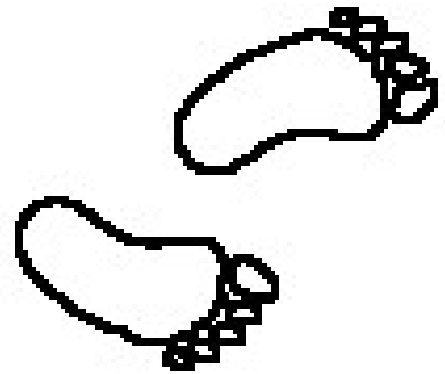


May, June 2018
Issue 100

The Next Step



Canberra Christian Fellowship
(in the Methodist Tradition)

100 Steps

Way back in 2004 when many of us were looking around for a new spiritual home, we printed a short newsletter as an encouragement to those who had left their previous church. We gave it the name "The Next Step" because at that time we knew we had to step forward in faith, but were unsure where that step would take us.

That step was taken and subsequently many more, often steps into the unknown, but each one taken confidently trusting in our God who was leading us forward.

We have come to the 100th issue of "The Next Step" so it seems an appropriate time to look back at where some of those steps have taken us.

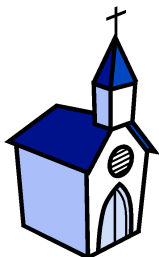


God brought us together as a Fellowship. We never had any plans to start a new congregation of God's people but after initially meeting monthly, then fortnightly, we began holding a service each week early in our third year.

**JOIN US TO
WORSHIP GOD**

Sunday, 30th May 2004

5-00pm



God provided for our needs. We needed somewhere to meet and preachers to bring us spiritual nourishment. Firstly the Campbell Gospel Chapel and more recently Holy Trinity Finnish Lutheran Church have met our accommodation requirements and we have been blessed with many preachers willing to come and share God's Word with us.



God gave us a special role in several ethnic churches and have participate in activities with those somewhat isolated groups together as Multicultural Carols have been important

**7th Annual
Multicultural Carols**
Sunday, 5 December 2010
5-00 pm
Campbell Primary School Hall
Chauvel Street,
Campbell

ALL WELCOME!

Our guests include Austral-Asian,
Chinese, Fijian, Finnish,
Indonesian, Korean,
Samoan & Tongan people.

Refreshments
after
the service

Organised by the
Canberra Christian Fellowship
(in the METHODIST tradition)

www.canbracr.org.au

His Kingdom. We knew people in been able to arrange or churches. This brought several brothers and sisters in Christ. Our in this process.



*... where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them." (Matthew 18:20 KJV)

At the same time we were forming into a fellowship, other groups all around the country were experiencing similar turmoil, having left the UCA as we had. For a time we circulated a newsletter "Gathered Together" to help such groups that we knew of establish themselves and share experiences.



God showed us that as a relatively small group we could have a big impact. We have been among the largest groups attending Scripture Union Regeneration Dinners several times. This is not something to boast about but rather should encourage us that God can mightily use our small Fellowship.



Our average age is high however we are still useful to God. He used our support and encouragement to confirm to Rev. Bob Prior his calling to a Racecourse ministry / chaplaincy.



Our style of worship is what most of us grew up with - fairly formal 4 hymns, prayers, Bible Readings and a sermon - but relaxed and open to God's leading, not stiflingly rigid. This has attracted some worshippers less comfortable with other forms of worship.



Many disasters occur around this world - fires, floods, storms, earthquakes, volcanoes, famine, etc.. We have had the opportunity to generously contribute to relief work through financial donations.



God is active in the Canberra region and we have welcomed chaplains working in several different areas to our services, heard about their work and been able to offer financial and prayer support.



Many organisations are doing with needy communities all have been pleased to have organisations worship with us, and accept the support that we have



great work in supporting and working around this world in God's name. We representatives of several such encourage us with news of that work been able to offer.



God has given the Church the job of proclaiming the gospel message. We have been able to play our part in that through personal contacts, our support of groups working in God's name and of other groups with a primary aim of making God's Word and message as widely available, known and understood as possible.



We are just ordinary people with the great advantage that at some point in our lives we have come to know our God. We have worshipped Him and served Him and He has blessed us. Some of our Fellowship have left us and gone to be with Him, but He has remained with us, always leading us forward for our next step.

