



## Facing death, but no longer afraid

ALASTAIR MACDONALD moved from Scotland to Knowle about 30 years ago, where he worked as a civil engineer. Last year, his cousin, Jan, came over from America, and attended tbc, bringing along a rather reluctant Alastair.

Alastair said: "I was terrified at first. The last time I went to church was more than 30 years ago and that was Church of Scotland! But I found the people at tbc very friendly and the services interesting and relevant, so I soon got to know people.



"The sermons helped me to understand the Bible, and apply it to my life."

When Jan went back to the USA, Alastair went with her and visited Hillcrest Baptist Church in Acworth, Atlanta, which was very different again, leading to him asking lots of searching questions about faith.

Once back in Bristol, this time on his own, he returned to tbc and began to get involved, including sorting and delivering *tbc Times*. The photo shows him running skittles at the Street Party.

Since the beginning of 2011, the prostate cancer, which Alastair fought for 12 years, worsened, and sadly he died in St Peter's Hospice on March 4.

Before he died, he said: "Since returning to church, I have found a deep peace as I came to believe in Jesus and understand that all my past mistakes have been forgiven. I don't like the idea of dying, but I know where I am going and I'm no longer afraid."

# Don't be bored this holiday

**FANCY trying something new? Bored during the school holidays? Like to find out about the Easter story?**

Come along to Broadwalk Arts in the shopping centre during Holy Week, Monday to Thursday, April 18 - 21, anytime

between 10am and 5pm, where South Bristol Methodist Churches, supported by Churches Together in Knowle and Totterdown, are organising an Easter Art and Craft Workshop.

Children can get involved with all sorts of exciting activities, and also enjoy a drink and a cake, but they need to be accompanied by an adult.

For more information contact Heather Leppard or Rachel Spencer. [h.leppard@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:h.leppard@yahoo.co.uk) 07522 206169 or [rachel\\_spencer@hotmail.com](mailto:rachel_spencer@hotmail.com) 0117 9090368

Churches Together in Knowle and Totterdown



## What should church do?

**Q. What should tbc be doing in the community?**

**We aim to be church in the community, for the community. If you have any ideas about what tbc could or should be doing in our area, drop us a line, or visit our website and leave a message**

## Panto in the offing

WE are in early stages of planning a community pantomime. If you'd like to take part in this, contact Elaine Spencer via the tbc website.

## Calling all folk fans

A BRAND new Folk Music Club is starting on the first Saturday of each month in tbc Saltcellar.

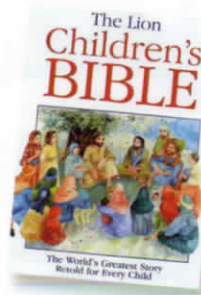
The organiser is local guitar teacher Jim Tigwell, well known for running the Open Mike at the Shakespeare Pub and the Totterdown Music Festival in Henry Street.

The opening night is Saturday, April 2 when the guest artists are Issy and David Emenev from Cheddar. Check out their traditional English music on [www.myspace.com/issyemenev](http://www.myspace.com/issyemenev)

Tickets are £6 at the door. There will be a coffee bar, or you can bring your own drinks.

## So important and it's a free offer

WE think that the stories of the Bible are so amazing and important for everyone to read that we're prepared to give a free copy of the Lion Children's Bible (worth £9.99) to anyone who asks (max. one per family). This is an unconditional offer - no strings attached. Just contact us at [www.tbc.org.uk](http://www.tbc.org.uk) or phone 0117 977 8040 to ask for your copy.



## Services around Easter

**Sunday April 17**

10.30am Palm Sunday Service.

**Friday April 22**

10.30am Good Friday Meditation

12 noon Walk of Witness with Churches Together, from Totterdown Methodist Church along the Wells Road to Knowle Methodist Church.

**Sunday April 24**

10.30am and 6.30pm Easter Day Celebration

**Sunday June 12**

4pm Pentecost Songs of Praise in Redcatch Park





## Street party scores major hit

OUR street party in Cemetery Road in September was a roaring success. It marked the completion (nearly!) of major building work and also the sending of tbc Minister Laurie Burn and his wife Karen on a three-month sabbatical.

