

Newsletter

Welcome to our Autumn newsletter! What a busy summer we have had!

Members of Church on the Bus from Clay Cross enjoyed a day out by the seaside, while those from Matlock stepped out in faith at Dove Dale...



So as our thoughts turn from summer to autumn, Mick, who became a Christian through the Chesterfield Church on the Bus 4 years ago now, shares some of his thoughts on Harvest, and indeed the Harvest of Church on the Bus, see below.



What do we need for a good harvest?

We need seeds to sow, instructions to follow, light, warmth, and water.

Well, we are all part of God's harvest.

When we become Christians, the seed of faith is planted in our hearts.

The instructions to help it grow stronger are what we read in the Bible. The more we learn, the more we become members of God's family.

The light we need is the light that shines from the sign of the cross, protecting us from the influence of temptation.

The warmth we receive is the love of the Lord. He loves us no matter what we do, and will always do so.

The water is the tears we shed through feeling emotional when we see and hear of the evil things that are happening in the world, but we know that the power of God will overcome, and will bring peace and love to everyone.

Another Harvest that is taking place is **Church on the Bus**. It started with one man, Captain Alan, having a vision of taking the Word of the Lord to those who were homeless and alone. Having experienced it himself, he could empathise with what others were going through. Yes, it started off with one man! Now there's a large group of volunteers, giving of their time to help those less fortunate. And what of those who need help? Why do they come week after week? They come because they've found someone who loves and cares about them.

If that's not what a good Harvest is about, I don't know what is!

It all comes from the influence of the Lord.

SO ALL PRAISE TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST!

The Day the Archbishop came to Town!

On Sept 24 the Archbishop of Canterbury, Rowan Williams, came to Chesterfield to open the new Parish Centre at St Thomas' where Church on the Bus has its office base. He then visited the Bus, which was parked outside, meeting Captain Alan and some other members of Church on the Bus, including Barbara from Chesterfield, who proudly showed him the biscuits she had just decorated in the new Parish Centre!



Also from Chesterfield were Malcolm; and Steve, who was referred to in our last Newsletter, and shares his testimony with us below; and Linda, pictured sitting in the Bus above, who travelled over from Matlock for the occasion! The Archbishop then travelled on the Bus into Chesterfield Town Centre to open another Fresh Expression of Church.

Steve's Testimony

On a bright Wednesday morning I had an appointment at the Benefit Tribunal Service in Chesterfield. This appointment was about trying to reverse a decision to suspend my state benefits for 26 weeks. I was feeling nervous and a little apprehensive as I knew the importance of getting this decision reversed. Before I went to the tribunal, I went into the local church, The Crooked Spire, to say a prayer and ask God for help. Almost immediately my nerves went away. I felt calm and time seemed to slow down. I felt completely relaxed and confident. I arrived at the tribunal some time later and won my case, getting the decision to suspend my benefits reversed and getting back hundreds of pounds of money. Although not previously believing in God, I now believe that there is a God who will respond when asked for help. I for one am eternally grateful for the Lord's help.

Please Pray for...

Our Upcoming Events:-

- Prayer and Gift Day in Matlock 9am-1pm outside Sainsbury's and Chesterfield 1.30pm-5pm outside St Thomas' Church on Sat 15 October
- Chesterfield Day Trip to Blackpool Sat 29 October
- Opening of new daytime Drop-in Centre using Matlock Bus on Hurst Farm Estate, Matlock.