ID

John 3:16 For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

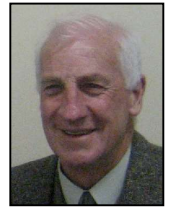
Matthew 22:37-40 "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind." This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: "Love your neighbour as yourself." All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.'

John 13:34-35 'A new command I give you: love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.'

NIVUK

Sunday, 29th April - Rev. Peter Nelson - The greatest purpose for living

Jesus told us *"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind."* This is the first and greatest commandment.' [Matthew 22: 37,38].



God created and sustains us. He is all powerful, all knowing, all seeing, perfect, merciful and kind. He alone can demand love. As Revelation 4: 11 says *"You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honour and power, for you created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being."*

The Bible teaches that we are made in the image of God. An image points back to the original. Our existence is centred on God. 1 John 4:19 tells us that *"We love because he first loved us."* It is natural that we should respond to His love and love Him.

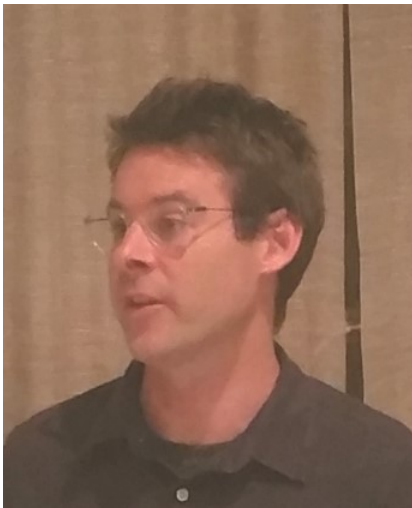
In Luke 7 we find the story of a sinful woman who wets Jesus' feet with her tears and wipes them with her hair. The lesson for us that Jesus draws is that those who are forgiven more, love more. We have been forgiven so much by God.

God's love and forgiveness is not a momentary impulse but a permanent attitude as we see in Jeremiah 31: 3 - *"The Lord appeared to us in the past, saying: 'I have loved you with an everlasting love; I have drawn you with unfailing kindness.'"*

We can express our love for God through our obedience to Him.

ID

Sunday, 27th May - Pastor David Irving - What do we mean by faith?



David works for FOCUS (the Fellowship Of Christian University Students) among students at the local universities.

We often talk about faith but what is it? David discussed three aspects of faith.

The foundation of faith

The shape of faith

The power of faith

- Galatians 3: 6-9 looks back to Abraham as a man of faith. He was a very ordinary person but in Genesis 12 we read God told Abraham, then known as Abram, to leave his home and go to the place God would show him. Abram did as God instructed. Abram's faith was the act of receiving God's grace and promise with a heart of gratitude. His faith did nothing of itself, it was reliant on God and what He did.

- Abram trusted God and left his home as God directed. God had promised him that he would become a great nation and for that he needed descendants, but he had no children and his wife was barren. The land God promised him also seemed unavailable. It was already occupied. Those difficulties did not deter Abram. He continued to trust God and worship Him. Abram's faith rested on the goodness of God. God sees more clearly than we do and we can trust in God even when we can't see the way ahead.

- Just as we do, Abram faltered in his faith. Instead of trusting God for his safety, Abram succumbed to worldly concerns and claimed his wife was his sister in a bid to obtain good treatment. On discovery, he was kicked out of Egypt. Abram again looked to God. Abram's failure didn't stop God from fulfilling His purposes. The power of faith rests in God not us and we are best to walk by faith not by sight.



ID

Early Warning



Operation Christmas Child

ACT Launch Event

Saturday 11 August 2018, 1:00–3:00pm

Lyons Church of Christ

2 Marrawah Street, Lyons, 2606

RSVP to Gayle by 3 August 2018

1300 884 468 or EMAIL nsw@samaritanpurse.org.au

Sunday, 20th May - Rev. Dr. Campbell Egan - Standing Firm

The very first service of our Fellowship was held on 30 May, 2004, Pentecost Sunday. Campbell Egan first preached for us on 13 March, 2005, a little before our first Anniversary and subsequently many more times, this, our 14th Anniversary being the 39th time he has filled our pulpit. He has always brought us a Biblically based message that has encouraged us and built us up in Christian knowledge and faith and so we were glad when he accepted our invitation to preach at our Anniversary Service this Pentecost Sunday.



Campbell looked back to our beginnings as a Fellowship. He reminded us of our desire for a greater emphasis on the role of Christ and the teachings of the Bible to be evident in the beliefs and values of the Church.

