



NEIGHBOURHOOD COMMUNITY CONTACT

A Church where every person has a place and part to play

Autumn 2011

Grape Harvest

The harvesting of wine grapes is one of the most crucial steps in the winemaking process. The time of harvest is determined primarily by the ripeness of the grape as measured by sugar, acid and tannin levels with winemakers – their decision to pick based on the style of wine they wish to produce. The weather can also shape the timetable of harvesting with the threat of heat, rain, hail, and frost which can damage the grapes and bring about various vine diseases.

Wine is mentioned over 200 times in the Bible, though this is not always the fermented wine we know today. Jesus uses the imagery of the *vine* and *vinedresser* in John 15:1.

Jesus begins by explaining that He is the *true vine* and God is the *vinedresser* or gardener. He wants us to know the loving care of His Father for his followers through the comparison of a vinedresser's concern for his plants. Grapes are more than an annual crop to be harvested. The vines remain with vinedresser for decades and he

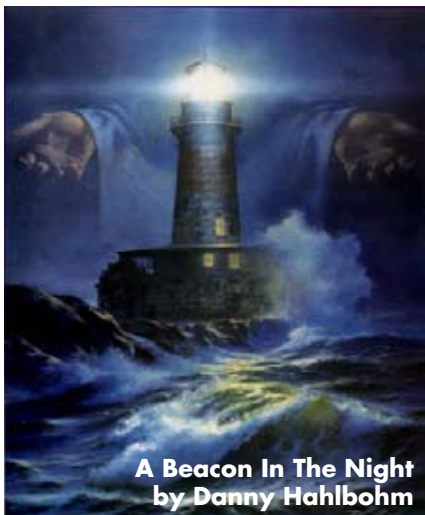


comes to know each one in a personal way. He sees how the vine is doing from year to year and which vines are productive. He knows how they respond and the special care certain one's need.

Every vine has its own personality and the vinedresser knows each one individually. He cares and nurtures each vine, pruning it at the right time by the right amount, fertilizing it, lifting its branches from the ground and propping them up when they need it. He takes measures to protect them from anything which might harm them such as insects or disease.

Jesus chose *vine* rather than other plants because in the Old Testament the grapevine is used to describe Israel. But it does not just designate Israel as a nation but to all those who have a personal relationship with Jesus having made him Lord of their lives.

Jesus wants us to know the possible relationship believers have with the Father and the resulting fruitfulness that brings.



A Beacon In The Night
by Danny Hahlbohm

Light in the darkness!

'Things Fall Apart' is the title of a novel. It could describe what has happened to our world recently.

Foundations we rely on have developed cracks that have surprised us and caused confusion and insecurity.

What a list! Bank collapses, MPs' expenses fraud, redundancies, inflation, pension crisis causing extended working lives, 'Arab Spring' revolutions, press hacking scandals, paedophilia, suicide bombings, earthquakes, tsunamis, nuclear radiation, global warming causing droughts and floods, national debts risking the survival of the euro and the strength of the US dollar, and violence, arson and looting in British cities.

Will it ever end? The Bible says it will. Our old Church building will be replaced by a state-of-the-art new one shortly. But there must first be demolition and an honest recognition just how bad the old one is. The Bible too does an honest demolition job. 'The Message' version of the bible states: "Don't be naive. There

are difficult times ahead. As the end approaches, people are going to be self-absorbed, money-hungry, self-promoting, stuck-up, profane, contemptuous of parents, crude, coarse, dog-eat-dog, unbending, slanderers, impulsively wild, savage, cynical, treacherous, ruthless, bloated windbags, addicted to lust, and allergic to God."

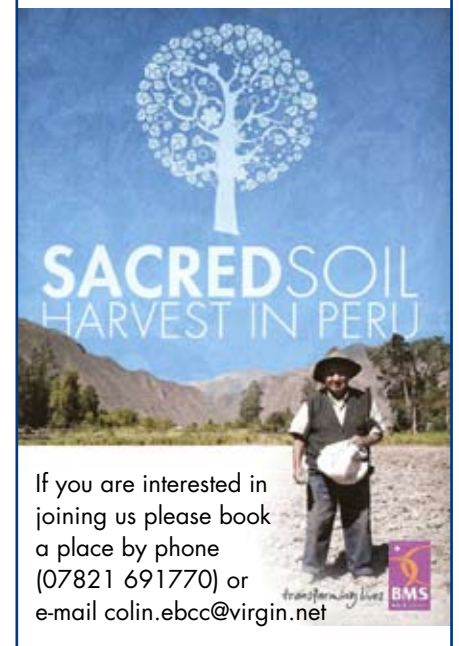
But, in spite of all that, it also says: "This is how much God loved the world: He gave his Son... ..God didn't go to all the trouble of sending his Son merely to point an accusing finger. He came to help, to put the world right again... This is the crisis we're in: God-light streamed into the world, but men and women everywhere ran for the darkness... because they were not really interested in pleasing God."

