



St HELEN'S WINDOW

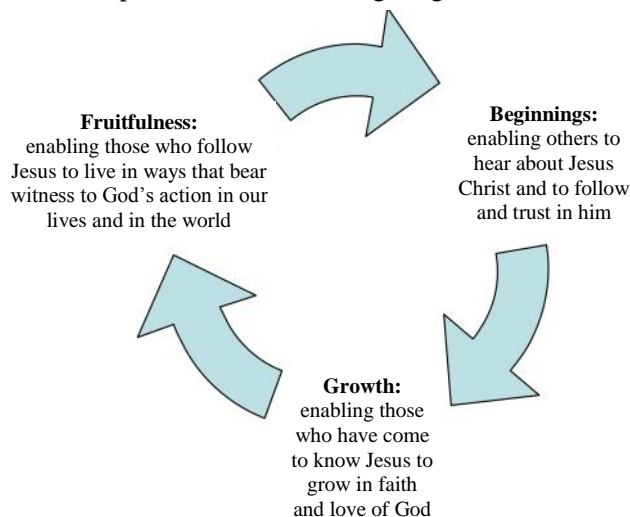
Making Disciples

The Revd Dr Michael Beasley

Many people would say that Making Disciples is the core task left by Jesus to his Church. At the very end of Matthew's Gospel, just before he ascends to heaven, Jesus gives to those who follow him his 'Great Commission':

*'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.'**

Some would say that Making Disciples is just about the start of a person's journey with Christ. But I would argue that being made a disciple is something that takes the whole of our lives, a cycle that sees us continually make beginnings, grow and bear fruit that in turn helps us and others to begin again:



As you think about your own faith, I wonder how this makes sense to you? How did you begin in faith? How has your faith grown over the years? How does faith work out in your life and the life of others? And as we think about Making Disciples, how can this understanding guide us? How can we offer others opportunities to make beginnings? Help others grow? See others bear the fruit of Christian faith in their lives?

Making Disciples can never be about a 'one size fits all' approach. What we choose to do depends on where we are, and of how we can make the most of the situations, gifts, challenges and opportunities that we have. In this edition of the *Window*, different members of the community write about what they've done to help make and grow disciples, where they are, alongside a wide range of different people. Their stories are inspiring. I hope that reading them will inspire you too to think about how you can help make disciples, and grow in your own discipleship in the places where God, and others, find you.

Michael Beasley is Director of Mission in the Diocese of Oxford. He lives in Abingdon with his wife, Lizzie. Michael will be preaching at St Helen's on Sunday 16th October, 2011.

The Editors

Jane Baun
Alexandra Green
Sheila Hills
Silvia Joinson
David Pope

Copy for next issue to Church Office or via email by 5th of preceding month

St Helen's Church Office: St Helen's Court, Abingdon OX14 5BS

Tel: 01235 520144

E-mail: StHelensWindow@gmail.com

Designed and pageset in Times New Roman

Parish Pilgrimage to Westminster Abbey, 15 October

In Oxford Diocese in 2011 we are being encouraged to think about pilgrimage, and to explore how movement to and around spaces both holy and ordinary can help us grow in our spiritual lives. The Diocese has produced several publications which are well worth looking at, in particular, 'Pilgrimage: a Simple Guide', and a diocesan pilgrimage map. Some of us will have experienced the Diocesan Pilgrimage Day which St Michael's Church hosted on 24 September, led by the Revd Sally Welch (*Every Place is Holy Ground*, Canterbury Press, 2011).

On **Saturday, October 15**, we will have an opportunity to put all this training into practice, and to make a pilgrimage together to the medieval **shrine of St Edward the Confessor in Westminster Ab-**



bey. The Abbey will be open from 9 am, with free admission for pilgrims, a Festival Eucharist at 11.30 am, and Evensong with Procession at 3 pm. In addition to prayer at the shrine of St Edward (+1066), an Anglo-Saxon king renowned for his personal holiness and Christian witness, pilgrims will be able to participate in prayer tours, spiritual counselling, healing liturgies, talks, and children's activities. 'Walking pilgrims' who arrive at the Abbey on foot from a distance will be welcomed with ritual foot washing—but most of our parish group will probably travel by Oxford Tube and train!