He likened our desire to the man in the story at the end of Matthew 7 who built his house on rock, a firm foundation, that enabled the house to withstand rains, floods and winds. The house built without that firm foundation came crashing down. The house of life built on Jesus' teachings will have strong foundations and will withstand the pressures and troubles of life.

Edward Mote wrote a beautiful hymn "My hope is built on nothing less" and the chorus captures the truth -

On Christ the solid rock I stand
All other ground is sinking sand.

This Fellowship is part of the universal Christian Church and retains an influence from one of the great branches of the Church, the Methodists. It is also open to other Christian groups, often with ethnic connections.

The Fellowship has participated in the wider work of the Church through its support of Scripture Union, The Bible Society, Compassion, The Christian Blind Mission and many other such groups working in God's Name.

A Church built on the Rock of Christ generates a love for each other. This is expressed through a welcoming attitude to whoever comes along, foreign university students or others. Marks of a genuine Christian fellowship are getting to know, support and care for each other.

Campbell congratulated us on standing firm on the rock of Christ and encouraged us to retain our emphasis on Biblical teaching, to renew our commitment to Christ and to reemphasise our welcoming attitude.

Jesus came to teach us about the love of God and love for our neighbour.

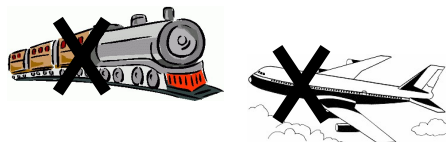
We should build on His teaching and that will provide a firm foundation that will survive the winds and rains and troubles and temptations that may come.

ID

For our Anniversary service we were joined by members of the Indonesian Christian Fellowship who sang for us, and of the Aboriginal Church.



The Indonesians singing and after the service.



There was an odd fellow named Gus,
When travelling he made such a fuss.
He was banned from the train,
Not allowed on a plane,
And now travels only by bus.

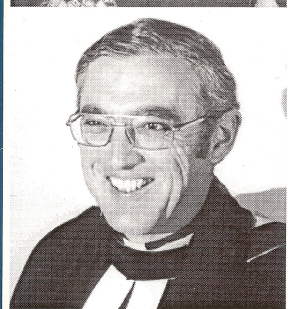


The Father, The Son And The Grandson



THE FATHER THE SON AND THE GRANDSON

*Three Generations
in Christian
Ministry*



CAMPBELL EGAN

Foreword by
Rev. Dr. Gordon Powell

Getting to know someone well can be a very rewarding experience. As a Fellowship we have come to know each other better over time and the mini biographies printed in "The Next Step" that provide a brief overview of our lives have given us extra insight into those of us who have been the subject of those writeups. There are, of course, many people who have contributed greatly to our Fellowship that we don't see each week, in particular our preachers.

Recently I spent some time with one of those preachers, Campbell Egan, discussing our anniversary service. As I left he gave me a little book he had written.

"**The Father, The Son And The Grandson**" tells the story of Campbell's grandfather Edward who became a Salvation Army officer after a 'Damascus Road' type of conversion in the Western Australian goldfields; Campbell's father, also named Campbell; and of himself.

Edward, the Father, was nurtured in his new found faith by the Salvation Army and after a time applied for officer training. After 10 weeks training he received a number of postings over the years and rose to the

rank of Brigadier. He was known as a captivating preacher and motivator.

Campbell, the Son, worked in a shoe factory and found himself drawn into the life of the St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church in Goulburn. Like his father, he came to believe he was called to the Christian ministry, but in the Presbyterian Church rather than the Salvation Army. After much hard work, he fulfilled the requirements enabling him to become ordained as a Minister of Word and Sacrament. His ministry included time in parishes in New South Wales, the Australian Capital Territory and Queensland. Like his father, Campbell was a talented preacher. He was keen to take the message he preached beyond church walls and so wrote a regular column for a local newspaper for some years and was active in the Christian Television Association.

Campbell, the Grandson, was a failure at school. Shopping around the religious market place, he was attracted to St. Stephen's Presbyterian Church in Sydney where he discerned a call to the ministry. With encouragement and a motivation for education he did rather well at night school.

Entering University with the goal of following his father and grandfather into Christian ministry, Campbell struggled with confusion and doubt as he studied philosophy, almost rejecting his faith. He was helped by three people in this time of uncertainty and eventually completed his studies.