What about you? Will you come to the 'Light of the World' and let Him rebuild your life on a solid rock?



The focus for the Harvest Weekend at EBCC is Peru. Sowing seeds in a Sacred Valley in Peru after floods destroyed the crops and devastated the area.

We are having a Peruvian style Harvest Supper on Saturday 24th September at 7.30 pm in the Church Hall.



If you are interested in joining us please book a place by phone (07821 691770) or e-mail colin.ebcc@virgin.net

The Living Room

The Living Room has been open for nearly 6 months and we have been much encouraged by the steady flow of visitors; we never know how many to expect or what problems they will bring with them or how much effect the weather is going to have or how long people will stay but so far we have managed to provide for everybody who drops in. We are greatly supported by Pitstop volunteers and professional staff from Leatherhead who cook and wash up and can help people negotiate their way through the various official agencies which provide assistance on housing, employment, benefits and health.

If ever one was looking for an example of God's provision this is it. First of all, the seed was planted that there was a need for the Living Room, secondly the Church has a large, bright, well kept hall available, thirdly the Church embraces the activity with volunteers keen and able to give the time each week and the financial support. And then, just to confirm that we're in the right place doing the right job at the right time, other volunteers have turned up offering their time and support and there have been numerous visits from interested organisations in the town who have heard about us and call in to see

what's happening.

The Living Room provides a place every Friday where the homeless, unemployed, those facing a crisis in their lives or want a bit of company can drop in for a cup of tea or coffee, a light lunch, read the papers, watch TV or have a game of table tennis or chess etc and get professional help if needed or just have a chat or some peace and quiet. Everyone will find a warm and friendly welcome and can stay for as short or long a time as they want.

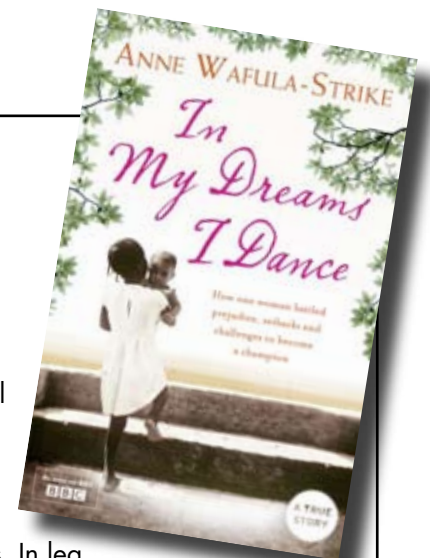
BOOK REVIEW

Title: **In my dreams I dance**

Autobiography: Anne Wafula-Strike
270 pp

Publisher: Harper Collins

This is a strong, uplifting story of faith, a girl who believed in herself. She was born in a mud hut in a poor village in Kenya, contracted Polio at two years old and then ostracised and driven out of the village by the prejudiced and superstitious villagers. In leg irons (callipers) and heavy crutches her only future was likely to be as a beggar but with courage and refusal to give in, she bore the degradations caused by the lack of basic facilities, she fought her way to graduation at university, England, a husband and a wheelchair. This changed her life again, to ultimate fame in the Paralympics.





LIFE IS WORTH EXPLORING

ALPHA.ORG
THE ALPHA COURSE



WHAT IS ALPHA?

The Alpha course is open to everyone interested in discovering what Christianity is about. It's a place where people can come and relax, eat, share thoughts and explore the meaning of life.

WHO IS ALPHA FOR?

The Alpha course is designed primarily for people who aren't churchgoers and is open to anyone who would like to attend.

WHY ATTEND THE ALPHA COURSE?

Guests come on the Alpha course for many different reasons; some want to investigate whether God exists and some have questions they'd like to discuss. Many guests have never been to church and others may have attended church but feel they have never had a personal understanding of the Christian faith.

HOW ALPHA WORKS

Alpha courses are based around small groups of about twelve people, led by one or two hosts whose role is to facilitate

and encourage discussion. Courses vary in size and will be held at The Haywain Pub/Rest, Dorking Road, Epsom on Thursdays from 7.00 pm for a meal at 7.15 pm. The course commences on 29th September until 8th December and each evening lasts for approximately 2 hours.

