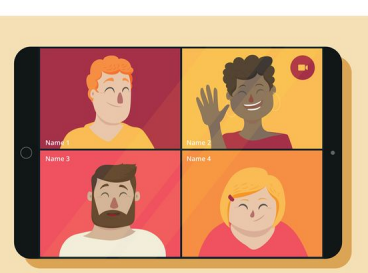


# LATEST NEWS FROM AROUND THE THAMES VALLEY CHURCHES OF CHRIST



Thames Valley churches of Christ



JOIN US

Please email [tvccocvnl@gmail.com](mailto:tvccocvnl@gmail.com) if you'd like to join one of our many online meetings. We look forward to welcoming you!

THAMES VALLEY CHURCHES OF CHRIST

## GET TO KNOW: Dora Blake (Surrey Heath & Borders)

Before I became a Christian I had an awareness of God although I knew little about Jesus.

Born in Uganda, and influenced by my mother, I learned early on that God was good and that he answered specific prayers.

At the age of eight, we moved to the UK, and lived in London. At sixteen, my mum died - it was hard to accept the loss. God was kind to us through supportive family and neighbours. To escape, I'd get drunk and do stuff that would cause any parent sleepless nights yet despite my double life, God was still on my mind. I managed to scrape through A Levels. Moving to Manchester, I felt ready to start going to church, but I didn't know where to start. So I prayed, and asked God to guide me. Within a short time I was invited to and went along to church.

Studying the Bible, I began to learn about God and to understand that Jesus had given his life for me.

I realised that I knew very little and I was keen to get baptised because the scriptures showed me that God had been very patient with me.

The thought that I could have died and not been saved really motivated me to deal with my sins and to make a decision to become a follower of Jesus Christ.

I was very excited to become a part of the church and I was baptised in March 1999 after a Women's Day event.

It is my desire to grow in my knowledge of God and to obey the promptings of the Holy Spirit and not hold back on God because he is so gracious and generous in giving to me.

## News and updates from some of our locations

### South Bucks

Joan & Tidu Mankoo give thanks for:

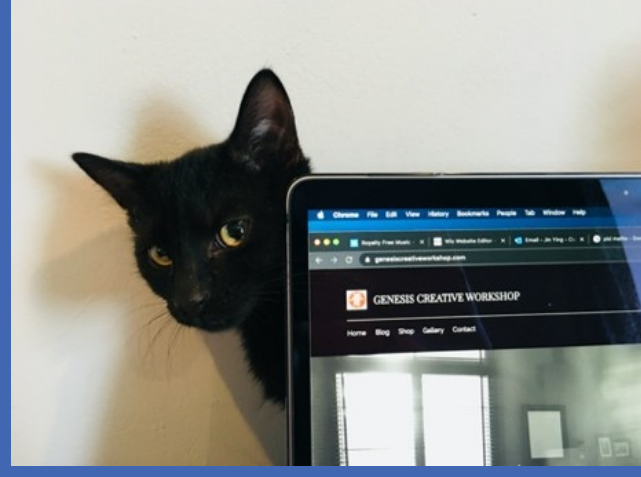
- Joel starting at a new grammar school, making new friends, etc.
- Joan starting in a part time permanent role in school and forging new friendships with staff

Anna & Kevin Law's prayer requests:

- Pray for everyone to have peace and love in Christ Jesus. May God continue to protect all in these turbulent times and able to see the shining light again. Trust God is in control.
- Psalm 116:1-2
- Pray that David & Goretli both open their heart towards God.

Gene & Fabian Ying give thanks for:

- Totoro and Toothless: Come and meet **Totoro** (right) and **Toothless** (left), the new furry additions to the Ying family. During lockdown, rescue centres were running out of kittens and puppies for adoption. We have been praying for the right kittens to join us at the right time. We are amazed that God even cares about prayers about kittens! We managed to be the lucky family to have these two cute little ones from the rescue centre that had over 100 applications.
- *Gene and the new Genesis Creative Workshop:* Being a detective and solving mysteries has always been my (Gene) biggest dream since I was a child. Since lockdown, it has become clearer that I should continue to pursue my childhood dream through starting a little creative workshop. God has worked out my visa and everything which allows me to work part time at school and using some spare time to set the workshop up. I might not be able to earn as much as I can as a full-time teacher, but I am definitely feeling more inspired, hopeful and grateful.



