

Spring Mount Newsletter November 2010

www.springmountcf.co.uk

*Spring Mount Christian
Fellowship
Abbey Road
Barrow-in-Furness*

Spring Mount Christian Fellowship exists to
Reach others for Christ;
Teach about Christ;
Grow in Christ;
Send for Christ.

*Spring Mount Walney
Amphitrite Street
Walney Island*

Please email all notices for December to donna@springmountcf.co.uk by **Monday 22nd November**.

Message from the Leadership Team

It's now a month since the church week-end away at Blaithe which was a great time. Time for chat, challenging teaching, great food, adventure on low ropes, muddy backsides on BMX bikes, strolls in autumn countryside or visiting Carlisle.

We thought about church growth. Everyone present agreed that we want to see SMCF grow – not to build an empire, but because we want to see men, women and children experience God's saving grace and his on-going power in their lives. It was encouraging to hear of other churches doing things a very different ways and realised again the importance of hearing what God is saying to each individual church – there is no "one size fits all" formula for growth. We were challenged to be open as to how God would bring about His vision for Spring Mount of three worshipping communities in the Barrow area.

"Enlarge the place of your tent, stretch your tent curtains wide, do not hold back; lengthen your cords, strengthen your stakes" Isaiah told the exiled people of Israel. The Leadership team feel that now is the time to be strengthening the stakes of SMCF. We have sought to lay foundations by encouraging personal discipleship through prayer couples and triplets (and that remains), and we have recently been wanting to build further through homegroup involvement. The two new homegroups have started well, and will take a little while to bed in, but we would like to see greater engagement with everyone who comes on Sunday, whether to one or more of the services at Abbey Road or Walney, being connected in some way to a homegroup.

Paul Hardingham

House Group	Leader	Phone Number	Venue
Monday 7.30pm-9.30pm	Shirley Waters Jeanetta Stevenson		
Tuesday 7.30pm-9.30pm	Alan Docker		
Wednesday 7.30pm-9.30pm	Tim & Isabela Baalham		
Thursday 1.30pm-3.30pm	Peter & Ruth Randall		

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

This year Barrow and District are having its own checking warehouse for the shoe boxes. This warehouse has kindly been donated by the Council, and is Unit 5, Freel Court, Barrow, and will be operating from Monday 15th November to Friday 19th November from 9.30 a.m. 0 7.00 p.m. On Saturday, the 20th November it will be from 9.30 a.m. to 4.00 p.m., after which time there will be a Civic send-off. (Further details of this to be announced in due course).

A team of people to check the boxes is needed each day, i.e. approx. 10 to check the boxes and 4 men every afternoon and evening to pack them into outer cartons and stack them. Finally, on the afternoon of Saturday, the 20th November, a team of 12 strong men are needed to load the wagon.

If anyone is interested and able to help in any way please contact Shirley, either personally or by phone on 821304. Thank you.





There is a loop system in all our services. Please remember to switch on.



Sunday Services	Abbey Road Speakers 11am & 6.15pm	Abbey Road Bible Readings	Walney Speakers 10.30am service
November 7th	Eddie Ainsworth	am: Luke 14:31-33 pm: Exodus 20:13	Worship & Word
November 14th	David Hannant	am: Luke 15:8-10 pm: Fellowship Meeting	Worship & Word
November 21st	Geoff Gill	am: Luke 16:19-31 pm: Exodus 20:14	Worship & Word
November 28th	Ray Tate	am: Family Service with children from Ormsgill School pm: Luke 20:15	Worship & Word

God sometimes does the strangest things!

Some of the heroes of faith were asked by God to do things they could not understand and which seemed to be foolhardy!

Hey Joshua - look there is Jericho, go and capture it but don't worry about the fact that it is heavily fortified and defended by a trained army. You could imagine the strategists and experts in warfare thinking about siege engines, catapults, battering rams, even a Trojan Horse, mind you God had already got an agent on the inside - a most unlikely character, a prostitute! Never mind all that God says, just walk round the city 13 times, blow trumpets and shout at the top of your voices and the city will be yours! What if Joshua had said to God - "That's not the way to capture a city!"

Hey Gideon, The Midianites are raiding the land, go and sort them out. There could be about 135,000 of them but don't worry you only need 300 men each with an empty jar, a trumpet and a torch! What if Gideon had said to God - "Not a good idea I think it would be better with the original 32,000 who had come to help!"

Hey Naaman, you want to be healed of leprosy? Just go and wash 7 times in the Jordan! "What!" said Naaman, "how silly is that, I can think of better places to wash and more spectacular things to do!" What if Naaman had said no, and he nearly did until a faithful servant girl persuaded him to accept what God had said through Elisha.

God so loved the world that He gave His only Son to be the Saviour and Redeemer of the world, but God required that Jesus give Himself to die on the cross for you and me!

What if Jesus had said no! Many have said they have a better way but God said there is only My Way that is acceptable! These incidents remind me of a modern version of the story of Abraham being required to sacrifice Isaac. This version is exactly the same as the one found in Genesis 22 v 1 -12 but the ending is different! Abraham hears God say, "do not lay a hand on the boy...do not do anything to him" but Abraham killed Isaac anyway saying, "I know this is what God really wanted!!!!"

Things are happening around us that perhaps we do not understand, that take us out of our comfort zone and into unfamiliar territory. Now it is true that all may not be of God and there may be excesses so we do need discernment but we also need to be open to what God is doing in other people's lives even though we may not experience it in our own. Let us pray for an openness to what God is doing and a willingness to allow Him to work as He wants and not according to what we think He should be doing and how we think He should be doing it!

Isaiah 55 v 6 - 9

Romans 11 v 33 - 36



1.30pm November 9th
Spring Mount Abbey Road
John Irving "Streetsafe"

November 23rd Joshua Read
November 25th Katie Read
November 27th Iona Lee

Birthdays

FAMILY PRAYER DAY

This will be on Saturday 27 November from 9am - 12noon at Abbey Road. There will be opportunity for quiet prayer and also to share in and create a prayer picture around Ezekiel 47 - the River of God. It's for all ages so families can come and pray together. See Frances for further details.

THE BUS AND H.O.T.S

Please continue to pray for these two ministries, for the people involved and for the impact on our town. If you would like to get involved with either, please see Anne Lowther.