ALPHA COURSE WEEKLY FORMAT

The Alpha course usually lasts for ten weeks, with a day or weekend away in the middle. Each session begins with a meal, then a short talk looking at a different aspect of the Christian faith each week. This is followed by a time of discussion, when guests can ask questions and contribute the opinions.

There is no charge to attend to Alpha course, although courses may ask for a contribution towards good.

INTERESTED?

Book now by sending the form below or email colin.ebcc@virgin.net For more details see www.epsomchurch.co.uk Please send the form to Mr & Mrs H Hammond, 89 Downs Road, Epsom, Surrey KT18 5JT or phone 01372 722530

REGISTRATION FORM

If you would like to take part, please complete this form and send it to the address overleaf.

First name Surname

Address

Postcode Daytime tel Email

Dietary requirements Age (optional)

How did you hear about Alpha?

We look forward to seeing you.

FREE COURSE!

CAP Money is a three-session course to get you back in control of your money.

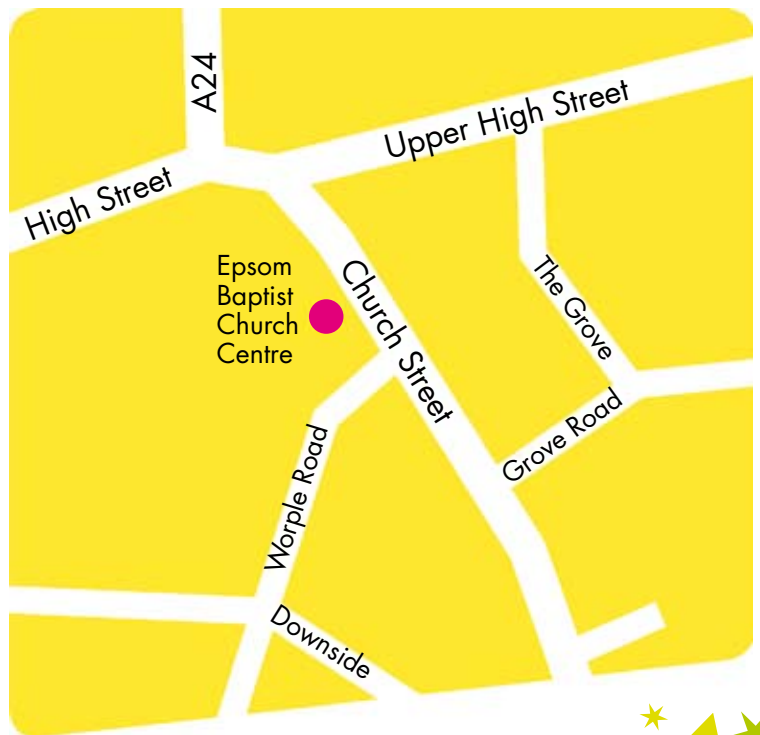
Learn a simple system to help you budget, save and plan for the future.

"In just three evening I was empowered to take control of my money and face the future with confidence"

CAP Money Delegate

The next course will be held at The Haywain Pub/Rest, Dorking Road, Epsom on Saturdays from 19th November to 3 December from 10.00 am – 12.00 noon.

For further details please phone (07821 691770) or e-mail colin.ebcc@virgin.net



Shooting Stars



is a youth group for children in school years 5 & 6. They meet every Thursday from 6.45–8.15pm in the church hall. The activities include games, sports, crafts, cooking, music and more....

Entrance is £1 and there is a tuck shop (all the leaders are CRB checked).

AUTUMN HOLIDAY CLUB

Once again the October Half-Term (24th–28th October) will see us having a Holiday Club for 5–11 year olds in the Church Hall.

We cater for about 80 children and all the helpers have been CRB checked at an enhanced level. We provide a busy programme of songs, stories, craft activities, quizzes, games, DVD and, of course, refreshments.



For further details please phone (07821 691770) or e-mail colin.ebcc@virgin.net

Craft Night



- Bring a Craft
- Learn a Craft
- Make a Christmas Decoration

Our Winter Craft Night is on Wednesday 16th November in the Church Hall. This is an opportunity to enjoy the company of like-minded crafters while making Christmas cards, jewellery, table decorations, scrapbooks or needle craft.

Learn new skills or just watch, the choice is yours. There is no charge though you might wish to purchase something. Everyone is most welcome, (bring a friend if you like) please contact the Church for further details.

THE BIG welcome

You are warmly invited to join us for our 'Big Welcome to Visitors' Harvest Thanksgiving Event on Sunday 25th September at 10.30am followed by Refreshment

