use this part of her letter and for reasons of sensitivity, I won't use her full name. She told me when we spoke on the phone that she knew in a wonderful way, God's presence with her, truly fulfilling the text on her airing cupboard door.

Since last writing to you, I have a tale to tell of the Lord's over-ruling. On 22 February I had a 'rogue trader' clean my gutters out for £85.50, for which I gave him a cheque. I do not have that much money on me. Then he wanted to clear the rest of the roof of moss for a quote of £594.00!! Quite an argument. I told him I did not have the money, despite his threats to take me to the Bank. I was not going to put my account into the red for him. So I asked him for his business card, which he gave me. On leaving he spotted a poster on the airing cupboard door with the text: 'My help comes from the Lord who made Heaven and Earth'. "Did I read the bible?" "Yes". "How often?" "Everyday". "For how long?" "About an hour". "Did I go to church?" "Yes". He would come for the cheque on Saturday morning. I went to the Town Hall on the advice of a friend who gave me a card to phone Consumers Direct. 18 mins on the phone taking particulars with strict instructions not to be on my own on Saturday morning. I saw my neighbour at the back who was just going out. Ray is in his 80s and did not feel he could be much help but would let his son, Mike, know. Mike is a District Councillor and dealt with the situation, phoning the Trading Standards Authority and the Police and came up later to see me for further details. The police also visited Saturday morning. I had a friend from church and Mike. The police had told me to cancel the cheque, which I did on the Friday, and gave them permission to go through my bank accounts. He did not turn up on Saturday – phoned to say he would come Monday. Two plain clothes policemen were present this time. No sign of the scoundrel. I was given a personal CID officer and a lengthy interview of 2½ hrs stating sequence of events. The police retrieved the cheque and got the chap's finger prints and apprehended him a week later in Weston-Super-Mare. They got the second chap about 10 days later. The men had been active in a road nearby so I passed that information on to the police. Both are on police bail with strict instructions not to visit this area and are reporting to the police twice a week. They will be reviewed on 5th May and referred to the CPS to see if there are adequate charges against them. Looking back I can see this was meant to happen – it has rid the area of their misdeeds for the time being. They had been operating for years. There was a question of identifying them but thankfully I don't need to as they both admitted to being at my place.



WAYS OF GIVING TO OUTLOOK

- Gift Aid:** For tax payers. Please ask for a Gift Aid Declaration Form.
- Direct Gift:** Cheques should be made payable to Outlook and sent to the address below.
- Banker's Order:** For regular giving. Please ask for a Banker's Order Form.
- Internet Payment at:** www.givenow.org and search for Outlook Trust.
- Legacy:** By remembering Outlook in your Will. Please ask for details.
- Charitable Accounts:** such as Charities Aid Foundation (CAF) or Stewardship Services

OUTLOOK, The Wycliffe Centre, Horsleys Green, High Wycombe, Bucks. HP14 3XL

I/we are pleased to apply for (tick as appropriate)

- Individual Membership
- Group Affiliation
- Please send me:**
- Further copies of this Newsletter to share with others (Please state how many)
- Some 'flyers' to introduce OUTLOOK to others (Please state how many)

I enclose a gift for the ministry of Outlook

Organisation or church (for Group Affiliation only): _____

Name (and title): _____

Address: _____

Postcode: _____

Telephone number: _____

Email: _____

Date of sending this: _____

£ _____ Please sign if you wish tax to be claimed on this gift: **Signed**.....



Outlook has been involved as part of the 'baby-boomer' project, with other organisations like the Baptist Union, Methodist Church, C-of-E, Spurgeons and Church Army. From November 23rd to 25th we are holding a Conference at High Leigh where we will look at how we can re-engage people who have residual Christian faith but have left the Church—ways of relating with other spiritualities-and what the Church will look like to connect with this generation born between 1946 and 1964. There are a range of Speakers and workshops leaders with much expertise. The cost is £185 per person and details can be obtained through the Outlook office.



Each working day we add a morning prayer and an evening prayer to our website and these prayers are left there for the week. They are then changed at the beginning of the following week. Just log-on and click on 'prayer for the day' and then 'today's prayer.' If you find these prayers helpful, please do let us know. Or, if you have any prayers which you feel would be helpful to others and we could use them on the website, please send them to the office—by e-mail attachment would be the best way of sending them to us.

Winter 2008

Yvonne Mullins is our newest Trustee. Originally from South Africa, she and her husband Richard spent the first two years of married life in Thame, Oxfordshire and after a short return to Johannesburg for three years, made the permanent move back in 2002. Yvonne spent 16 years teaching primary school children before she and Richard were blessed with their three year old son Mark. Yvonne has always been an active member of a church. As a child and teenager she was taught and encouraged by many older people within the church. She was very close to both her grandmothers who, throughout their lives, served the Lord and others both practically and spiritually (her Grandma drove the 'old people' to church, hospital appointments and to the shops until she stopped driving at 90!) These 'older' people really taught Yvonne to value the older generations and all that they invested in her upbringing. Yvonne has worked with all ages in the church community but her passion now is for the over 55's. Her most recent involvement has been in establishing a 55+ group at St Mary's, Thame. She sees this as her chance to create a space where older people can enjoy fellowship and fun – many of the older folk have been serving the church for many years and it is her privilege to be able to serve them in this way.