Jane Baun is coordinating the Abingdon parish group, and if you are interested in joining in, please contact her by e-mail or note via the parish office by Friday, 7 October.

Zimbabwe Update

Jane Baun

Many of us were moved to hear Bishop Chad Gandiwa of Harare when he preached and then spoke at St Helen's last Mothering Sunday (*St Helen's Window*, May 2011). Since then, the difficulties faced by Anglicans in Zimbabwe from the actions over the past seven years of the deposed former Bishop of Harare, Nolbert Kunonga, have only increased in ferocity and audacity. Priests have been evicted from their vicarages, with many harassed, beaten up by thugs, and some arrested, the Bishop of Harare evicted from his cathedral and diocesan offices, an 89-year-old female lay leader murdered by thugs, care staff evicted from a church-run orphanage, mission schools and hospitals taken over, and ever more church property, land, and funds confiscated. Bishop Chad and his wife were themselves recently subjected to a break-in by thugs who terrorised them and made off

with computers containing personal and diocesan data.

The Archbishop of Canterbury will attempt to meet President Mugabe in Harare later this month as an advocate for Zimbabwean Anglicans, and to lodge a protest against the campaign of harassment and property confiscation. Zimbabwe, together with Malawi, Zambia, and Botswana, makes up the Anglican Province of Central Africa (CPCA), and the Archbishop was already scheduled to visit Malawi to take part in celebrations for the Province's 150th anniversary. Despite all the troubles, Anglicans in Zimbabwe continue to flourish, meeting in schools, chapels, and halls. The recent feast-day celebrations for Bernard Mizeki, a lay catechist who is revered as a Christian martyr (+ 18 June 1896), drew up to 15,000 people from all over the Central African province, including all of its 15 bishops, and this despite festivities having

to be held in a showground, since access to Mizeki's shrine was denied.

The Archbishops of Canterbury and York continue to put pressure on the Mugabe government to stop the persecution, harassment, bullying, and confiscations – but what can we do to support Christians in Zimbabwe?

Bishop Chad urged everyone to pray always for Zimbabwean Christians, and not to forget – that the knowledge that others were praying for them regularly was a huge consolation and strength.

Closer to home, St Helen's Church has recently been able to help in a direct and practical way, through personal links.

Our parishioner Bertha Nyahoda was born and raised in Zimbabwe. Bertha's love of the Church was nurtured as a small child in St Bede's, her village church, where her father was a lay preacher. She attended St Augustine's, a mission boarding school run by two Anglican orders, the Community of the Resurrection (Mirfield fathers) and the Order of the Holy Paraclete (Whitby sisters). The 600+ pupils and teacher-training students were schooled strictly and thoroughly in the full range of traditional subjects; Bertha remembers one especially fierce nun who took her class for Latin! After nursing training in Harare and Liverpool, Bertha worked in health care in Zambia and Zimbabwe until 1999, when she moved to Oxford. Up until her recent retirement, she did nursing stints at most of the hospitals in the John Radcliffe Primary Care Trust.

Bertha is still in touch with her parish church of St Mary Magdalene, Avondale, Harare, and has been following events there closely. Before the troubles began, Avondale was one of the major parishes in Harare Diocese, with an average attendance topping 1000 at its five Sunday services. A priest allied with Nolbert Kunonga now presides over one service on

Sunday in the large modern church, to which only a few people come. The regular congregation now meet for three Sunday services in two different schools. The main services, at 9.30 and 11, meet in a local primary school, with around 300 people for each service packed into the small school hall, sitting on

tiny infant chairs. Several priests and numerous lay leaders serve the congregation, among them their Rector, the Revd Innocent Motsi; the Revd Gift Makwasha, a young priest just out of training in Harare and the United States, and the Revd Hugh Williams, a retired NSM. Avondale and neighbouring parishes

are under increasing pressure, in ways that we in England can only begin to imagine, but, meeting in homes and schools, they continue to keep a vibrant parish life going, offering the full range of worship, pastoral offices, two choirs (Shona and English), Mother's Union, AIDS ministry, junior church, catechism, confirmations, youth groups, youth band, and charitable outreach.

