



PLUMBLINE MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL

"I will make justice the measuring
line and righteousness the plumbline"
Isaiah 28:17

outreach • equipping Christians • training leaders • church planting

NEWSLETTER

AUTUMN 2010 EDITION

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International**

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**Plumblime Ministries is a
Registered Charity Number
327271**

Trustees

- Roy Wheeler
- Paul Brown
- Tim Anderson
- Jonathan Gray

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WELCOME

Welcome to our new format Plumblime News where we aim to share some of what is happening for Julia and me personally as well as news from around the Plumblime family.

The past year has been very eventful: two new grandchildren have been born; we handed on the leadership of our local church; the Plumblime administrative systems have undergone significant changes; and Simon has had major spinal surgery.

PERSONAL NEWS

Yes we are now proud grandparents of 4 boys! Jonathan and Sarah now have Bill and Jack; Tim and Becky have Isaac; and Emily and Adrian have the most recent addition, George. They are all gorgeous and doing well, for which we praise God.

In recent years I have suffered increasing levels of pain from a slipped disc, for which I received minor surgery 13 years ago. At last I was given the option for major surgery and after several cancelled appointments I underwent major surgery in January 2010. This removed the offending disc, inserting instead some rods, screws and a bone-graft to fuse the joint. To date the operation appears to have been very successful with a huge reduction in pain levels. This has made life much more enjoyable for me, so please continue to pray for the full fusion of the bone graft.

After the operation, I spent a frustrating two months on my back, but I soon returned to writing emails and making phone calls. However, not being able to drive or travel for the first quarter of the

year has meant that I am still catching up with seeing folk. High on my radar remains my vision to serve seven people developing seven networks in seven places. One or two more of who and where these may be is beginning to emerge.

We are appreciating the greater freedom we now have after handing on the leadership of our local church last year, but we are amazed that life remains as busy as ever. Where is all this free time we thought we would have?! Julia now works principally in her counselling ministry. She helps people from within the Plumblime family, as well as doing some private work and also volunteering for a Christian-based counselling organisation which serves the community in Peterborough. Working one-to-one with people has always been one of her greatest passions, and she is thoroughly enjoying playing a part in seeing the gospel bring change, freedom and recovery to people from all walks of life.



Simon and George hard at work

CLARITY COUNSELLING

(part of Plumblines
Missions Ltd)

Julia Matthews
MBACP, MACC
Higher Professional Diploma
in Counselling

Julia offers counselling to anyone over the age of 16 years. Her many years' experience in pastoral work, coupled with secular professional training, enables her to not only support but offer real help to people in need of time and space to focus on working through the challenges of life.

For more details and a free first session, contact Julia on 07960 781758 or email j.matthews@plumblines.org.uk

LEADERS CONFERENCE 2010

Open to anyone involved in leadership or ministry in either the church or the marketplace, the Plumblines Leaders Conference will take place from 15-17 November 2010 in Dublin.

For more details and a booking form please go to the Plumblines website:

www.plumblines.org.uk.

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MINISTRY NEWS

The past year has been one of transition of leadership on many fronts. Several of our churches have undergone a change of Senior Leadership, which is a whole new experience for us. Some are going really well but regrettably my own situation locally with Huntingdonshire Community Church ran into huge difficulties. The outcome was that in May the new Senior Pastor resigned his post after one year, resulting in much pain and confusion in the church. A good Senior Leadership Team have stepped up to the plate and I have not taken the leadership back on. The task now is to identify a new Senior Leader and develop the team for the future. Please pray for wisdom for this, as well as peace and stability as people work through their disappointments, hurts and frustrations.

Like many individuals, churches and ministries, Plumblines itself has been facing financial pressures. These have resulted in us needing to make significant reductions to our staffing levels. Having shared admin staff with Huntingdonshire Community Church for many years, the combination of our financial challenges and our leadership handover led to us deciding that it was time to uncouple our administrative structure from that of the church. We are deeply grateful to all those who have served HCC and Plumblines for many years, most recently Andy and Di – thank you. The Plumblines admin is now spread between several people including our accountants, who are handling more of the bookkeeping for us. This is a journey that is still ongoing and we will keep you posted as things unfold and develop, but in the meantime please do pray for a fresh release of finances – both for us to be able to re-staff appropriately as we move forward, and for support for Julia and me. As our personal support levels have been greatly reduced, some may want to consider our '50/50' scheme, details of which can be found on the website at www.plumblines.org.uk/contact.

