

"CONSTANT CHANGE IS HERE TO STAY"

How do you respond to that statement? We tend to love or hate change and most of us have a mixture of reactions depending on the change in question. For Julia and I, our sabbatical from March to May 2007 was a time to consider our future and that of our leadership of Huntingdonshire Community Church and Plumbline Ministries. We ended our sabbatical settled that it is time for us to hand the leadership of the church over and concentrate on the growing ministry of Plumbline.

After leading HCC for more than 20 years we set about a two year plan into hand the church leadership on by June 2009. I am pleased to say we are currently on target to hand over on 1st April 2009. Please pray for Ben and Gillian Wicks as Ben prepares to take up the leadership in these final months and for us as we seek to mentor them in this.

Julia and I have moments of great excitement about the future and moments of "Help, what are we doing?" We will remain members of the church, I will remain a trustee but we will both step down from eldership and pastoral responsibility. I have seen good and bad examples in ministry of handing on the baton and have always had the aim that when it came to my turn we would finish well. I have been busy reading books about change and dreaming about what the future will look like.

What will we be doing? Mentoring Sons and Daughters

Julia also finishes her two year diploma course in counselling next June and we both feel at the heart of our future is mentoring people. This has always been one of our greatest and most fruitful passions. Planting churches and ministries for us has been about helping sons and daughters find, get equipped and fulfil their destinies and passions. In this copy of Plumbline News we have included a few stories of some of those we have been privileged to serve in this way. I felt

the Lord set me the target a couple of years ago to mentor seven men, working in seven parts of the world, developing seven networks of churches or ministries. We do not yet see the full plan but at this point what we expect to be doing is this:

- Mentoring leaders
- Personal counselling, advising on pastoral care of individuals
- Running training courses and events
- Travelling nationally and internationally
- Writing
- Developing the Plumbline network of churches and ministries

We love doing what Father has called us to and value your love, prayer and support. One of the big challenges for us in this step of change is the financial implication. We are very grateful that our local church will continue to give us some

support and we are looking to the Lord for a body of partners who will also stand with us. It has been a blessing that over our many years of ministry we have seldom needed to raise the issue of our personal support. The God who has been faithful to us for many years will continue to be, but we feel it appropriate to let you know of our changing circumstances so that you have the opportunity of standing with us. If you feel the Lord would have you partner with us financially please see the enclosed card with information on how to go about that. Thank you.

Constant change is here to stay

We remain committed to being pioneers rather than settlers and look forward to all Father has for us in the Plumbline family and beyond.

Love Simon and Julia



A NEW START IN ROSCOMMON

Since June we have started holding regular meetings again in Roscommon. This includes a monthly Praise Service, a monthly day of prayer and a weekly life group. We have been greatly blessed by a local Brazilian church who kindly allow us the use of their beautiful premises for our meetings. We have been wonderfully supported by Christians from Athlone, Galway and Longford in launching our initial group, as well as others from around the country who have joined us

for our prayer days. We plan to start regular Sunday family services soon and pray that God will join to us those who will be a strong and committed foundation for this new Christian Community. God has put on our hearts the Scripture, "I sent you to harvest where you didn't plant; others had already done the work, and now you get to gather the harvest." John 4 v 38 (NLT). We are praying for God to save people in Roscommon, town and county, and we rejoice in the firstfruits already.

Graeme and Frances Wylie

20 YEARS ON, 20 YEARS STRONG!

20 Years ago God, through Simon, called Karen and myself to start what was then Peterborough Community Church. On September 7th, 1988 we held our first church meeting in our new home (that we had just moved into on that day!). The walls were damp and the wallpaper was peeling off and one of the girls' bedroom windows was rotten. Armed with a word from God to 'Think Big' we grew to 15 people before having a 'back door revival' down to 6! Several times I handed my resignation into the Lord but he didn't accept it! But he is faithful, and we kept in faith. Helped by a Plumblin 'rent a crowd' we started to gather a small core of faithful people. Then in 1992, I took the step of going full-time and things started taking off. Growth was rapid, key people were added, souls were saved, and we started moving from venue to venue to accommodate the growing numbers that were coming. By 2005 we were in 3 services at the Regional College and desperately needing to build. Having failed to gain planning permission on a 6 acre site, we then went for a much better 12.4 acre site. Through the wonderful provision of the Lord, much prayer and the sacrificial giving of God's people, we purchased the land, gained planning permission and started to build. In September 2006, with much rejoicing, we moved into our wonderful new facility.