Responding to an appeal in the parish newsletter for donations of Communion bread and wine, St Helen's recently took up a retiring collection for Avondale parish which yielded a generous sum. When Bertha flew to Harare in mid-September, she was able to take with her a large quantity of Communion wafers, money to purchase wine, and some altar linen, as a gift from St Helen's. We hope that this will be the beginning of a fruitful fellowship of prayer, personal contacts, and practical support with St Mary Magdalene's, in which everyone at St Helen's and in Abingdon parish will feel involved.

Sources: *St Helen's Window*, May 2011, Bertha Nyahoda, *Church Times*, Anglican Communion News Service (www.anglicancommunion.org/acns).

USPG: Anglicans in World Mission (www.uspg.org.uk)

A prayer for Zimbabwe

*Loving and all-seeing God,
Your Son entered this world
with no home to call his own, and
to a family warned to flee for their lives:
be with your church in Zimbabwe in their
hour of need,
give courage and patience to their bishops
and clergy,
hope and endurance to their peoples,
and a quiet confidence to all that
Your reign of justice and peace
Will finally be established.
Amen*

Equipping Young Disciples for Mission and Evangelism

Lindsay Dale

This past year I have had the great privilege and joy of working with the students in the Christian Union at the University of the West of England as part of a training and discipleship scheme called 'Relay'. My job has been to support, equip and encourage them in their evangelistic outreach on campus to tell

friends and course-mates the incredible truth and good news of the forgiveness and relationship with God available to them through Jesus Christ.

I have learnt so many things this year, but one of the most significant, although perhaps simplest, is that the Chris-

tian life is all about relationship. Jesus himself emphasised that he is not concerned with what religious things we can do for him but that what he cares about (and indeed the only route to salvation) is that we know him (Matthew 7:21-23). I think that often I replace meaningful fellowship with God for empty religiosity. I've also been struck that a core part of the Christian life should be relationship with brothers and sisters within the body of Christ, as we've been given to each other to build one another up and help carry one another's burdens. This has really challenged me regarding the way that I love and serve my Christian friends, and allow them to do the same for me.

So, by way of giving an idea of what I've been doing, and demonstrating how God has been working through it, I'm going to tell you a little about a few of the special people I've been blessed to meet and work with.



Lindsay (second left) and the Relay team at Bristol

Geraldine – my housemate and fellow Relay worker. We met for the first time in September but have since become the best of friends despite being total opposites in character. Geraldine has had a really tough year but despite this she has been an incredible example to me of what sacrificial love for friends

looks like, and we've laughed, cried, and prayed together through the hard times.

Jesse – an Illustration student at the UWE arts campus who has a wonderful childlike joy and exceptional creative talent. We met for milkshakes every week to

read through Ephesians together and spend time practically applying it to our lives and praying it in. Jesse has some real hurt in her past and as she opened up to me about these things it was beautiful to see how the passages of God's word that we were looking at provided the perfect medicine for her soul. Through our time together we saw many prayers answered and Jesse discovered a new passion for reading the Bible, and we also began to plan an evangelistic art exhibition that she'd wanted to put on for her friends.

Yuan Tang – a very friendly and funny international student from Malaysia whom Geraldine and I befriended and had over for dinner and cake-making. She had never heard of the gospel or Jesus in her home country and so was full of great questions and was enthusiastic about coming along to church with us.

Tom – doing his PGCE at UWE, and previously a staunch atheist, Tom saw a flyer advertising a Mexican food night being put on by the Christian Union and came along on his own. I sat next to him and had a great conversation after the speaker had given a talk entitled ‘Jesus hates religion more than you do’ and had a chance to break down some of his misconceptions about the Christian faith and

invite him along to future CU meetings so that he could keep questioning and exploring.

While Relay has provided so much time and opportunity to receive training and put it into practice, mission is an ongoing thing that we are all called to do wherever and whoever we are, with anyone we already have relationships with, using whatever we know of the gospel and trusting and praying that God will do the work through us.