We estimate that about 500 people turned up on a glorious sunny afternoon to enjoy the free bouncy castle and street games, and listen to live music. We gave away 300 free hot dogs, hundreds of cakes and cups of tea and about 80 revellers turned up to the barn dance in the evening. Many people were amazed that the event was free – but it was! We celebrate a God who gives genuinely free gifts.

## Everyone loves a good story

JOSEPH and his multicoloured coat, David and Goliath, Moses and Pharaoh, Joshua and the walls of Jericho, Samson the strong, Daniel in the lions' den, the Christmas story, The Prodigal Son, The Good Samaritan and the story of Easter – all these and many more favourite stories can be found in the world's best-selling book – The Bible.

This year is the 400th since the translation of the Bible into English, by order of King James First in 1611, so there have recently been many programmes on TV and Radio celebrating this important anniversary.

The King James Version, or Authorised Version, is renowned for the beauty and grandeur of its language and Shakespeare is believed to have been among the translators. However, there are now many other translations which make it easier to understand in modern English, and also about 2,000 other languages.

The popularity of the soaps and *Harry Potter* is proof that everyone likes a good story – especially if good triumphs over evil in the end.

Recent world events are the cause of much anxiety, yet were predicted in the Bible thousands of years ago and are part of the Big Story still being unfurled.

But the good news of Easter is that God took hold of the tragic and violent events that led to Jesus' death on the cross, and transformed the outcome by raising Him from the dead. More than 500 people witnessed Jesus alive. The final episode is yet to happen, but the penultimate chapter of the Bible, Revelation 21, predicts a renewed creation in which there will be no more suffering, pain, crying, or death. No wonder that one translation is called the Good News Bible!

## 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. Details from SRUF administrator, Maria Hulme on 0117 377 8665

## Mission in Kenya

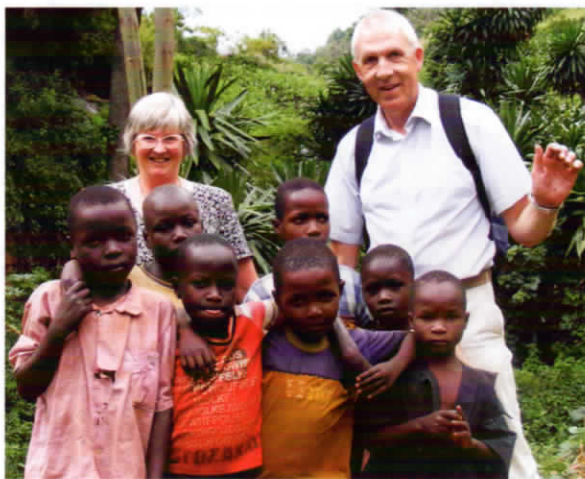
LAURIE and Karen are back from their six-week African trip.

While in Kenya, they worked with an indigenous mission organisation called IcFEM ([www.icfem-mission.org](http://www.icfem-mission.org)) which is transforming poor rural communities through education, medical work, agriculture etc.

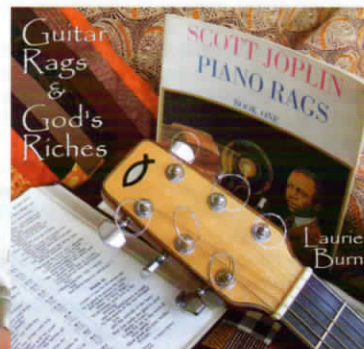
Among other projects, they helped restore a community spring and taught in schools, villages and churches. Karen made 80 metres of curtains for the local hospital and started up a knitting co-operative with a group of disabled women, who are now knitting hats to sell on the local market.

If you have any unwanted knitting needles size 8 (4mm) or 10 (3.25mm) please drop them into tbc and Karen will send them to Kenya.

Back in Bristol, Laurie recorded a CD called *Guitar Rags & God's Riches* – a unique mixture of ragtime guitar instrumentals and original



Laurie and Karen with some of the children



songs charting his spiritual journey. To listen to a sampler, or order a copy, visit [www.laurieguitars.co.uk](http://www.laurieguitars.co.uk)

All proceeds from the sales are going to IcFEM mission in Kenya and tbc Building Fund.

## 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

## Totterdown Baptist Church Wells Road, BRISTOL BS4 2AX

Side entrance in Sydenham Road  
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Website: [www.tbc.org.uk](http://www.tbc.org.uk)  
Minister: Rev Laurie Burn  
Tel. 0117 941 8326