

Sunday gatherings at 3pm in the Christian Centre

Every precautions is being made to make our meetings safe, but we all need to take responsibility for ourselves. Please abide by the guidance given in the letter you have received.

- Let Sandra know if you are intending to come (by e-mail sandra.smith81@btinternet.com or phone 624759.
- Wear a face covering & sanitise your hands;
- Bring your own Bible, water, etc.
- Don't approach others too closely. Keep 2 metres apart.
- Follow the stewards' instructions.

This will ensure that our meetings are safe and enjoyable for all!



ITEMS FOR THE NEWSLETTER

Please send in news and details of special celebrations to Christine Wright candgxwright@msn.com 01296 624084 Next month's deadline will be Monday 21st September .

GLORIOUS SECRET

God's plan is to make known his secret to his people, this rich and glorious secret which he has for all peoples.

And the secret is that Christ is in you, which means that you will share in the glory of God.

Colossians 1:27

COURAGE

Be of good courage, and he shall strengthen your heart, all you that hope in the Lord.

Psalms 31:24

HOPE

May God, the source of hope, fill you with joy and peace by means of your faith in him, so that your hope will continue to grow by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Romans 15:13

Newsletter no. 180

Wendover Free Church September 2020



TIME FOR TREES!

Tanzania: Time for Trees!

is our 2020 Harvest Appeal. Operation Agri is expressing Christian Love in Action by supporting the **Imarika** Project in Tanzania. **Imarika** means 'to strengthen,' and the project works through village churches to strengthen their environment, livelihoods and communities. They set up tree nurseries and village community banks, teach conservation farming, and introduce fuel-saving stoves. **Imarika** is run in partnership with Emmanuel International.

A short video can be found at <https://www.operationagri.org.uk/> which outlines how much difference these schemes are making to people who assumed they would always live in poverty. Using the methods they are being taught, like mulching their crops to keep the soil damp, and improving the soil through growing trees, they have opportunities they never dreamed they could have. Clay stoves reduce the need for precious wood being used as fuel, further saving the local environment.



Operation Agri is a development charity which supports Christian-led rural and urban development projects in three continents, showing the love of Jesus in action by attacking the basic causes of poverty

amongst some of the most disadvantaged people in the world, regardless of their religious, ethnic and cultural backgrounds.

This year, we cannot meet to give our money for our harvest appeal, nor to collect food for Aylesbury Women's Aid. Look out for information soon about how we will be able to support both causes.



Tree planting at Imarika supported by Operation Agri.

WALKING FOR 'ROPE'

Ann Shepherd will be taking part in a sponsored walk in September. She writes, 'You may remember a few years ago we invited a speaker from **Rope**, a charity, based in Chesham, to talk at our Mission Supper. **Rope** works in many parts of the world with disadvantaged men, women and children. This year **Rope** is setting up their 4th walk called 'WOMEN WALKING 4 WOMEN' but this time, because of Covid-19, the walks are to start from one's home. 'After a sleepless hot night I felt God challenging me to



walk the 10 miles split into small sections. In the week leading up to 19th/20th September. My daughters and daughter-in-law have offered to walk with me, but if anyone would like to walk with me on a practice walk I would be very pleased.' Please contact Ann if you would like to support her.

Jeanne's story

Jeanne, a bright young woman, was robbed of hope through prostitution, but with **Rope's** support she can dream again. Each woman who comes to the BOMO centre in Kinshasa, DR Congo has travelled many miles and experienced much hardship in her young life. Many begin their life of prostitution as teenagers due to extreme poverty and family breakdown.

They are just like any teenager. They have hopes and dreams, but find themselves selling their bodies each day just to eat and locking up their childhood dreams. **Rope** and partners **BOMO** want to help these women to unlock their childhood dreams and begin to hope again.

BOMO's residential programme offers vocational training in sewing and tailoring and a loving and caring Christ-centred home so these women can re-build their lives and leave able to unlock her hopes and dreams.



A SMALL STEP FORWARD

Dear Wendover Free Church,

Happy September to you all! It has been a very strange year so far and there are many things we've missed and will continue to miss. I will miss being able to invite you all to the Manse for my birthday, and I am sure there are many other things we will be missing because we are not yet able to do them. However, as you might know, we are carefully starting some Sunday afternoon gatherings in the Christian Centre.

These gatherings will look very different from the Sunday mornings we used to know. We can't sing or socialise, we need face masks and many other precautions and we need to limit the number of people in the building.

Although it is good that some people will be able to meet, we must also acknowledge that many will not be ready or able to do so. This means we must continue to support one another by phone or socially distanced visits. We must also be aware that many of the

traditions we enjoyed will no longer be possible and everything will be different. Although this may make us feel sad we can be sure that our loving God is working in us and through us by his Spirit to bring good from this difficult situation.

I hope that these afternoon gatherings will be an opportunity from members of the congregation to exercise their gifts as different people will be taking turns to lead.

I also believe that the short time we spend together will be a chance to experience new ways of listening to

God and understanding more about his amazing love for us.

Please note: on Sunday 27th September our church meeting will replace the afternoon gathering but following advice from the Baptist Union this will be another Zoom meeting.

Our home worship sheets and Facebook live events on Sunday mornings will, of course, continue as usual for the foreseeable future. With every blessing, **Remco**