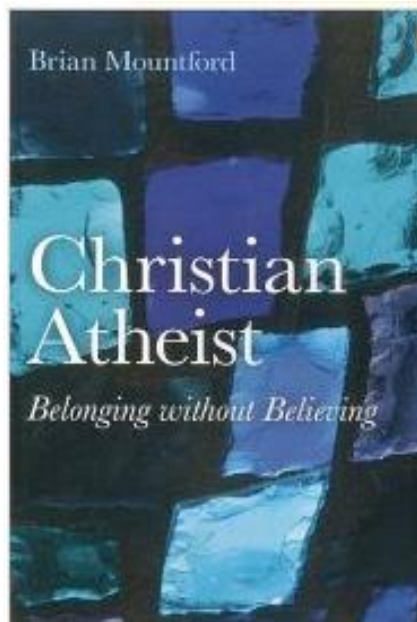
Christian Atheist: Belonging without Believing

Brian Mountford, (O Books, 2011)

Reviewed by Melanie Brown

Brian Mountford’s short book has an interesting title, and is an equally interesting read. *Christian Atheist* attempts to define and explain the group of Church-goers who would say that they do not believe in God, but that do value some aspect of the Church. Some attempt is made at definition but Mountford soon confesses that the category is broad and covers people at different points in their spiritual/non-spiritual journey.

Mountford explains how people can find great richness within the Church traditions whilst not prescribing to its creeds – belonging without believing. The book contains excerpts from a series of interviews interspersed with musings on the relationship between experiences which fall outside scientific explanation (joy in art and music, value systems, transcendence) and the space in which faith dwells. The perspective is an interesting one, and to hear people who profess no belief in God nonetheless warmly support the Church for what it gives to them as individuals, families and communities is somehow encouraging.



Mountford argues strongly that the natural position for most Christians (and many Christian Atheists) is a wish for certainty combined with intellectual questioning, leading to doubt and therefore the potential to grow in understanding and faith.

He would therefore suggest that Christians and Christian Atheists are asking the same types of life questions, and can use the same tools (liturgy, prayer, music, art) to attempt to address them. As a result, Mountford argues that the Christian Atheist should be warmly embraced within the modern Church, as their perspectives and searching has a lot to add to that of the ‘conventional’ Church community.

In addition to gaining from Christian Atheist members of its community, it is important not to forget the fact that the Church will also give back an immense gift, as interviewee Nigel Hamway concisely expressed it: ‘The community aspect is the genius of the Church: you could go pretty well anywhere in the UK, drop in on the local branch of your church and belong.’ I surely hope so.

What's on in October

St Helen's Church

Tuesdays 4, 11, 18, 25 October

Alpha café

10.00-11.10 in Church Centre
course run by Centre Cluster Churches
Contact Revd. SokHan Yong 520144
Alpha.sthelens@gmail.com

Tuesday 11 October

Mothers Union

19.30 in Church Centre
Talk on *The Foyer*

Sunday 16 October

Music & tea in Church 16.00-17.00

Choral Evensong 17.30 with sermon (preacher; The Revd Dr Charles Miller) Second sermon in series celebrating the 400th centenary of the King James Bible

Wednesday 19 October

Wednesday Club

20.00 in Church Centre

Echoes of Cape Clear a talk by

Tom Green, Warden of the Bird Observatory there

Saturday 22 October

Men's Breakfast

09.30 Church Centre

Sunday 23 October

Bible Sunday

10.30 Celebration of the King James Bible
Followed by

Newcomers' Lunch

in the Church Centre, details from Susan Scott
522960

Saturday 29 October

**Celebration of 150 years of
Hymns Ancient and Modern**

15.00-16.30 in Church
no charge, light refreshments

St Michael's Church

Thursday 27 October

St Michael's fellowship

19.45 in Church Room

*Vicki Berry on her time at the
Scout/Guide Jamboree in Sweden*

Saturday 29 October

Mini-Market with coffee & light lunches

10.00-14.00

If you would like an event listed on this page let us know by the 5th of the previous month and we will try to include it. Contact Silvia at alanj@phonecoop.coop or 521247

Church in Abingdon

Thursdays 6 & 20 October

Back to 35

10.30-11.30 Baptist Church Hall
Opportunity for fellowship, cake and coffee
October 6 *Forgotten Children of Darfur* – Rosemary Short
October 20 *The Vine Trust in Peru* – Iain Allan

Saturday 8 October

March for Justice Sponsored Walk

10.30 from Abingdon to Oxford along the Thames
In aid of the poor of Delhi
Contact Robert King for details 553715