One of the messages on my heart at the moment is that we have a God who works unusual miracles (see Acts 19.11). We have seen some incredible things in the Plumblines family over recent months, ranging from God's amazing provision of

property for several of our churches to the appointment of one of our church leaders as an MP. Over the years I have learned that some of the best things that happen are those supernatural miracles that we did not plan for or anticipate. Our God seems to enjoy surprising us – he is such a great DAD. Keep hanging in there for the miracles you are praying for, and watch out for those unusual, unexpected ones too.

We love you and thank you for your personal love and support, and for standing with us all in the Plumblines family.

Simon

ROSCOMMON UPDATE

Ken and Val Baker have joined Graeme and Fran Wylie to work with Hope Community in Roscommon. Ken has been pastoring in London and prior to that helped to start a new fellowship in Carrick on Shannon, just about 30 miles north of Roscommon. We welcome them to work with the church and free Graeme and Fran up for other work in the nation.

They plan also to work on our new schools project to go into secondary schools in the region to speak to the senior years about the issues of suicide and self-harm, which are rampant among young people in Ireland. They have both been school teachers and Val has worked as an educational consultant and has a heart to reach out to troubled kids who need help and support and encouragement. Please pray for them in their new sphere of ministry here in Roscommon.

Graeme Wylie



CHURCHES IN ENGLAND**Capel Community Church**

www.capelcommunitychurch.org.uk
peter@matthews3005.freeserve.co.uk
 01473 311368

**City Life Church
Cambridge**

www.citylifechurch.net
email@citylifechurch.net
 01223 360011

City Life Church Luton

www.loveluton.org
info@loveluton.org
 01582 415528

**Colchester Area
Community Church**

www.colchesterareacommunitychurch.org.uk
cacc@plumblineline.org.uk
 01206 863030

**Fenland Community
Church**

www.fcc.uk.net
info@fcc.uk.net
 01354 651983

**Huntingdonshire
Community Church**

www.hccuk.org
church@hccuk.org
 01480 411665

**Narborough
Congregational Church**

www.narboroughcongregational.org.uk
mick@narboroughcongregational.org.uk
 0116 2841729

**Newmarket Community
Church**

www.newmarketcommunitychurch.org.uk
admin@newmarketcommunitychurch.org.uk
 01638 662667

Trinity Life Church Royston

www.tlc-royston.org.uk
mail@tlc-royston.org.uk
 01763 230350

**A NEW SEASON FOR ROY &
DOROTHY WHEELER**

For 25 years we sought to be faithful to God's call on our lives as we led Colchester Area Community Church (CaCC), which the Lord had birthed through us back in 1984. During that time, through a number of prophetic words, the Lord spoke of a wider ministry which began to develop as we have sought to serve as part of Simon's apostolic team. However, before we could enter fully into this, we had to let go of leading CaCC, which we did in July last year. Looking back, for us, it was as Habakkuk expressed it (see Hab.2:3) – the revelation awaited an appointed time. Although it lingered, it did not prove false and we now make ourselves available to be a "listening ear" to provide personal support and encouragement to many of those serving in church leadership roles within the Plumblin family and elsewhere in Christ's body. We also provide teaching input into church congregations. This has become possible because we have been able to hand on the senior leadership role to Bryan Morrissey, a spiritual son.

We remain part of CaCC, although most Sundays and on many weekends we have been away visiting other churches in England or Ireland. We have spent many hours listening and talking with senior leadership couples; with other members of church leadership teams; and with emerging leaders. We've shared in their tough times; we've prayed and sought to be a strength; and we've also laughed

together and enjoyed their friendship and hospitality. We consider ourselves to be privileged to be trusted to share in others' lives and ministries.

