

Newsletter!



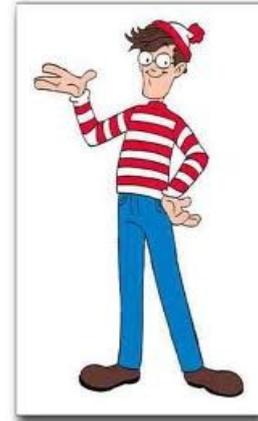
At last it's hotting up for summer (okay, well warming up anyway!) and Love is in the Air for two couples who in different ways are connected with Church on the Bus.

Shaun and Jo have been attending the Bus in Matlock for the last two years and decided to get married. The Matlock volunteers wasted no time and before you knew it, had organised their home church, Matlock Methodist /United Reformed Church on Bank Road, to put together a wedding day for them to remember! Rev Colin Smith took the service in May. Rob Stoba was Best Man, and members of the congregation rallied round to contribute whatever they could, a wedding dress, food, and a lady in her 80s even made a wedding cake!

Meanwhile, in Chesterfield, David and Marion Smith, who have been faithful sandwich makers for the Bus for 6 or 7 years, were giving away a double bed and asked if anyone from the Bus might need it. Just so happened Shaun and Jo did! And to top it all, David and Marion were celebrating their Diamond Wedding Anniversary, 60 years of wedded bliss! which they attribute to the presence of God in their lives and marriage, and demonstrated this by starting their anniversary morning in a prayer of thanksgiving to God for all His blessings to them. What a wonderful couple! And as they now step down from sandwich making and take a well deserved rest, we wanted to thank them for all their years of service as well as congratulate them on their Diamond Wedding, so Alan presented them with some flowers on behalf of Church on the Bus.



Where is the Bus?!



Well, it is almost ready! We are just awaiting the final touches of the exterior paintwork with Church on the Bus and Church Army logos and then it will be ours! We hope to have a service at St Thomas' to celebrate its launch and we do hope you will be able to join us for this and see the Bus for yourselves. Details of this will be posted on our website when they are available, and emailed to those of you who are on our distribution list. Do get in touch if you are not on this list and would like to receive our quarterly Newsletters in this way.

Art Ministry

In the last Newsletter we referred to starting up Art Ministry workshops on the new Bus. Due to the delay in acquiring the Bus, and the difficulty in identifying a suitable location to park it for these sessions, we have decided to start these workshops in September. They will be approximately 2 hour sessions held on Monday and Wednesday mornings, pending venue availability.

THANK YOU



Thanks!
A simple line drawing of a smiling face with a hand pointing towards it.

Thank you to all those who contacted Church Army to sponsor Ken Cavanagh in his marathon run for Church on the Bus. We are delighted that he raised £500 for us! **Thank you Ken!!**

Thank you also to those of you who committed to praying for the Chesterfield Bus nights. This has made a real difference to the prayer times at the end of the evening. Whereas in the last Newsletter we said that there had been some disruption to the prayer times, and nurture groups were not taking off in Chesterfield as they had done in Matlock, now we have several men of all ages from Chesterfield hungry to meet together in addition to Bus nights, to learn more about God and discover how they can turn their lives around. However, as Jesus said in Matthew 9:37, 'the harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.' With the Bus going out 4 times a week, a weekly nurture group in Matlock, and the plan to introduce two Art Ministry workshops during the week as well, Alan's weekly diary is becoming very booked up, leaving little time for additional support for people such as attending court appearances, assistance with housing or benefit issues, or individual counselling/support meetings, all of which is often unseen work carried out by Captain Alan during the week. It is also vital that we keep space for our weekly prayer time for Church on the Bus, as this underpins all that we seek to do and allows time to hear from God and how He wants to lead us forward in this work. This is currently held on Wednesday mornings 10am at St Thomas' Church (but this may have to be brought forward to 9am in September to accommodate the Art Ministry workshops). So if you feel God might be calling you to help in any of the above ways, including driving the Bus, then please do get in touch, by any of the contact details at the end of this Newsletter.

Contact Us!

Mobile: 07792 646 569

E-mail: captain@churchonthebus.com

www.churchonthebus.com

Address: Church on the Bus, St Thomas' Church, Chatsworth Road, Chesterfield. S40 3AW.

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