



# CHRIST CHURCH PARBOLD

## QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2026



Hi Everyone

### **What's this all about?**

Welcome to our first Quarterly Newsletter which I hope you will find interesting and informative. We realised that some of our congregation had not received our Prayer Newsletter and we decided to move to this new format which will give news about many things that affect our Church life here in Parbold.

### **What's in this?**

As a church we have supported many charities over the year. You may have heard them mentioned but here we have an opportunity to expand their news and give some background to them.

Also there are events and activities going on which does need our support and we can give you more information about them and perhaps invite you to join in. We are a church family here in Parbold and we want all to feel included and valued.

### **Who's it for?**

***"For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ." – 1 Corinthians 12:12.***

***"Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing." – 1 Thessalonians 5:11***

Christ Church Parbold is part of the body of Christ which we are here to show His love to all and to each other. Therefore, I hope this newsletter will encourage you and inform you to pray and support all who are working to spread the Good News of God's love.

Please let me know if you find this helpful. God bless.

Lin

## **ANDREW FANSTONE, IRIS MINISTRIES**

It was when Brazil hosted the World Cup in 2014, when Simon, our then vicar, and his wife Claire saw a Panorama programme about the Fortaleza in Sao Paulo. It mentioned that the police would not go into these slums because of all drugs, gangs and poverty with many street children. But then there was a young missionary, who lived there with his family, and said that he would take the camera crew in. Simon was so impressed that he contacted Andrew and we ever since have given to his mission via IRIS Ministries.

We hope to have a video link with Andrew in May for our Sunday morning service – an event not to be missed!

## **LATEST NEWS FROM BRAZIL**

We are doing well. We have had a busy start to the year. We had our Iris Brazil missionary gathering where we had about 150 of us from all our different bases around Brazil. It was good to hear how God is moving. We also during that time took part in an event called The Send, which is a missions sending event. It was amazing to be part of it with 5 football stadiums in different cities across Brazil being filled on the same day with around 250,000 people and as a result we had over 12,000 people enter into contact with us wanting more information on how to get involved in missions. As a result I have been working hard to organise a online missions training school for people to take part in so we can help raise up more workers for the harvest field.

God is good and it is exciting times to be alive. Thank you for all your support.  
Much love from Brazil. Andrew and Claudia

## **EMBRACE THE MIDDLE EAST**

We first supported Embrace the Middle East when Brian McGucken shared about the work of the charity with partners in all areas of the Middle East Brian became a Trustee of the charity and visited sites all through the area before retiring. We continue to support them and pray for them, especially during the current situation.



## **NEWS FROM EMBRACE THE MIDDLE EAST**

As the shadow of escalating war engulfs the Middle East, our Christian partners face renewed danger and displacement in their own lives - but once again they are reaching out to their neighbours with compassion and practical support. In the words of our partner Caritas Jerusalem:

"[we] remain committed to accompanying the most vulnerable, responding to emerging needs on the ground and delivering assistance that protects dignity, strengthens resilience, and offers hope in the midst of adversity."

In Lebanon, in retaliation for Hezbollah strikes, Israeli forces have invaded the south and continue to strike targets in Beirut. Tens of thousands of families have fled and are in urgent need of shelter and support.

Several of our partners have converted their centres into emergency shelters. Others have been distributing mattresses and blankets, while medical teams from the health centres we support have been visiting shelters to provide vital checks and medications to those who had to flee with nothing.



In the West Bank our partners are reporting a dramatic rise in movement restrictions and settler violence in the West Bank. Many shops have closed, people are struggling to access basic services, and the fear of missile strikes remains constant.

## **PRAYER OPPORTUNITIES AT CHRIST CHURCH**

### **Prayer Chain**

If you would like prayer, for yourself or someone else please contact either Lin Milne or John Mountain with the prayer request, preferably between 6-6.30pm. Emergency prayer requests can be taken at any time. The message gets passed by phone along the 'chain' and a group of people will then pray. The message is confidential to those praying. Please ensure you have the permission of the person for whom prayer is requested. Lin's and John's phone numbers are in the weekly notices. You may like to volunteer to be on the prayer chain. Lin is shortly to be revising the list so please contact her as soon as possible if you'd like to be part of the 'chain'.



### **Prayer Book**

This is kept on the table at the back of the church. If you would like someone prayed for please write brief details in the book before the service and the person responsible for the intercessory prayers in the service will include your request. Please make sure you have the permission of the person to be prayed for.