Recently we were asked, "What is your role now in Plumblin?" Having reflected on this, our answer is influenced by how Paul seemed to see this matter (see 1 Corinthians 9:2) – ie we are what we are to each situation we are involved in. To some we may be just trusted friends; to others a spiritual mum and dad; in some churches we are recognised as Bible teachers; in others as assistants to Simon and in Ireland to Graeme; whilst some would say that to them we function in the Ephesians 4:11 ministry office of pastor/teacher. We are what we are by God's grace and 12 months into this new season we are enjoying serving primarily as helpers in His family.

If you feel Roy & Dorothy could be of assistance to you and/or your church, they can be contacted by email on r.wheeler@plumblineline.org.uk.

Roy Wheeler

**LEADERSHIP COURSE**

Simon recently ran another successful leadership equipping course with five leaders from the Plumblin family who are either currently in senior roles in church leadership, or will be taking up those roles shortly. One of the highlights of the course was the 'Communication Skills' section covering sermon preparation and presentation, and Simon says, "The students did exceptionally well in their demo presentations, which were videoed and evaluated together. It's exciting to see that we have good new preachers emerging."

The course ran in a new format for the first time: being held over 3 weekends created a greater sense of continuity and interaction as a group. This format has also made it more accessible for those from further afield to attend, and Simon is hoping that this will encourage others to come along in the future. The next course is due to run in the first half of 2011 – dates are yet to be confirmed so please check on the Plumblin website at www.plumblineline.org.uk/equipping or contact Simon directly.

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CHURCHES IN IRELAND**Bridge Community Church, Arklow**

www.bccarklow.ie
r.holden@bccarklow.ie
 00353-402-33784

Carlow Christian Community

www.carlowchristiancommunity.com
seamus@carlowchristiancommunity.com
 00353-59-9140754

Galway Christian Fellowship

www.gcf.ie
gcf@eircom.net
 00353-91-752989

Hope Community Roscommon

www.hopcommunity.ie
info@hopcommunity.ie
 09064-89110 or 087 2193171

Kilkenny Community Church

www.kilcomchurch.org
kilcomchurch@eircom.net
 00353-56-7703906 / 00353-87-0605855

New Life Christian Fellowship, Lurgan

www.nlmweb.org
nlcf@ic24.net
 02838-881470

New Life Church, Killarney

acdreher@eircom.net
 00353-64-6630595

River of Life Midlands Christian Family, Athlone

<http://theriveroflife.webs.com>
riveroflife@eircom.net
 00353-9064-76840

NEWS FROM WESTMINSTER

The news headlines as I write this article celebrate the one hundred days of the coalition government. Make no mistake - this was an outcome that no politician or political activist wanted. People don't go into politics to compromise their firmly-entrenched beliefs with another ideology, but the great British electorate handed the politicians their verdict and they are making a good go of it.

Within the Christian community in Parliament we have a long standing coalition called Christians in Parliament - the All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) known as CiP. This is people of faith joining together in cooperation for worship and fellowship, and on occasions debate and action. The main task after the election was to identify among the over two hundred newcomers those we did not already know who want to celebrate their faith at Westminster. I am pleased to report that there have been significant discoveries among the elected members who are showing interest in participating in Christian life at Parliament.

We went into the election anticipating a good return of existing and new faces among the elected members and, although the campaign had very unsettling moments, things turned out much as we hoped. The main surprise was the defeat of Dr Evan Harris, nicknamed Dr Sin or Dr Death due to his opposition to Christian involvement in public life and firm views on morality and life issues. His successor, Nicola Blackwood, had been on our radar but was thought to have only a slim chance

at the ballot box. My result of the night was the election of Gavin Shuker who came late to the election scene and was elected in Luton South. John Glen, Jeremy Lefroy and Fiona Bruce were other anticipated victories. Sadly Philippa Stroud was not elected and endured a vicious campaign against her in the last week before the election, with various allegations about her beliefs and past ministry levelled against her and her family. However, Philippa is well positioned as a special adviser at the Department for Work and Pensions and will be an effective tool in helping the less well off among our communities, without having the toil of a narrow majority to nurse in a constituency.

Gary Streeter has become the chairman of the CiP, forming a leadership team consisting of Gavin Shuker and Tim Farron who will oversee the ongoing working of Christians in Parliament. There is therefore great anticipation of what can be achieved and much prayer is required - please play your part as we seek to play ours.