### Surrey Heath & Borders

**Bible Hub** is an online forum for those wanting to study the Bible in a meaningful way. **Discussions are every 2nd Thursday at 8pm for 1 hour.**

The first three sessions, led by Dr Andrew Boakye, Lecturer in Religions and Theology at University of Manchester are as follows:

1. A White Man's Religion? The African Roots of Christianity (Oct 8th).
2. Apostles Behaving Badly: Peter, Paul and Black Lives Matter (Nov 12th).
3. "Of Jews, Greeks and The Church of God": The New Creation and Christian Unity (Dec 10th).

All are welcome, particularly if new to or simply curious about the Bible. Register on Eventbrite - search for **Bible Hub**.



### POEM

#### TURN YOUR WOUNDS INTO WISDOM

~ Turn your wounds into wisdom  
 Let your wounds teach you  
 Don't let them tease you  
 Let your wounds fuel you  
 Don't let them seal you  
 Let your wounds raise you  
 Don't let them phrase you  
 Let your wounds free you  
 In all ways to be YOU

Don't let them kill  
 In them find a thrill -  
 Not a chill  
 That pushes others away  
 But embrace the hope of a brighter day

Allow yourself to say  
 Without an ounce of grey  
 That your wounds won't win you over to sin  
 Instead, you'll use them to turn your world lush and green.

Penning by Peju Abuchi

### Money Management For Christians

**When:** October 12, 19, 26 in 2020  
 8pm - 9pm

**Cost:** Free

**What we will discuss:**

- Session 1: Biblical Principles for use of money, God's design for money management.
- Session 2: Practical Applications and Principles. What does it mean for me?
- Session 3: Specific Individual Issues discussed. Questions arising from session 1 & 2.

**How to sign up?**

Email: [grace.Parlington@gmail.com](mailto:grace.Parlington@gmail.com)  
 by 5th October 2020

Your Zoom link will be sent via email



Please share with friends, all welcome!

### West Berks & The Cotswolds

- We officially started a new location group serving the West Berkshire and Cotswolds areas. It's been very encouraging meeting up on Zoom every Tue evening and, prayerfully we will start our own location service in Newbury once the situation is back to normal. Our children have also been able to contribute to some community care home projects during lockdown, which in turn have created new connections with neighbours.

- Richard Bailey has started a weekly Berean group, coaching young students and teens how to effectively study the scriptures with friends and already family members and friends are impacted.

- Marlon, Heinrich and Cherie are part of a Christians in Business group through Heinrich's work. This has been a great inspiration and tool to connect Christians across denominations.

- Anna has recently been invited to join a weekly prayer group for teachers at her school and seeing the impact on children and colleagues.

- Thanks to our global zoom calls, Marlon's mum, Jean and her friend Virginia have also recently started Bible studies. Praise God for the fruits of letting the Spirit lead us where the needs are.



## Upcoming event



### Next in the Message in the Mayhem series, date in October TBC

There is No Longer Jew nor Greek: Navigating the Dialogue on Christianity and Race.

There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free man, there is not male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus (Galatians 3:28).

In the verse quoted above, Paul attempted to capture the oneness of the people of God. This oneness emerged from the premise that believing in Jesus made believers spiritual descendants of Abraham and members of the worldwide, multi-ethnic family of God. In this family, all notions of domination and hierarchy were dismantled, and people acknowledged only the loving Lordship of the risen Jesus. This oneness, unprecedented in the ancient world, reflected the counter-cultural love of Jesus himself, who called a Zealot and a tax collector - normally sworn enemies - to live as brothers. As such, in a world whose history is tainted by the effects of domination, Imperialism, marginalisation and enforced slavery, Christians and the Christian community ought to be models in reconciliation and healing. However, the deaths of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Eric Garner and Trayvon Martin (to name a few) and the resurgence of Black Lives Matter protests have resurfaced deep wounds that have not healed, in the hearts of many of our black brothers and sisters. This combined with weaknesses in the Christian understanding of ethno-racial unity within and outside Christian communities has impacted the faith of many. This session aims to bring the experiences of black Christians into conversation with Christian scripture to help facilitate honest discussion, promote understanding and navigate the sensitive landscape of Christianity and racial identity.

Registration will be free via Eventbrite.