Thursday 13 October

Experiences in Israel – Palestine

19.30 at 35 Ock Street
Talk with slides by Jon Neall
Organised by Abingdon Quakers
Details Tony Hicks 07836 760023

Sunday 16 October

CiA Annual Celebration

15.00 Christ Church, Northcourt Road
Refreshments and exhibition of the work of CiA
Details Debra McKnight 07896 860381

Friday 21 October 13.30-16.00

Saturday 22 October 10.00-12.00 & 14.00-16.00

Sunday 23 October 14.00-16.00

**Triptych at Trinity Church
to celebrate the King James Bible**

66 embroidered panels depicting all the books of the Bible

Wednesday 26 October

Fresh Vision

19.30 at St Ethelwold's House
Led by Revd. Laura Hodges

This group meets monthly with a simple service
& time for discussion & reflection

Monday 31 October

The People's Bible is in Abingdon

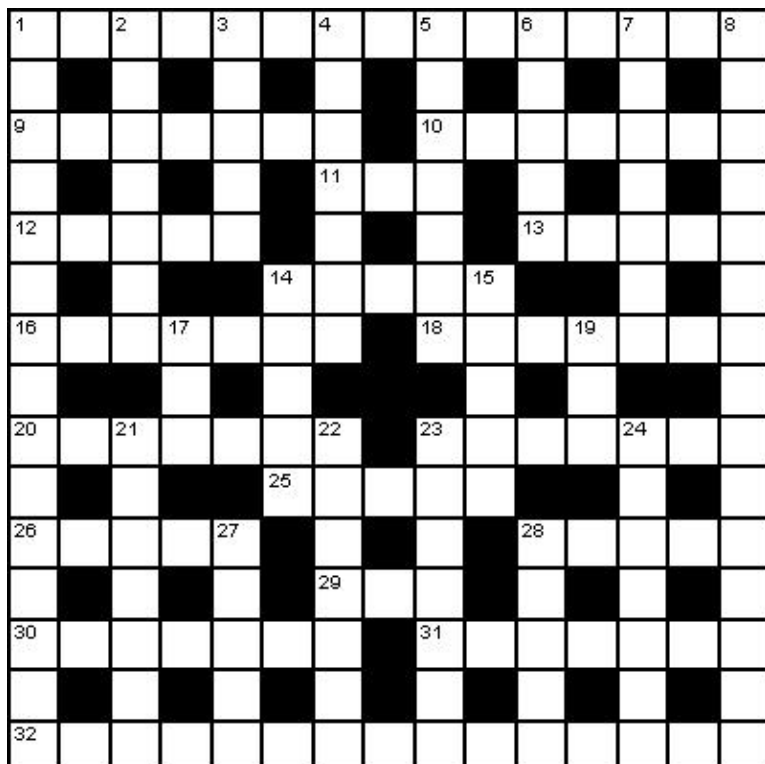
Look at the stall in Bury Street, be a part of
this national Bible tour and engage with the Bible
in a new way.

November Diary dates

Sunday 6 November

CiA Annual Bereavement Service

15.00 at St Edmunds



October's Crossword
compiled by Ian Miles

Across

- 1 Queen's Regulations for worship? (6,2,7)
- 9 Meet quietly over road: this'll be a blow (7)
- 10 Supervise bishop's responsibility (7)
- 11 Mosaic code? (3)
- 12 Entertainment sergeant pays for (5)
- 13 Prise apart landmark (5)
- 14 Decants soup about right (5)
- 16 Old boy likes threading great needle (7)
- 18 Ode about 1 special chap? Most unlikely ! (7)
- 20 Christmas greetings skip a diocese (7)
- 23 Sad bird built 1/2 of nest awry (4-3)
- 25 Visibly glad I'm on right lines (5)
- 26 Overcharges black parliamentarians (5)
- 28 Detectives point to small wood (5)
- 29 Tax I can deduct from Papal abode (3)
- 30 Tale of doomed love between Norway and US city (7)
- 31 Short publicity film following tractor ... (7)
- 32 Seasonal celebration: heave first and last verse out! (7,8)

