

Newsletter February 2010

# The English Church

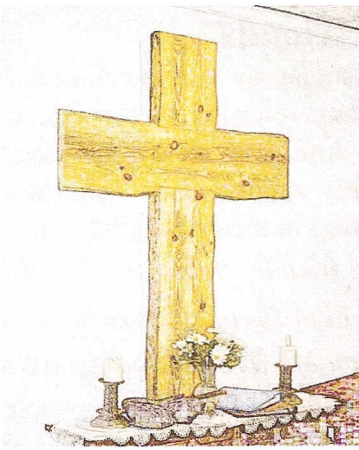
Torre Principado

Levante beach, Benidorm

Pastoral team Rev'd Eddie and Mrs Muriel McMillan

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Part of the Paraclete Christian Network International [www.paraclete.org.uk](http://www.paraclete.org.uk)



## *The Pastors Piece*

Changed people change situations. Things begin to happen when change takes place, not only in the minds of people but in their hearts; when it reaches their inner beings; when it affects the subconscious.

Why do some people believe that in some situations, change is impossible? The evidence of change is in the difference it makes to attitudes, temperament, actions, relationships and life in general.

Such change was there for opponents and critics to see when the despised tax gatherer, Zacchaeus, emerged from his private encounter with Jesus and issued a public apology, backing it up by changing wrong situations which were the result of his past actions. There were those who were 'baffled' by the preacher Paul in Damascus. (Acts 9:21) "***Isn't this the one who carried on a merciless campaign against those who call on the name of Jesus?***"

It seems to be difficult for so many to believe in the possibility of genuine change. But the positive proof is in the changed situations that followed.

Also, Jesus spoke about the nature of change, or conversion, in the parable of the sower.

The seed that falls on the rock finds no depth and so the plant withers. So it is when change is superficial and does not reach the deep places, new life simply dies. The seed that lands among the thorns is choked and destroyed. So it is only the seed that falls on the good ground that flourishes, for it is deep rooted. So conversion is complete when it moves on to total commitment. Change is real, as when it's presence demonstrated the joy felt over the return of the prodigal son :

***"He was dead and is alive again."***

The right response to profound change for the

better is not half hearted hesitancy or cynical condemnation, but it must be : "Hallelujah!"

Let us thank Jesus, the Agent of change, who is *'the same yesterday, today and forever.'*

*Eddie McMillan*

## **Christian Training Centre in Zimbabwe**

Linda Hulcoop and June Whittle visited the centre at Kuwadzana on the outskirts of Harare earlier



this year to mark the school's test papers, give out awards on graduation day and to check on the progress the school is making in these difficult times.

**June Whittle with the rev'd Jonah Masaka.**

## **Kuwadzana Paraclete Bible School**

The bible school meets daily on weekdays throughout the year offering Ordinary and Advanced Diploma courses in Christian Training and Adult Education. more than 30 students are enrolled for 2010, coming from different denominations, including Catholic, Anglican, Methodist, Pentecostal and Presbyterian.

Although courses are really designed for lay people in the church, pastors from other denominations are attending, especially Pentecostals. When one considers the uncertainty of the daily situation for the people of Zimbabwe, the Christian Training Centre stands out in the community as a symbol of hope for the future, especially as the courses include sewing, farming, building and welding. As the English Church in Benidorm is part of PCNI, we also have contributed to this success story in Zimbabwe.

## Overseas service

Pause a moment and think of our dear friend and colleague, Christine Anfield, who has answered the call for assistance and gone to Pakistan for a short while to help out with her midwifery skills.

I know what you are thinking and yes, perhaps it could be dangerous, especially as she has been requested to work in the North West of the country which shares a border with Afghanistan.

Opening in 2000, Kunhar Christian Hospital, with 20 beds, is situated in the foothills of the Himalayas, and has a special place in the hearts of the local community, which is mostly muslim. In 2005, the area was devastated by an earthquake which caused more than 74,000 deaths and widespread destruction, and this hospital was the only one in the area which was left mostly undamaged and still functioning 'normally'.

The local population 'migrated' to the hospital and set up their temporary homes in and around the hospital grounds. KCH gave free treatment, shelter, food and water to all who asked for help, regardless of religious beliefs, which bemused some of the locals at the time.



Christine with one of her first 'new babies'

The maternity department is a crucial part of the service, although deliveries are usually carried out at home, so the hospital only sees the expectant mothers who have complications, and none of Christine's patients have 'easy' births.

You can help Christine by keeping her in your thoughts and praying that she will return safely to us at Easter time when her contract finishes.

Read more about KCH at [www.akash.org.pk/kch](http://www.akash.org.pk/kch)

## Farewell dear friends

After a decade of association with the church, John and Ann Gibson have returned to the UK to be with their family. Ann has served as treasurer during that time, ably supported by John and we pray for God's blessing in their new situation.

Ann writes : *Dear friends, John and I wish to thank you for your kind thoughts. We have many fond memories of you all. The fellowship we have shared with you will be with us always. It is our time to be moving on and we will be joining a Methodist church near to our new home.*

*With love in Christ, Ann & John Gibson*

**"Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ"**

2 Corinthians 5 : 20



John and Ann Gibson (seated) with some of our fellowship. Standing behind Ann is our new treasurer, Margaret Shaw.

Congratulations to Robert and Katie Shaw on the birth of their first child, Dylan, who is also David and Margaret's first grandchild. May he be a blessing to his family.



## Dedication

Witnessed by a full congregation, and seen here being held by his mother Shelley, Jack Andrew



Turner was dedicated by the pastor in the presence of his five God parents. We pray that the Lord will bless this child and his family in the years ahead of them.

## Location

Behind the café Artigas II, on Levante beach near the cable ski run.

*Sunday* services 09.45 & 16.00

*Wednesday* discipleship course at 14.00

*Friday* communion service at 10.00