



It's a fair COPP, growing fairer

WHEN tbc minister Laurie Burn left a village church in rural East Devon in August 2006, it was quite a culture shock to come to the city. In fact he had once said: "If God wants me to come to a city, he will have to use a megaphone!"

But the parks and green spaces of South Bristol provide a small taste of the country in the heart of the city.

Our local park, Perrett's Park was one of the venues for the Love Bristol community action week in July 2006, when groups of young Christian volunteers helped restore benches and clean up the park. Following on from this, Laurie found that several other groups and individuals were concerned about the park, but there was no co-ordinated group or strategy. So, in February 2007 residents were invited to a meeting at tbc to gauge local interest.

After a survey of 900 homes, 30 volunteers turned up for an action day in April when benches were renovated and litter cleared. COPP – The Community of Perrett's Park – was born and has since organised bulb-planting, a Picnic in the Park, Carols in the Park and other events.

In September, COPP won a Certificate of Merit in the Bristol in Bloom Awards, and has recently won a bid for £2,000 worth of roses.

The next event will be an Easter Egg Hunt on Sunday, March 23, starting at 3pm.

If you want to get involved, look up www.thecommunityofperrettspark.co.uk or contact us at tbc.



Debra Atkins joins the COPP team



Elaine Temlett smartens up one of the park benches

Life takes Debra from atheism and break-up to baptism and trust

DEBRA Atkins came to Bristol to find love, but she got more than she bargained for. When a close relationship suddenly broke up, she moved to Totterdown, along with Scooby, her enormous bloodhound cross, to start a new life.

Desperately searching for some meaning in her life, several 'chance' encounters with Christians, including meeting fellow dog-walker, tbc minister, Laurie Burn in Perrett's Park, led Debra to the church and a flat to live in.

Her father was an atheist and forbade her to attend religious instruction, but Debra's grandmother taught her to pray.

In the next 40 years, she had several inexplicable spiritual experiences and visions which left her with more questions than answers, but an urge to attend a service during a lonely holiday in Greece was thwarted when Debra was shooed away by a priest who established she was neither Catholic nor Orthodox!

At tbc however, she found a community of people who shared her spiritual journey and who are finding life's questions answered in the person of Jesus. Here she found a warm welcome and understanding friends. She also discovered a personal relationship with the risen Lord Jesus Christ.

When Debra learned that tbc was holding a service of believer's Baptism last October, she decided to be baptised as a public statement of her faith and a sign of her decision to lead a new life with Jesus beside her.

That morning, Debra said: "My relationship with God is central in my life and I'm thankful for all the friends and scholars who have... given me time and space and pointers to help me begin to understand it."



Who or what is tbc?

tbc is the group of people which meets in the building known as Totterdown Baptist Church. Our vision and purpose are summed up:

*Being God's family,
helping people to know Jesus.*

tbc meets every Sunday at 10.30am and 6.30pm, plus midweek meetings.

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Clubs end week on high (and highly active) note

THURSDAY Club happens every Thursday evening (except school holidays) from 7pm till 9pm.

We have between 15 and 20 12+ year-olds coming each week and we have activities such as ball games, music, cooking, table tennis, pool, air-hockey, table football and of course there is a tuck shop for all the young people's sugary and fizzy needs.

Friday Club happens every Friday evening (except school holidays) from 6.30pm till 8.15pm. We get between 30 and 40 7-to 12-year-olds coming each week and run activities

similar to those on Thursday with the addition of crafts and board games.

Each term we also run extra events such as parties, talent shows and hiking trips.

You don't need to attend our church, or any church, to come to either of our clubs. In fact the majority of our members have no other contact with a church beyond these two clubs.

If you are interested in finding out more about either of the Thursday or Friday clubs please do contact me.

Piet – Youth Worker
07799660636 – piet@tbc.org.uk



BS4 FC makes its international debut

YOUNG people often say 'there's nothing to do!' but when Vic Trykush, Youth Development Officer for the West of England Baptist Association, visited tbc Thursday Youth Club last year, the older lads jumped at the idea of forming a football team.

After an amazing International debut in Victoria Park against a touring American team from Florida, BS4 FC was born. They now play in the Bristol Churches League each Saturday at 10am. Their home ground is The Park at Daventry Road. New players are welcome. Contact team coach Vic Trykush on 07733 012318.

Alpha – a very good place to start

ARE you seeking answers to the meaning of life? The Alpha course is a relaxed, 10-week course which is for anyone who wants to ask questions about the Christian faith.

Each session begins with a meal, followed by a DVD and friendly discussion in small groups. No question is taboo, or too hostile.

The next course starts on Monday April 21 with a supper and will be run jointly by Churches Together in Knowle and Totterdown.

For details, look up www.alpha.org or contact Roger Whiter on 0117 983 5833.



**Churches Together
in Knowle and Totterdown**

Welcome needs more than words

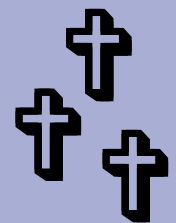
TOTTERDOWN Baptist Church welcomes all people – of all ages and abilities – but our building was built in 1881 when people didn't think much about the problems of disability.

So we have employed an architect to redesign the front entrance which will allow access for all, including parents with pushchairs, the elderly, and the disabled.

Here is an artist's impression of what we are trying to achieve – as our sign says: "We warmly welcome you." Watch this space!



Answers to issues of death and suffering



"WHAT about suffering?" "Is there life after death?" These are two questions which most people ask, and many books have tried to answer.

But the truth of Easter is that both these questions are answered eloquently, yet with very few words, by one man, Jesus Christ.

When the Romans nailed him to a wooden cross outside Jerusalem, some 2000 years ago, he experienced the full force of physical suffering, plus the emotional pain of carrying the anger, hostility and cruelty of the world on his shoulders.

And yet his response was one of love and forgiveness. In those intense hours, God himself felt the full pain of the world's suffering.

As to the question of life after death, when the women went to tend his dead body on the

Service – not something we hold, but something we do

A FORMER archbishop once said that the church is the only organisation which exists for the benefit of those who are not members!

Our aim at tbc is to serve the communities of Knowle and Totterdown. We would love to help you if we can.

Even if we can't help, we know a man who can – his name is Jesus! Do you have something about which you would like us to pray?

If so, send us your prayer request by letter, phone or e-mail and we promise to pray for your need when we meet every Monday at noon.

Do you need individual help with learning English? One of our members, Karen Burn, has recently qualified as a teacher of English to speakers of other languages (TESOL). Give us a call if you're interested.

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Side entrance in Sydenham Road

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Minister: Rev Laurie Burn

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Sydenham Road U-fives

SRUF is an independent group which rents the premises every weekday morning for activities with under fives. The Toddler group welcomes parents and carers with babies or under-threes, and the Playgroup is for pre-school children, three and upwards.

Contact SRUF administrator, Maria Hulme on 0117 377 8665 for details.

Sunday morning, the grave was empty, and Jesus proved that he truly is the Risen Son of God with just one word: "Mary!"

In the same way, Jesus has proved to countless other people, including many at tbc, that he is truly alive, and able to stand alongside the suffering people of the world.

If you want to know how you can meet him, or find out more, contact us.

Easter Services:

Good Friday: March 21:

10.30am – Short Meditation on the Passion

11.30am – Churches Together in Knowle and

Totterdown (CTKT) Procession of Witness from Totterdown Tesco to Knowle Methodist Church

Easter Day: March 23:

10.30am – Family Service

6.30pm – Easter Praise