We learn a good deal about Campbell, the grandson's activities as he exercised his ministry and also his thoughts and motivations. He was distressed by the divisions that surfaced as a result of Church Union decisions. At first he opted to remain within the continuing Presbyterian Church but later chose to move across to the Uniting Church although he recognised problems within that denomination.

We have greatly benefitted from Campbell's preaching and friendship and this little book lets us get to know him so much better. The faith he preaches is not shallow but tested and well thought through, his observations of church life and practice reasoned and insightful.

If you would like to borrow the book, let me know.

ID

A meal, a meeting and a new member

General meetings for our Fellowship are held every six months and we were due to hold one sometime in May or June. Tuesday, 5 June was the day that seemed to best suit most people so it was duly marked on the calendar.

A lunch time meeting is more convenient and it also offers the opportunity for those who come to enjoy a light meal together before tackling the business of our little group.



On the menu was soup - tomato or chicken and corn - with bread rolls. Once that had warmed us up we were ready for dessert. A recent birthday and one rapidly approaching gave us sufficient reason to sing "Happy Birthday" and carve up two rather delectable cakes. Tea or coffee accompanied by biscuits, slices and grapes rounded off a very satisfying meal.



We managed to work through our meeting agenda quickly and efficiently.

Under the topic of Correspondence, the government's expanded Reportable Conduct Scheme was mentioned. Everyone should be aware that misconduct towards children (or allegations of misconduct) is compulsorily reportable to the Ombudsman from 1 July.

It was agreed that this year our Carols should adopt a similar format to last year.

Social activities were discussed which brought back memories of past events, and a get together for morning or afternoon tea or lunch was proposed. Practical details are being investigated. Listen out for arrangements.

Membership matters provided the opportunity to accept Kelly as a member of our Fellowship which gave us great pleasure.

It may sound strange to claim that a business meeting was a friendly and happy occasion but our meal / meeting was just that. The next one to look forward to will be in November.

Our thanks must go to Ruth who hosted our gathering and who did so much to ensure we were well fed.



Kelly

From the Hays in South Africa



'Take up the cause of
the fatherless'
Isaiah 1:17

PO Box 80
Botha's Hill, KZN 3660
South Africa

David.Hay@sim.org
Janenne.Hay@sim.org
Rachel.Hay@sim.org



David, Janenne & Rachel Hay

Serving at iKhethelo Children's Village
KwaZulu Natal, South Africa

www.HaysInSouthAfrica.com

SIM Australia
PO Box 42
Penshurst NSW 2222
02 9580 1422

Dear Friends at Canberra
Christian Fellowship

Greetings from David,
Janenne and Rachel.

A major focus of what we
do at iKhethelo is to ensure
our children receive a good
education. This is not easy in
a country that has a very low
overall quality of education. ...

During the last couple of
years, we have had two boys
who have been severely
affected by foetal alcohol
syndrome [more that a 10th of
South African children suffer
from it]. ... Rachel spends a
great deal of her time helping
Asanda*. Asanda is a
challenge that many people

find difficult to cope with, but Rachel has a unique ability to connect with children such as Asanda. Asanda is fortunate to have someone as patient and loving as Rachel to help him. ...

Msizi* who came to iKhethelo two months ago ... is 11 years old. He was abandoned by his mother (who has since died) when he was 16 months old. While Msizi is a Zulu boy, he has never learnt to speak any isiZulu (the Zulu language). However, he had previously been in the care of people who had sent him to an English speaking school that has provided him with a good education so far. We faced a dilemma. [The] local community school (free education) ... [teaches] in isiZulu. ... the good (fee-paying) school ... has mandatory classes in Afrikaans [language which he knew none of and] we had no sponsor for his school fees. ... a teacher ... offered to help with some intensive Afrikaans lessons. ... We have also found a

sponsor for his school fees. This week Msizi started school at Forest View Primary School.

Over the last few months, all three of us have been feeling quite weary. We have not been able to have much of a break ... away from the constant demands of the village We are looking forward to a five-day break away in mid-June, and then at the end of June, we will have a few days away at the SIM Spiritual Life Conference.

... the enormity of the issues faced by millions of orphaned and abandoned children in South Africa can sometimes be overwhelming, wondering whether helping the 50 children at iKhethelo can have any impact. ... We are ... encouraged by Pauls words to the Galatians: Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up (Galatians 6:9).