Down

- 1 Not HQ then? Leaves for country on this (3-2-4,6)
- 2 Highland teacher's car surrounded by deer ... (7)
- 3 ... Topples during *ceilidh*! (5)
- 4 Prospect for e-mail handler (7)
- 5 Patchy weather for exhibitors (7)
- 6 Rushes alongside Moses? (5)

- 7 In-patient's relative leaving hospital here (7)
- 8 Relaxed with her tea *etc* around SW minster (6,9)
- 14 Turns out lamps for old Jewish hymn (5)
- 15 Her name could ring a bell (5)
- 17 Shelter for him with 197 descendants (3)
- 19 Greeks claimed measure of this dish (3)
- 21 Time-lord always for anyone (7)
- 22 A very stern master for him! (7)
- 23 Prone to snap? UK citizen will, allegedly (7)
- 24 Put love beyond risk: don't fly in one! (7)
- 27 Loves tussle to reach answer (5)
- 28 Church worker's mantra (5)

Solution to September's Crossword.
Beagle's Vet by Eccles. The asterisked clues were all vegetables



October at St Helen's Church

Divine Services

Please note new times

Sung Eucharist	10.30	Every Sunday with Junior Church
2 Oct	Michaelmas	
23 Oct	Bible Sunday – KJB celebration	
30 Oct	All Saints	
Holy Communion	08.00	Sundays (followed by refreshments)
Morning Praise	09.15	Sunday 9 October
Morning Prayer	09.10	Monday to Friday
Evening Prayer	17.10	Monday to Friday
Junior Church	10.30	Sundays
Silent Prayer	18.10	Mondays 3 and 17 October
Wednesday Church	10.30	Wednesdays, Holy Communion followed by refreshments.

Sunday Evening Services

All now at **17.30**

2 Oct	Eucharist
9 Oct	Taizé
16 Oct	Choral Evensong <i>in celebration of the 400th Anniversary of the King James Bible</i>
23 Oct	Service for Wholeness and Healing
30 Oct	Evensong

Meetings and Gatherings all in Church Centre Hall unless marked

Alpha Café	10.00	Tuesdays 4, 11, 18, 25 October
Alpha meeting	17.30	Sunday evenings from 16 October
Baby and Toddler Group	09.30 & 11.00	Mondays except 24 October
Baptism Preparation	20.00	Tuesdays 4, 18 October
Beavers	17.30	Wednesdays except 26 October
Brownies	18.15	Tuesdays except 25 October
Clergy consultation	19.00	Wednesdays by appointment
Cubs	18.30	Wednesdays except 26 October
Desiring Life reading group	14.30	Tuesdays 11 and 24 October – Lounge
Faith Forum	09.15	Sunday 2 October
Junior Church	10.30	every Sunday – starts in Church
Mothers' Union	19.30	Tuesday 11 October
Wednesday Club	19.00	Wednesday 19 Oct, see p. 6 for details

Events (more details on page 6)

Visiting ringers Peal Attempt	10.00	Wednesday 12 October
St Helen's @ lunch	12.00	Wednesday 19 October
Men's Breakfast	09.30	Saturday 22 October in Church Centre
RSCM 'Ancient and Modern'	15.00	Saturday 29 October

Faith Forum

Discussion groups for adults and for young people (10 -18)
 Sunday 2 October
 09.15 in Church Centre

Morning Praise

A short service for families
 Sunday 9 October
 09.15 in Church

*The services and events listed here are correct at the time of going to press
 – please consult the weekly Newsheet if in doubt.*

To arrange baptisms, weddings and funerals contact the Church Office.
 Clergy are available in the Church Office between 19.00 - 20.00 on a Wednesday.
 Call the office to book an appointment.

Rector:	The Revd Dr Charles Miller
Assisting Priest (NSM):	The Revd Tim Hewes
Curates (NSM):	The Revd Dr Simon Thorn, The Revd Dr Jane Baun, The Revd SokHan Yong
Director of Music:	Christopher Fletcher-Campbell
Parish Administrator:	Linda Barker

St Helen's Church Office: St Helen's Court, Abingdon, OX14 5BS
 01235 520144
 Normal opening hours 09.00 to 14.15 Mon, Tues, Weds; 09.15 to 14.15 Fri
 E-mail: administrator@sthelens-abingdon.org.uk
 www.sthelens-abingdon.org.uk