Since then we have seen some wonderful growth both in maturity and in numbers. We have clarified our mission as 'Transforming Lives from our Neighbourhoods to the Nations by the Power of God's Love.' We have changed our name from Peterborough Community Church to KingsGate Community Church, thus facilitating the growth of the ministry far beyond the city. We have launched a new 10 year vision:

- to Impact our Community
- to Connect with our Crowd
- to Care for our Congregation
- to Equip our Committed
- to Send our Core – back into our Neighbourhoods and the Nations

We are about to begin Phase 2 of the building project to give more room for children's, youth and social space as well as providing a new resource centre. We are just taking in our first group of full-time interns, and seeing wonderful work amongst all our young people. We are strengthening our small groups in the region, and looking at how to strategically go beyond!

We are grateful and humbled by all that the Lord has done, but very expectant about what is to come. At our celebration day on Sunday 21st September we were delighted to have the opportunity to publicly thank Simon and Julia, and receive their prayer and blessing for the next stage of the journey. To all in the Plumblin family who helped us, especially in our early years, a big THANK YOU!



Dr Dave Smith
Senior Pastor KingsGate Community Church

I'LL NEVER FORGET THE DAY...

I'll never forget the day I was allowed to go on my first Plumblin youth camp. I was 12 years old and just under age. It was here that I came across these up-for-it young adults planting churches and taking young people seriously. They were called the Plumblin Team. I'll never forget the nights when God was moving powerfully among us. Ian Bond, Chris May and Simon Matthews taught us from the scriptures, encouraging us to being fully signed up for the Kingdom, living 100% sold out for God, living in victory through our teenage years, overcoming the 'blob spirit' and having 'blanket victory' to help us get up in the mornings with God. I'll never forget the teaching on prayer and hearing God. We were encouraged in radical living as Jesus' disciples and told that there was a calling and a destiny on our lives. I'll never forget the teenage pranks and late nights watching shooting stars, which combined perfectly with the late nights spent prophesying and hearing God speak directly to us. These times formed a passion for Jesus and a commitment to dedicate my life to Him wherever it might lead.



I'll never forget how it became clear that Simon wasn't just pigeon-holing us to youth camps and summer experiences when he sent a letter commissioning myself and two of my older mates, Jon Gray and the late Paul Brister, to run a mission weekend on our local housing estate. We were to be responsible for every aspect, from the advertising to the actual meetings. Having never heard of the phrase "seeker-friendly" we rocked up with our advertising campaign that stated in no uncertain terms that Jesus is the key to "healing, prosperity and deliverance" and that in order to experience it you should come the Technical College on a specified evening. We went door to door, despite feeling daunted at the prospect, and prayed for people. I can clearly remember one lady who was too scared to come downstairs and open the door, but needed healing for her knee. She leant out of her upstairs window as we prayed and Jesus healed. There was also the boy with asthma who Jon Gray coaxed into running around the college hall to exercise and act out his healing. Do you know what? We stepped out a little afraid and witnessed something of what it means to put your faith on the line. It certainly helped to know that we were believed in by this crazy Pastor! Simon took some flack, not least for our cringe-worthy advertising, from the other ministers in town who were asking what on earth we were up to. It was only several years later that I realised what a risk Simon had taken with these 16 and 17 year olds.

I'll never forget the day when I told Simon of my dream that I would plant my first church by the age of 25. He simply accepted it as normal! Simon's belief in me has been expressed as very real support and confidence. From being very naïve young adults planting our first church to where we are today, Ania and I have always felt fully supported and encouraged by Simon and Julia. For us, Plumblin has always been an environment where God can take young men and women who have little experience and lead them to grow and plant for the Kingdom. Back in 1993 Simon was honest enough to tell me that planting a church with only 3 people would either be the death of me or the making of me in God, but it would be one of the best adventures I would ever have. How right he was! As we have planted in Cambridge and served so many young adults, I have maintained that same conviction that God takes us seriously even from a young age and has a destiny for our lives in the now and for eternity. This is what I never want to forget.