Thank you to all our supporters who pray regularly for us. We can only do what we do through prayer and we value your prayers so much.

* names changed to protect privacy

A highlight for many in their matriculation year is the Matric Dance. This is the equivalent of the Year 12 Formal in Australia. ...

Our oldest girl Thando is in grade 12 and recently went to her Matric Dance. Thando took one of our boys, Sifiso. They made a stunning couple. We are so grateful to a generous sponsor who paid for Thando's dress and all the things she needed for the night. We are also grateful to the local suit hire place who lent us Sifiso's suit for free.



Eden Cho

Sunday, 10 June was a big day for Eden Cho. He was baptised at the Reid Korean Church at their second morning service. A good number of our people were present for the occasion.

As always we were given a warm welcome to their service.

Both Daniel and Ashley spoke about their lives and faith before Rev. Jangwon Seo performed the baptism.



An ambitious young fellow named Matt,
Tried to parachute using his hat.
Folks below looked so small,
As he started to fall,
Then got bigger and bigger and SPLAT!



Coincidence or God's plan?

Trish visits us every so often, bringing people with her to our services. One of those visits coincided with Aubrey's visit to speak about God working through I Afrika.

Janice, Aubrey's wife, was with him.

Trish and Janice are cousins who had not met up for quite some time and had no inkling their paths would cross then.

Their meeting can be passed off as coincidence, however, it is not so hard to see through eyes of faith God bringing them together as part of His plan. It may not be for us to know that plan, but God is in control and human coincidence can certainly be used by God.

A child asked his father, "How were people born?" So his father said, "Adam and Eve made babies, then their babies became adults and made babies, and so on." The child then went to his mother, asked her the same question and she told him, "We were monkeys then we evolved to become like we are now." The child ran back to his father and said, "You lied to me!" His father replied, "No, your mom was talking about her side of the family."

Sunday, 10th June - Mr. Aubrey Newman - An example of loving God and discipleship



We have known Aubrey as an enthusiastic supporter of Immanuel Afrika so were anticipating an encouraging report on that work. We were not disappointed.

Opi Nduati was a Pastor in Nairobi, Kenya who felt compelled to assist boys he found living on the streets. He lived in a house in a rough part of town and housed and helped as many boys as he could.

At the time of the 2007 Kenyan elections, many families were displaced and many children lost their parents. A Sudanese boy went missing and his family in Australia made contact with Opi in an attempt to locate him. Opi succeeded. The family gave Opi the opportunity to visit Australia for a fund raising trip for his work. it was during that trip in 2008 that we first met him.

Back in Kenya, Opi was encouraged in his work by a couple of Mission Aviation Fellowship families.

Opi was giving boys hope, food, information about Jesus, safety, shelter, healthcare and schooling. Most of the boys helped came to believe the gospel message Opi shared with them.

Eventually Opi was given the move out.

The decision was made to edge of the city and move there. With Brisbane Church and another accommodation block was buildings, a water bore and tank, the work continued and expanded. Perth Church, the local Rotary Club, Kenyan Christians and others were generous in support of I Afrika's mission.



option to buy the house he was in or

purchase a 2 hectare block on the the assistance of financial help from a Australian benefactor, an constructed. More land, more livestock and buses were acquired as The Australian High Commission, a

Now 11 years old, I Afrika has progressed substantially in its physical resources but has also been the source of spiritual growth.

The boys receive assistance and training with the goal that they become self supporting and able to make their own way in life.

Outreach to boys still on the streets continues, with I Afrika taking food and the gospel to share with them.

A recent development has been that I Afrika now cares for girls as well as boys. The difficulties of housing boys and girls in close proximity and available resources has made that impractical in the past.

The work of Opi and I Afrika has resulted in many boys growing to live useful Christian lives. We pray that the work will continue and many more lives will be changed for the better in years to come. ID

After the service

L to R Back: Aubrey, Joyce, Ian H., Joan, Warren, Alec, Solomon, Kelly, Trish, Kim, Wendy, Laurie.

L to R front: Janice, Ruth, Marie, Ashley, Eden Cho, Daniel.

Photographer: Ian D..





After the service 2

L to R Back: Aubrey, Joyce, Ian H., Alec, Warren, Solomon, Kelly, Trish, Kim, Wendy, Laurie.

L to R front: Ian D., Ruth, Marie, Eden Cho, Ashley, Daniel.

Photographer: Janice.