### **Prayer Ministry Team**

Members of the team are available each week following the 10.30am service and would love to pray with you. They are Kaye, Graham, Joanna, Lin, Barbara and Olwen. If you don't know them, look for the gold badge.

### **Prayer Lunch**

This is held monthly on a Monday. We spend 45mins in prayer and then share a home-made soup and bread lunch. Speak to Kaye for details or look out for it in the weekly notices.

## MERCY RESCUE TRUST



Hi everyone,

As some of you are new to church, you must wonder at times how we chose Mercy Rescue Trust as an organisation to which we give on a regular basis. In 2006 I had a dream in which I was playing with small child and cuddling babies of a dark coloured skin. As I woke up, I heard God speak to me saying you're going there for 3 months. I just said where am I going?

In 2009 I went out to Kenya twice, on my first visit I was taken to quite a few children's projects, but at the end of the visit I came home no further forward than I was when I went. Later that year I travelled again to Kenya. On arrival at the airport, I met a lady who worked for an orphanage, she gave me her card and an invite to go. Which I did. It was quite a place, very big, but their vision to me seemed instructional when thinking about the future of the children. I came away from there still not sure of where God was calling me to.

On the way home the taxi driver told me about a small place not too far away, to which I told him I would go another day. A couple of days later he took me to Mercy Rescue. It was in a small compound run by a lady named Naomi who was the founder. She was dashing around trying to find enough money to bring a young baby back to the home from hospital. That morning God had prompted me to put extra cash in my purse which I did. Which I then gave to Naomi, and it covered the cost of the hospital fees, and I knew there and then that this was the place God was calling me to.

When I came home, I spoke to the church about Mercy Rescue, and they got on board and have supported them in many ways since.

Speaking to Jediah this week she has asked for pray, that a new adoption agency can be found. Pray that God opens the door to the right agency, as there are now only two in Kenya.

## LATEST NEWS

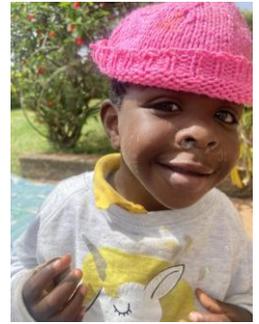
Please pray for Bernard and Kathrine ,new house parents to Mickey, Isaac and Meena all children with special needs.

Pray that they can love and support them, helping them to bond as a family. Pray for a heart to see each child's unique needs and gifts.





Please also pray for Peter and Elijah, Peter unfortunately will need another operation to completely close his palate. Pray also for Elijah who has slower development. These two boys are almost 4 years old. Pray for families who can see past these challenges and open their hearts and homes. Pray that these children find forever families who will love them unconditionally and help them flourish



Barbara

## **SPECIAL TIMES TO COME**

Easter is always a busy time in church, if you can help or come along to these events it would be a great time of being together.



### **Friday 3rd April - Decorating the church for Easter.**

If you can help, please come along from 1.30pm onwards. We would also be grateful for donations of greenery. These can be brought along on the day, or left by the side door if the church is closed.

**Sat.18th April, 1pm. Wedding Invitation. Jodie and Ryan** would like to invite you all to the church for their wedding.

**Sunday 19th April, 7pm David Massam in concert at Christ Church, Parbold,** David Massam will be at Christ Church, Parbold, with an evening of 'Songs of Love and Praise'. David is a local singer who will lead us through songs from the musicals, hymns and contemporary pieces aimed to stir reflection and thought. **Tickets £10**, available from **Karen Selwood** in person or [johiggins@christchurchparbold.co.uk](mailto:johiggins@christchurchparbold.co.uk) or the DIY centre, Parbold. Proceeds will go to Bebe's Hive CIC Southport and Christ Church Parbold. Please invite friends and family to help us raise funds for two important cause

## **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO ARRANGE FUTURE EVENTS**

If you've enjoyed the church family events over the past year, you might want to volunteer to help organise future events. If we are to continue with these, a small team is needed. Please contact Olwen [ohigham@christchurchparbold.co.uk](mailto:ohigham@christchurchparbold.co.uk) to volunteer or for further information.

## **THANKS**

Thanks to all who have contributed this time. Future editions will explain more about the charities we support and will be a Summer edition. If you wish to contribute anything to that please contact Lin Milne on [stemilne@aol.com](mailto:stemilne@aol.com)



