



Street Party kicks off celebration and thanks

COME on and celebrate in the street! tbc is a church in the community for the community.

On Saturday, September 11, Cemetery Road will be closed off for a street party to which everyone in the community is welcome.

From 3pm, there will be live music, a bouncy castle, street games and cakes. At 5pm, the BBQ will fill the air with enticing smells, and at 7pm, there's a barn dance in the Jarman Hall. And the best thing is that everything's FREE!

So what are we celebrating? Well, during August, major building work has been carried out to renovate the



roof, to install a brand new kitchen and provide disabled access ramp and toilets.

The kitchen and access works are being funded by an Early Years capital grant awarded to Sydenham Road Under Fives from Bristol City Council. The street party will celebrate the re-opening of our greatly improved facilities which will benefit the playground, as well as many other users of **tbc** building.

The party will also be a send-off for **tbc** minister, Laurie Burn and his wife, Karen, who will be on sabbatical for three months, including a six-week trip to work in Kenya. (See over the page)

September is traditionally a time of year when we celebrate harvest – remembering that God provides our food and all we need. At this year's harvest festival on Sunday, September 12, the day after the party, we have even more reasons to thank God and celebrate!

Roof restored to 'as new' condition



THE church building was constructed in 1881 by a group of Bristol businessmen who felt the call to plant a new church in what is now called Totterdown.

However, a Victorian building demands a lot of maintenance, and the roof of the central block has been leaking for many years.

During the war, half the roof was bomb damaged and replaced with tiles. The building is

now Grade 2 listed, so a "proper job" was needed to put it right, using slate and Bath stone.

Eventually, after a year of drawing plans and seeking approval, the roof is being renovated at a cost of £50,000.

We thank God that He has provided this money by a combination of generous gifts from members and an interest-free loan, so that the building can be used by both church and the local community.

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

Secretary for new year



ONE of those who has recently joined **tbc** is Jonathan Rayers, chairman of the community street party planning group. Jonathan (24), a civil engineer, moved to Bristol two years ago to work as a design consultant to water utility companies. A good conversation-stopper when asked about his work is 'I'm into sewers!'

Jonathan plays the piano in **tbc** music group, leads the 'Friendship' home group for 20-30 somethings and has recently been elected as the new church secretary, to take over in January.

He says: "With all the uncertainty of a new job and change of living in a new city where I didn't know anyone, I was worried that my life would end up revolving around my work."

"I needn't have worried though. I'd be lying if I said the past few years have been easy – as they've been far from it - but by giving things over to God and letting Him take control of the situations, I have so much to be thankful for."

Diary dates

September

Saturday 11 from 3pm
Community Street Party – Cemetery Rd
Sunday 12 10.30am
Harvest Festival Service
Sunday 26
Back to Church Sunday

November

Saturday/Sunday 20/21
Front Room Art Trail in **tbc** Saltcellar

December

Sunday 19 6.30pm
Candlelit Carol Service
Tuesday 21 6.30pm
Carols in Perrett's Park

Weeks in Kenya part of break

IT is four years since **tbc** minister, Laurie Burn, came to Totterdown from a small village in Devon. During this time, the church has grown considerably with the morning congregation doubled to about 70 adults, plus more than 20 children most weeks.

The church has become much more involved with the local community, including the formation of COPP (The Community of Perrett's Park) and Laurie is now a familiar face at Hillcrest and Victoria Park schools, taking regular assemblies with stories and his guitar.

Asked the reason for this growth, Laurie says: "It was not my idea to come to Bristol – in fact I'm really a country-bumpkin at heart, and would never have chosen to live in a city. But God used a "megaphone" to call us here and we obeyed."

"The members of Totterdown Baptist Church were also ready and willing for new ventures and we fitted in like a jigsaw piece. Everything that has happened has been because God has



been at work by His Spirit, and we give Him the praise."

But this autumn, Laurie and Karen will be

taking a three-month sabbatical break from duties at **tbc** to create time for reflection and some rest and refreshment.

For the first half, they will be travelling to a village near Bungoma in the highlands of Kenya, where they will be working with ICFEM (www.icfem-mission.org) a Christian organisation working with the rural poor to bring holistic and sustainable development. The latter half will be spent back in Bristol where Laurie will, among other projects, be recording a CD of his own songs.

Baptist ministers are encouraged to take a sabbatical every seven years. Some have asked what the church will do during his absence. According to Laurie, the church at **tbc** is in good heart, with many gifted people who will have opportunities to serve.

"It will be good for us and for the church to have this time of change, to remind us that 'Unless the LORD builds the house, the builders labour in vain.' (Psalm 127)"

WE recently calculated the annual footfall of **tbc** buildings (the number of people using the building in a year) and it came to a staggering 32,000!

Apart from the regular Sunday services and weekday church activities such as youth clubs and Girls' Brigade, we have a wide range of other community groups meeting on the premises.

Sydenham Road Under-Fives caters for pre-school children every week day in term time, and provides a registered playgroup plus a Toddlers group.

This year's OFSTED inspection rated SRUF as "good", offering "an inclusive environment where children settle to be secure and happy" with "caring and enthusiastic staff".

For more information look up www.sydenhamroadunderfives.org or phone SRUF Administrator Maria Hulme on 0117 377 8665.

The mosaic (pictured) created by SRUF Playgroup children now decorates the Toddlers entrance in Cemetery Road.



Performanze Rosie Easton and her team

Premises being put to full use

teach ballet, tap and modern dance for children and adults on Saturdays, and drama clubs on Wednesdays – please come along and join in the fun.

Check out our website www.performanze.co.uk or contact us on 07745 099472.
Performanze: Inspires Creativity & Confidence.

Food Addicts in Recovery

Are you having trouble controlling the way you eat? Food Addicts in Recovery Anonymous (FA) is a free 12-step recovery programme for anyone suffering from food obsession, over-eating, under-eating and bulimia. FA meets at **tbc** every Monday at 6.45pm.

Contact: Sheila 01275 832515 or Barbara 01761 432713
Website: www.foodaddicts.org

YWCA is the leading charity working with the most disadvantaged young women in England and Wales
www.ywca.org.uk/whatwedo

ESOL English Classes, organised by the Bristol Pakistani Community Welfare Organisation. Tel. 0117 952 3031

Flute Lessons Diana Dickerson teaches flute to children from age four to adult, and also organises group playing and concerts around Bristol. e-mail: flutediva100@googlemail.com

Totterdown Front Room Art Trail is held in **tbc** Saltcellar with a number of local artists displaying. This year it's on Saturday and Sunday, November 20-21. Check out www.frontroom.org.uk

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