Also taking photos: Joan

Chaplains

- Rev. Phil Anderson - Army chaplaincy
- Rev. Owen Chadwick - Universities chaplaincy
- Rev. Bob Prior - Racecourse chaplaincy

Please remember Phil, Owen, Bob and their chaplaincy work in your prayers.



Coming Up

Tuesday Bible Study

Tuesdays at 2-30 pm at the church.
 Currently studying Isaiah
 All welcome - contact Joyce for more information

Prayer Meeting

3rd Monday of each month at 2-30 pm, usually at Marie's.
 All welcome

Contacts

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 Campbell 2612
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E-mail: canberracf@yahoo.com.au
 Website: <http://www.canberracf.org.au/>

TNS editor : Ian Denton - e-mail : iancd@yahoo.com

Services over recent weeks have included the following:



Rev. Peter Nelson



Rev. Ron Reeson



Mr. Phillip Ng



Rev. Dr. Campbell Egan



Pastor Dave Irving

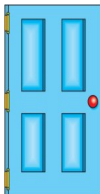


Mr. Roy Dallos

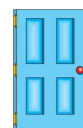


Mr. Aubrey Newman

- Sunday **29th April** – Rev. Peter Nelson - The greatest purpose for living
- Sunday **6th May** – Rev. Ron Reeson - Forgetting what is behind
- Sunday **13th May** – Mr. Phillip Ng - Living for the King
- Sunday **20th May** at 5pm – Rev. Dr. Campbell Egan (Church Anniversary) - Standing Firm
- Sunday **27th May** – Pastor David Irving - What do we mean by faith?
- Sunday **3rd June** – Mr. Roy Dallos - From death to life: A prayer of hope and thanks, part 2
- Sunday **10th June** – Mr. Aubrey Newman - An example of loving God and discipleship



I need a front door for my hall,
The replacement I bought was too tall.
So I hacked it and chopped it,
And carefully lopped it,
And now the darn thing is too small.



Coming Services

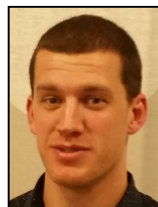
We meet at **Holy Trinity Finnish Lutheran Church, Cnr. Gould and Watson Streets, Turner**



Dhee Subramani



Rev. Phil Anderson



Mr. Brett Hillam



Mr. Tim Collison



Mr. Jeff Mason



Rev. Janne Pekkarinen



Mr. Robert Nicholls



Rev. Patrick Cole



Rev. Peter Nelson



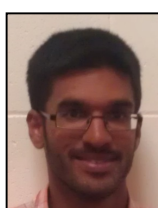
Mr. Roy Dallos



Rev. Bob Prior



Rev. Owen Chadwick



Mr. Revin Blanchard



Mr. George Huang



Rev. Peter Nelson

Uganda

SBS
C-TBS

Dan or
Andrew

Sunday **17th June** at 5pm – **Dhee Subramaniam** (Barnabas Fund)

Sunday **24th June** at 5pm – **Rev. Phil Anderson**

Sunday **1st July** at 5pm – **Mr. Brett Hillam**

Sunday **8th July** at 5pm – **Mr. Tim Collison** (Leprosy Mission)

Sunday **15th July** at 5pm – **Mr. Jeff Mason** (Scripture Union)

Sunday **22nd July** at 5pm – **Rev. Janne Pekkarinen**

Sunday **29th July** at 5pm – **Mr. Rob Nicholls** (Christian Blind Mission)

Sunday **5th August** at 5pm – **Rev. Patrick Cole**

Sunday **12th August** at 5pm – **Rev. Peter Nelson**

Sunday **19th August** at 5pm – **Mr. Roy Dallos**

Sunday **26th August** at 5pm – **Rev. Bob Prior**

Sunday **2nd September** at 5pm – **Rev. Owen Chadwick**

Sunday **9th September** at 5pm – **to be advised**

Sunday **16th September** at 5pm – **Mr. Revin Blanchard**

Sunday **23rd September** at 5pm – **Mr. George Huang**

Sunday **30th September** at 5pm – **Rev. Peter Nelson**

Sunday **7th October** at 5pm – **Dan or Andrew** (Uganda School of Biblical Studies / Church-based Training in Biblical Studies)



One Saturday morning at three,
A cheese monger's shop in Paree.
Collapsed to the ground,
With a thunderous sound,
Leaving only a pile of de brie.