Nigel Double



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NEWS FROM ARKLOW

A long-held vision has become a reality as Bridge Christian Community, Arklow, have secured a lease on a building they are going to develop as a community centre. After years of searching, leaders Robert and Helen Holden and Nigel and Heather Snell were ready to give up. A prophetic word given to Helen on the GYM course in January, and followed the next week at a Plumblines Ireland leaders' gathering, spurred them to keep going. Within a week they had seen the premises and received an agreement from the owner. "Since then we've been in God's training school of delays, frustrations and sharp learning curves," said Robert. "It's brought us together."

Robert Holden

OTHER MINISTRIES AND FRIENDS

Tanzania Africare (Nigel and Barbara Double), consisting of Anthony and Lis Williams (Singida) Lazaro Nyalandu MP (Parliament) doublen@parliament.uk

Ministry and orphanages of Lapson Mbewe in Malawi and Mozambique r.wheeler@plumblineline.org.uk

Elim Pacific Ministries, Guam Rob and Allison Zimmerman elimpacific@netpci.com

New Life Community Church PO Box 7, 6038 Toledo, Cebu, Philippines. Robert Garton. necctaledo@yahoo.com

Ben and Heather Rex West Bengal, India bpex@sancharnet.in

Sophia Ministries Jean Casling, HCC j.casling@plumblineline.org.uk

Kingsgate Community Church, Peterborough www.kingsgateuk.com info@kingsgateuk.com

SIGN UP FOR THE NEWSLETTER

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NEWS FROM KILKENNY

John Nulty and Andy Guilfoyle became Pastors of the church in Kilkenny in May 2009, taking over from Eamon and Amanda Burke. Both men cover half of the week each, John doing Monday to Wednesday, and Andy Wednesday to Friday. On Wednesday morning they both meet in the church office where they review the week and upcoming appointments/events that are happening. The first couple of hours are spent in prayer; this has since been opened up and quite a number of the men in the church have joined them for this.

On Tuesday mornings the church runs a free Coffee Bar in the church office. Members of the church bake apple pies, scones, biscuits and we serve fresh coffee and tea. We have had small leaflets printed that we use to invite people in off the street. This means that there are 2-4 people out on the High Street just giving these out and chatting to people. We often walk people up to the office, chatting with them and finding out their names. In the office there are a number of church members there to just chat, listen and love the people that come in. As a result of this gentle approach, we often get many opportunities to pray for these lonely, hurting people. The opening times are 10.00 am – 12.30 pm. However, because of the regulars that are with us every week, they are usually waiting to come in at 9.00 am! We have seen so many of these people coming to know the Lord, and they are now attending our Sunday morning service.

We have two Life Groups running each week, plus we have just finished a Foundation Course which the new converts from the Coffee Bar were attending, and they are now integrated into one of the Life Groups. Another Foundation Course is starting in October.

In addition to this, Andy and Patience are planting a new church in Thurles, Tipparary on a Thursday night, where they have between 10-15 people joining them on a regular basis at the Hayes Hotel. They have also seen a number of people recently saved.

The next phase of the Church will be when we start refurbishing our new building in the heart of Kilkenny City. We are all very excited about what God is doing in our area, and looking forward to our new building being finished!

John Nulty



John Nulty & Andy Guilfoyle

WISDOM WELL

As part of their ministry, Simon and Julia are now running the 'Wisdom Well'. This is a retreat for couples lasting 2½ days in which Simon and Julia review the couple's personal life in key areas such as spiritual health, marriage, family and work/ministry. The retreats are running on average once every six weeks and Simon says, "We are loving serving couples in this way and are greatly encouraged by the feedback we are receiving. The course is really helping couples to focus on their future, their vision and direction, and the role or ministry that they are engaged in."

The Wisdom Well retreats are specifically designed for those in either secular or church leadership and are open to everyone, regardless of whether you are in the Plumblineline family or not. If you are interested in the 'Wisdom Well' retreats, either for yourselves or for others, further details can be found on the Plumblineline website at www.plumblineline.org.uk/equipping.