

therefore come together 'to seek him with all our hearts'.

This Sunday (April 18<sup>th</sup>) will be our last one for the time being at the Salvation Army, so let's make it a great time together. **From the following Sunday (April 25<sup>th</sup>) we will be meeting at The Old Stable at 10 am.** We want to maintain our links with King's Church Poole, and will go over there whenever there is a fifth Sunday in the month, as well as for special midweek events etc. Our Leadership Group will continue to meet with Bill & Sue regularly, and they hope to come over to Swanage for a monthly midweek meeting for our church, probably on the first Tuesday of each month.

Trusting the Lord for his blessings on us all,  
Mike

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### *News and Events*

Will now be communicated each Sunday morning and posted directly on the King's Church website: [www.kingschurch-swanage.co.uk](http://www.kingschurch-swanage.co.uk)

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### *Please remember to pray for:*

➤ **William and Christine Panduro in Peru**

They are going through a tough time and have serious health concerns.

➤ **Matty and Jonathan and family in Central Asia**

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### *Extract from 'The Word for Today' (Tuesday, 13<sup>th</sup> April)*

... JESUS STOOPEd DOWN.....John 8:6

*There's a story about a guy who fell into a pit and couldn't get out. A subjective person came along and said, "I feel for you down there." An objective person came along and said, "Well, it's logical somebody would fall down there." A Pharisee said, "Only bad people fall into pits." A judgmental Christian said, "You deserve your pit." A realist said, "Now that's a pit." A geologist told him to appreciate the rock strata in the pit. A tax agent asked him if he was paying taxes on the pit. A self-pitying person said, "You haven't seen anything until you've seen my pit." An optimist said, "Things could be worse." A pessimist said, "Things will get worse." Jesus, seeing the guy in the pit, reached down, took him by the hand and lifted him out of the pit.*

Footnote: read Psalm 40: 1-3.



## *The King's Church Swanage*



Bulletin  
April 18-24<sup>th</sup> 2010

*"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord,  
"plans to prosper you and not to harm you,  
plans to give you hope and a future.  
Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me  
and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me  
when you seek me with all your heart. I will be found  
by you," declares the Lord, "and I will bring you back  
from captivity."*

*Jeremiah 29: 11-14*

Sunday, April 18<sup>th</sup>  
4pm

Informal gathering at the Salvation Army

A warm welcome to:

Doug and Penny

Ted and Helen

Members of the Spearhead Team

that, along with Derek, went out to

Uganda and Kenya

Please let Ann have any entries for the bulletin by Thursday morning prior to the relevant Sunday

Contact by phone: 01929 422428 or email: [ann.whitefield.davis@talktalk.net](mailto:ann.whitefield.davis@talktalk.net)

Email: [ann@kingschurch-swanage.co.uk](mailto:ann@kingschurch-swanage.co.uk) [www.kingschurch-swanage.co.uk](http://www.kingschurch-swanage.co.uk)

Registered Charity No. 1077883

### *For your diary:*

- **Sunday, 25<sup>th</sup> April, 10am at the Swanage Christian Centre:** time to wait upon God in prayer. See Mike's letter opposite.  
**Also on Sunday, 25<sup>th</sup>**, 6pm: Worship celebration at Lady St. Mary, Wareham.
- **Monday, 26<sup>th</sup> April, 7.30pm:** Evening of worship at the S.A.

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### *Sunday, 11<sup>th</sup> April*

Bill and Sue came to us with words of encouragement.

Bill read Jeremiah 29: 11-14 (see front cover) commenting that Jeremiah could not be said to have had an easy life. Amongst other hardships he'd been beaten and imprisoned, placed under house arrest, lowered into a muddy well and called a false prophet.

He had prophesied the fall of Jerusalem to the Babylonians and the exile of the people of Judah. Had God forsaken his people? It must have felt like it, for by the rivers of Babylon they sat and wept when they remembered Zion. *There on the poplars we hung our harps ...* (Psalm 137). But God had not forsaken them; he was with them there in exile. He is always with us because we are his people; there's a future, there's hope. (verse 11)

Being in exile is being away from where you want to be. No doubt the people of Judah often thought they'd much rather be back in Jerusalem. But God does not stop thinking about us; we are his covenant people. He has good thoughts towards us. *If God is for us, who can be against us?* (Romans 8:31) *We know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.* (Romans 8:28)

Verse 12: *then you will call upon me...* we also need to hear God and find him. Prayer is 2-way. His thoughts are higher than our thoughts (Isaiah 55: 9). He promises he will be found by us **when** we seek him with all our heart. The condition is seeking him with **all** our heart, not being hypocritical, but being genuine, honest and real.

It is frustrating when people come and go. In Zechariah 13: 8-9 we read that only a remnant, a fraction of the people were left. They would be refined like silver and tested like gold. *They will call on my name and I will answer them: I will say, "They are my people," and they will say, "The Lord is our God."*

We all then shared in the breaking of bread as part of our tea together. Mike outlined some forthcoming changes which he has noted down in the following letter.

### **Letter to Members and Friends of King's Church Swanage, 14. 4.10**

Dear Members and Friends of King's Church Swanage,

I am writing to let you know of **some important changes** regarding when and where we meet which were discussed and agreed at our Church Meeting last Sunday.

Following on from times of seeking God as to the way forward for our church and discussion with Bill & Sue Rice, our Leadership Group felt that we should cease meeting on Sunday afternoons at the Salvation Army hall for the time being, and instead meet on Sunday mornings at the Old Stable Upper Room, primarily for a season of prayer, waiting on the Lord and seeking his further direction for the way forward. We will also be able to worship together and share from the word of God, as well as enjoying fellowship and refreshments.

The Upper Room can accommodate up to 30, which is ample for our present needs, and we can use Old Stable crockery (& dish washer!) and have the use of a cupboard for our coffee & tea etc. I have had very positive discussions with Alan Dominy, Manager of the Swanage Christian Centre (of which I was formerly Chairman for many years, and am currently a Trustee), who is pleased to accommodate us, at a very reasonable charge.

I have also met with Captain Barrie Cox of the Salvation Army and told Barrie that this change is for a season and that we may well wish to return to using their hall, especially if it were to become available on Sunday mornings. We also wish to keep open the possibility of being able to use their premises for occasional mid week events, and will be keeping there our P/A and music equipment, which will continue to be available for the Monday night worship evenings etc. Please keep Barrie & Cheryle in your prayers; Barrie is undergoing unpleasant treatment for prostate cancer. They will be moving from Swanage in July when Barrie retires.

In making these changes, we are not forgetting the words of encouragement we have received from a variety of sources, through which the Lord has commended us for our faithfulness and perseverance during difficult times, with his assurances that blessing and increase will come. We have also been reminded that we are going through 'uncharted waters', and that 'unless the seed dies, it cannot bear fruit'.

As we gather together for prayer, we will be holding on to the scripture Bill brought to us last Sunday from Jeremiah 29, believing that the Lord does indeed have 'plans to prosper us and to give us hope and a future', and that 'he will listen to us when we call on him and pray to him'. Let us