Tim Anderson
City Life Church Cambridge

FROM ACADEMY TO AMERICA

On August 12, 1992, Julie and Ian Bond, with their young family, arrived in Atlanta, Georgia, feeling like Abraham, who by faith 'obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going.' We had been with Simon and Plumblin from its inception in 1982, and had been members of HCC since 1985. Now we were embarking on a new faith adventure as "missionaries" to America.



Our home for the first six months was Shekinah Ministries in the Smokey Mountains of Tennessee, where we experienced culture-shock – big time! In February 1993 we moved to Altavista, Virginia near the famous Blue Ridge Mountains to pastor New Life Church of Faith. This was a non-denominational church of around 150 members. We served there nearly eight years, during which our church became a centre for the Toronto Blessing, we started a School of Theology with students coming from all over the state, and we led mission teams to many countries.

Since the early days of the Christian Academy, Ian's passion has been for Christian education and ministry training. In November 1992 we met Dr. Ron Cottle, founder of Christian Life School of Theology, in Columbus, Georgia. Ian has been a teacher with CLST since then, but in 2000 an opportunity opened for him to join the staff of CLST as well as attend the graduate school at Beacon University in Columbus. So we moved again! Ian still teaches and travels widely with CLST, but now serves as President of BU and is very involved in the community, serving on the boards of the State Theatre of Georgia and the Columbus Rotary Club. Julie has served on staff at Christ Community Church in Columbus for over seven years, primarily as director of children's ministries. David will be 23 in January. He is completing a degree in Accounting at Columbus State University. He also works in the used car business and has his own taxi business. Izzy is 20, studying psychology at CSU, and wants to be a family therapist. She is active with Amnesty International.

Ian Bond

PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT WITH FRENCH BAPTIST CHURCHES

Stephen Hudson and family moved to Versailles, France in 1999, as associates of Plumblin Ministries, with a vision to plant French speaking churches in the area. They became members of a large Baptist church in Paris, with whom Stephen has been leading and planting cell groups to the west of Paris.

In 2006 the pastor suggested that Plumblin consider entering into partnership with the Baptist federation, with a view to releasing Stephen into church planting as a French Baptist missionary! In November the same year Stephen, together with Ruth Brown from Trinity Life Church, Royston met with the Federation's Director of Inland Mission to begin the process of negotiating an agreement.

The partnership agreement was finalised and signed by the Directors of Plumblin Ministries and FEEBF during the summer of 2008. This partnership will enable members of Plumblin churches who feel a call to France in the future, to be sent out in association with the French Baptist federation, to be more readily accepted and to enjoy the benefits of a smoother transition into French life and culture. There is also the possibility of facilitating an exchange of groups of young people for short term missions.

A BRIDGE FOR OTHERS TO ACHIEVE NEW THINGS

After seven years of serving in parliament it was time for a rethink. Is what we are doing bearing fruit and continuing to be focused? So through the early summer months private prayer times were spent asking Father to speak and direct our paths. My direction usually comes in the form of questions. What I heard was – what has been the primary area of effectiveness in your life's ministry? The answer seemed simple – discipling others as they seek to follow Jesus in life.

We have a number of good relationships with individuals who we encourage and support in their calling. The still small voice then spoke. Carry on serving and laying down your life to help others to greater things – continue to be the bridge they need to reach the next stage.

Since June 2007 we have attended seven weddings, probably more than in the rest of our lives. Three have been our own children, and the rest have been lives that we play a part in serving and supporting in different ways either in politics or the media. While we continue with the routine tasks of administrative and household service for some, there is also the regular meeting to talk and pray as friends with others. And when a special need arises, like when our friend's son tragically died in May, we are ready to respond. It continues to be whatever, whenever, however, our constant motto. A key factor in making this possible has been the foresight shown by Simon Matthews in supporting us in the diverse nature of the ministry. He has been willing to think outside the box and set us free to be who Father intended us to become.