The group meet monthly where they enjoy fellowship, an interesting talk and then share lunch together. It's a brilliant example of the Body of Christ in action – everyone playing their part as they are able. She also co-ordinated Silver Lighthouse last year (a two day event linked to Lighthouse for children and youth), which saw around 50 older people from Thame and surrounding villages enjoying fun and friendship. She takes some services at Meadowcroft Care Home where seeing her son Mark is always a highlight of the residents day. Yvonne's dream is that the church would not focus quite so much energy on youth and children's work, while missing out the generations that are probably more spiritually open and seeking. By increasing the social and spiritual activities available for the older generations, the church would see an increase in people who are able to contribute more time towards building God's Kingdom; as well as giving them a greater sense of value and purpose as they grow older.



SCOP is an initiative of Oxford Diocese, whose aim is to promote and support good practice in the spiritual care of older people in the Oxfordshire, Berkshire, and Buckinghamshire. 'Spiritual care' is a broad concept, increasingly used in health and social care to the holistic care of people of every faith and none. This recognizes that people are 'more than body, brain, and breath' (in the words of Eileen of people with dementia). As part of this more general approach to spirituality SCOP is holding a day conference on 15th June at Oxford Brookes School of Health and Social Care, entitled 'Ageing, health, and spirituality across faiths and cultures. The keynote speaker is Revd Professor Elizabeth MacKinlay. For more details please contact joanna.collicutt@oxford.anglican.org

Of course, for the Christian, spiritual care is a concept rooted in Christ, not simply an aspect of individual psychology. I have defined Christian spiritual care as comprising three elements, all taking place in the context of a community of faith.



- Growth in head and heart knowledge of the God revealed to us in Jesus
- A rewarding life of prayer and worship
- The exercise of fruitful ministry and humble acceptance of care

This is true for Christians of all ages, and no less true for people in the third and fourth age, whether fit, or frail, or confused. They need to be supported in spiritual growth, corporate and private worship, and in exercising their gifts in the body of Christ.

SCOP aims to resource local congregations in supporting all three elements of spiritual care through the provision of written material—for example our downloadable 'factsheets', which are regularly added to and updated:

<http://www.oxford.anglican.org/pdf/social-justice/older-people/spiritual-care-for-older-people-the-extra-dimension-factsheets-online.pdf>

and the provision of training sessions either delivered locally or as central 'resource days', for example a day aimed at celebrating and supporting the spiritual needs of older carers to be held at CMS in Oxford on May26th. For more details see:

<http://www.oxford.anglican.org/documents/I%20didn't%20know%20you%20cared.pdf>

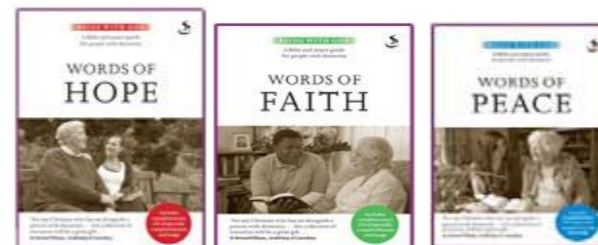
Revd Dr Joanna Collicutt Oxford Diocesan Advisor for the Spiritual Care for Older People

(Joanna and Norman have been exploring ways in which SCOP and Outlook can relate to each other and work more closely together)

Books and Resources

Being with God; A Bible and prayer guide for people with dementia

31 daily devotionals: Bible readings, prayers – clearly and simply set out for ease of use. 'Cues and clues' box with suggestions of picture and object clues to help engagement with the day's theme.



'With its carefully chosen mix of familiar words and evocative music, this imaginative and practical resource is nothing less than a Godsend'
Pam Rhodes, Presenter of 'Songs of Praise' and Patron of MHA.

Published by Scripture Union and available from the Outlook office at £6.99 each

HOW ON EARTH CAN WE SHARE OUR FAITH?—A faith-sharing guide—£6 each
WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS ABOUT OLDER AGE—Bible studies and helps—£3 each

Both of these Outlook publications are available from the office

MOIRA WRITES:

In my work as an activities person in the Nursing Home, yesterday afternoon the Lord encouraged me during our short service in the afternoon there. One of the patient's daughters joined myself and the lady who sings with me, so we had three voices singing out GOD'S PRAISES. Also, the room was quiet for me to speak and the nurse-in-charge was genuinely thankful that we took the service. I don't know how much of the Word the patients hear or receive, but I do pray that even one soul will hear the Lord's Voice.

SIMON WRITES: I hope members of Outlook Trust will not unwittingly subscribe to stereotyping, by feeling that all old people are interested in is old people! I am thankful to my Church for allowing me to join the 'Sunday Fun' leaders team for children aged 3 to 11, while my wife is a pre-school leader and baptism visitor. I am 77

At this present time there are more men over the age of 65 joining the church than women



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HOW TO JOIN US

<p>Group Affiliation Provides: Copies of the bi-annual Outlook Newsletter. Access to available resources. Links to other individuals and groups working with older people. Assistance with projects to develop your ministry to older people. Access to customised seminars and training workshops. Share ideas, develop mission and outreach in the community. Cost: £50 per annum</p>	<p>Individual Membership For those who recognize the spiritual needs of older people and share our vision to help them understand the Christian Faith. We offer encouragement, support and training. To receive regular mailings, complete the slip overleaf. Funding We suggest members pledge a minimum monthly gift of £5 or more, to cover mailing and the development of our ministry.</p>	<p>Advantages of Membership</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Fellowship with others who share the same calling. (b) Prayer backing and encouragement for your own projects in evangelism. (c) Access to OUTLOOK'S resource material. (d) Opportunity to join OUTLOOK teaching and witness teams. (e) Preference for places at OUTLOOK conferences, training events and other activities.
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