Nigel Double

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To make sure you get your copy of Plumblin News promptly, please ensure we have your up-to-date contact details.

If you received this newsletter in the post, but your address details were incorrect, please let us know. Simply email plumblin@plumblin.org.uk or write to us at Plumblin Ministries, 83a High Street, Huntingdon PE29 3DP.

HCC PARTNERS WITH CHRISTIANS AGAINST POVERTY

Huntingdonshire Community Church (HCC) has formed a partnership with Christians Against Poverty (CAP) to open a debt counselling centre in Huntingdon. Eileen Paul, CAP Centre Manager and member of HCC said: "Debt is an increasing problem in

our society but individuals can receive the help and support they need through CAP. The worst thing someone in debt can do is stay silent. It is nothing to be ashamed of and I know we can work together to provide a lasting solution."

HCC will also be running CAP Money, a money management course to help people get, and then stay in control of their finances.

Please pray for God's favour with local referral agencies and for opportunities to share the gospel.

PLUMBLINE MINISTRIES

INTERNATIONAL

Related churches in England

Bridge Community Church, Ipswich.

Tel: 01473 429623

City Life Church, Cambridge.

Tel: 01223 503358

Colchester Area Community Church.

Tel: 01206 863030

Fenland Community Church, March.

Tel: 01354 651983

Huntingdonshire Community Church.

Tel: 01480 411665

City Life Church, Luton.

Tel: 01582 511315

Narborough Congregational Church.

www.narboroughcongregational.org.uk

Newmarket Community Church.

Tel: 01638 662667

Trinity Life Church, Royston.

Tel: 01763 230350

Related churches in Ireland

Bridge Christian Community, Arklow.

Tel: 00353-402-33784

Carlow Christian Community.

Tel: 00353-503-40754

Galway Christian Fellowship.

Tel: 00353-91-752989

Galway Christian Fellowship (West).

Tel: 00353-9155-5884

Grace Ministries, Co Mayo.

Tel: 00353-9643-973

Kilkenny Community Church.

Tel: 00353-56777-1857

New Life Church, Killarney.

Tel: 00353-64-36334

New Life Christian Fellowship,

Lurgan. Tel: 02838-881470

River of Life Midlands Christian

Family, Athlone.

Tel: 00353-87-7926602

Other related Churches,

Ministries and Friends

Holy Cross Ministries, London

Elim Pacific Ministries, Guam.

Rob and Allison Zimmerman.

Email: elimpacific@netpci.com

Kingsgate Community Church.

Tel: 01733 311156

New Life Community Church,

PO Box 7, 6038 Toledo, Cebu,

Philippines.

Ben and Heather Rex.

West Bengal, India.

Tanzania Africare: (Nigel and

Barbara Double), consisting of

Anthony and Lis Williams (Singida),

Aaroni Mabondo (Dar es Salaam),

Lazaro Nyalandu MP (Parliament).

Apostolic Church of God in Malawi

and Mozambique. George Lampi.

Ministry & orphanages of Lapson

Mbewe in Malawi and Mozambique.

Stephen & Becky Hudson. Versailles,

France.

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articles, or if you wish to make a gift

to cover the cost of producing the

newsletters, please contact

the Plumblime Office.

HOPE 08 FAMILY FUN DAY - PART 1

Sunday 1st June saw Priory Gardens in Royston transformed into a concert venue and fun fair. The event was a "Hope Family Fun Day" organised and run by Trinity Life Church (TLC) and Churches Together in Royston and District.

Paul Brown of TLC said, "the purpose of the day was sharing the message of hope with our community and I feel we achieved that. We were very pleased with the way it all went and the number of people who came, even though the sun didn't shine!" Meanwhile, a barbecue and "Hope Cafe" were doing a roaring trade, giving away food and drinks free of charge! Attractions for children included a bouncy castle. There was also a range of fairground attractions, commercial and charity stalls, puppet show and organised games.

The day finished off with a worship service at the bandstand in which members of all the participating churches took part, praising God and praying for Royston.

HOPE 08 FAMILY FUN DAY PART 2

On Sunday 29th June, Huntingdonshire Community Church (HCC) organized a Family Fun Day as part of the Hope 08 initiative.

Over the course of the afternoon hundreds of families came to enjoy the event which included bouncy castles and slides, welly throwing, stocks, face painting and many other games and activities. There was also a tea tent, providing drinks and home-baked cakes, all of which proved particularly popular.

"We wanted to do something for the community", explained Paul Edworthy, Youth Worker for HCC. "It was great to see everyone enjoying themselves with their families, and people couldn't believe that it was all free. We know families are struggling with finances right now, and it was a privilege to be able to put something on that everyone could come along to and enjoy".

FAMILY FUN DAY PARTS 3 & 4

Newmarket Community Church (NCC) held two Fun Day events this year on Easter Monday (braving the cold weather, fortunately the snow had melted), and again on 8th June in much warmer weather. Our aim was to get out from inside our walls and meet with people on the nearby estate. Both events were a success – we ran out of hot-dogs on Easter Monday, served plenty of hot drinks and gave away football prizes in a "Beat the Goalie" competition.

TOWN PASTORS FOR NEWMARKET

Having seen the successful Town Pastors scheme in Ipswich taken up in Bury St Edmunds, Churches Together in Newmarket & District are looking to set up a similar scheme in the town. Tony Hodge, Pastor of NCC, is on the working party that has had preliminary discussions with representatives from the District Council and Suffolk Constabulary, both of whom are very supportive. There will be an open meeting in October to present the vision to interested parties and gather names of people keen to become involved.

OPEN DAY AT COLCHESTER

Colchester Area Community Church recently joined in the annual 'Heritage Family Fun Day' in the local community, operating a burger bar and serving in other ways. The Church Centre, which was formerly a local pub and historic building was open for the day with a 'sowing and reaping' theme, providing free refreshments, live music and activities for the children. A large number of people of all ages visited the building and at times there was a big queue for the children's face painting. Whilst most visitors were either interested in the history of the old Inn or came for what was on offer for the children, conversations were had and many went away with a leaflet about the church's activities in the community.

SUMMER BLAST 2008

The Summer Blast is City Life Church Cambridge's annual project for the community of Kings Hedges. This year 30 students and 20 graduates/parents voluntarily gave a week of their time to host a festival of free events for youth, children, parents and other groups in the community. Our strapline is to put a smile on the face of Kings Hedges but our aim goes much deeper; to give people the opportunity to experience a real and dynamic relationship with God for themselves.

During weekday afternoons a small marquee on the Nuns Way Rec became our hub. The Kidz Blast Zone warmed up each afternoon with summer tunes, crazy games and an action-packed theme. Alongside this we ran sporting activities and tournaments and over the course of the week saw up to 50 children each day, with an additional 40-50 people chilling with us on the rec. The café had a great buzz, giving parents and children alike the opportunity to try their hand at arts and crafts, or simply to sit back with a cuppa and enjoy the sun-shine. We had so many amazing chats with people.

We litter-picked, car washed and worked on two substantial gardening projects that made a significant difference to the young families involved. Two women have since joined cell groups as a result of our interaction with them in their gardens that week.

During the week a mobile 'blessing team' offered free drinks and prayer for passers-by. They also arranged to buy a new washing machine for a family who had been without one for two months.

For the weekend, we headed over to the Town Green by Arbury Community Centre for a 24-hour Blast in the Park special. We hosted a football tournament and talent show, we cooked breakfast for 300, had church in the tent and an afternoon of family fun complete with face painting, hair braiding, bouncy castles, live music and a hugely popular ladies tent.

This was undoubtedly our best year yet, seeing the community served and blessed both practically and spiritually more tangibly than ever before. We are deeply excited about all that God is doing among us at this time and urge you to stand with us over the coming months as we move into more of what God has for us. Thank you for your support and sharing this with us.

