

# GRAPEVINE

GRAPEVINE@STJOHNSWELLING.ORG.UK WWW.STJOHNSWELLING.ORG.UK 020 8303 1107 EDITORS: MCC & NC

## ... it is God who has the victory

**Exodus 17 8-13 NIV**

**The Amalekites defeated.**

<sup>8</sup>The Amalekites came and attacked the Israelites at Rephidim. <sup>9</sup>Moses said to Joshua, 'Choose some of our men and go out to fight the Amalekites. Tomorrow I will stand on top of the hill with the staff of God in my hands.' <sup>10</sup>So Joshua fought the Amalekites as Moses had ordered, and Moses, Aaron and Hur went to the top of the hill. <sup>11</sup>As long as Moses held up his hands, the Israelites were winning, but whenever he lowered his hands, the Amalekites were winning. <sup>12</sup>When Moses' hands grew tired, they took a stone and put it under him, and he sat on it. Aaron and Hur held his hands up – one on one side, one on the other – so that his hands remained steady till sunset. <sup>13</sup>So Joshua overcame the Amalekite army with the sword.

Friends

We come to the end of Spark thanking God for His goodness. The 21<sup>st</sup> Birthday

Spark was one of the best ever with nearly 1000 children plus adults through our 'doors' each day. 143 volunteers from 24 Churches working together to spread salt and light on our community.



What can we learn from the above reading from Exodus?

- We must be on the look out for and train new leaders to keep God's troops well led (Have you considered GROWING LEADERS?) – new Joshua's. I am thrilled that we have new younger blood coming

onto the Spark Exec, and new people at St John's looking to step up in leadership.

- We must hold each others' arms up in prayer when they are ministering – we need the backing of the saints. I need the backing of the saints! We need The Aarons and

The Hurs holding up tired arms (particularly true at Spark!).

- We need to acknowledge that we are completely reliant on God's power – the staff lifted up, the Cross lifted up... the Holy Spirit's power and our obedience to Him.

In the next few verses God tells Moses to write the victory down and remember it. Let us celebrate all of

God's blessings to us over the 90 years of St John's and the 21 years of Spark – and remember it is God who has the victory.

God bless, have a good Summer.

Adam

Rev Adam Foot

Vicar, St John's Welling

## St John's News

I ended the June News by saying 'The next two months will be good. We know there will be Baptisms, Confirmations, Spark in the Park and many as yet unknowns, but not unknown to God. Let's continue to journey with Him.

And so it has proved to be! Baptisms and Confirmations have taken place and as I write Spark in the Park starts a week today. By the time you read this Spark will be over and we will be reflecting on what we trust will have been a wonderful week in the Park. The last two months have been busy for the St John's family.

The Life Service Team and Congregation has already said goodbye to Alex and Charles Barlow, Grace and Charlie, although their actual departure for Bristol coincides with the end of Spark week.

They leave with our grateful thanks and assurance of our love and prayers as they begin a new chapter of their lives.

The new Thursday House Group, is underway, although like most groups, about to take a Summer break!

The Confirmation Service in June was very special as Bishop Simon CONFIRMED Abigail Storey, Sharon, Hannah and Abigail Matthes and Terry Golding, along with candidates from St Peters and Bishop Ridley, with God's Spirit.

The end of the Summer term means good-byes to current classes for all our children and students before starting new classes, and for year 6 pupils and those leaving secondary school, new schools, and post school situations. Exciting times.. We pray for you!

Congratulations to Charlotte O'Leary and Sophie Banks, Johanna Dan-Ikhide and Gareth MacBean on completing their degrees, and to Sophie who has already

started work with a London Law firm as well as passing her driving test!

As well as Spark in the Park, School Holidays mean Ventures, and we pray for Val and Ray Gompers and Jim Golding leading a Canal venture and Michelle Cronin on the Brymore Venture team this summer.

ON Sunday July 16th we officially welcomed little Clementine Hoy into our Church family as she was Baptised during the morning service. I say officially, because, when she can, Clementine brings her Mummy and big brother Sebastian, to the 4pm Life Service!

We continue to pray for a speedy recovery for Linda Buffrey and Roy Harris who have recently been in hospital.

So on into high Summer, when hopefully we won't experience the searing heat Europe is having. Until October.

Estelle Woodcock

# Giving up?

CMS has a great strapline at present - "Jesus never gives up. Neither should we". CMS is all about persevering in showing God's love and sharing the good news of Jesus in difficult places and situations. The strapline got us thinking about our part in God's mission to God's world. As we return to the UK after 16 years serving in Peru we were reflecting on whether we are giving up or whether we are faithfully moving on to the next thing that God has called us to.

Reading through the Bible we can see there are clearly things that we should never give up on. Loving God and loving our neighbour (Matthew 22:37-40), doing good (See Galatians 6:9 or 2 Thessalonians 3:13), keeping our faith in Jesus - particularly in the midst of suffering and persecution - (James 1:2-4 and Matthew 24:9-13) and staying on God's path for our lives (Philippians 3:12-14, Hebrews 12:1-2).

But the Bible also gives examples of times when it is necessary to let go of a beloved group of people. Jesus himself ascended into heaven and left the disciples but he wasn't giving up on them (Acts 1) – the Holy Spirit would come and empower them to grow



the Church. Paul moved on from Churches he had planted leaving him and them in tears (Acts 20) – but he didn't give up on them. He knew they needed to grow and mature depending on God and not on him whilst God called him to a new place.

So, we are encouraged in our move that now is a time when God is calling us to something new but we certainly aren't giving up on people in Peru and neither is Jesus. In fact, it may be just what they and we all need. We hope that encourages you too as you seek to follow Jesus without giving up.

**Paul Tester**

## Jobs: Bola & Shola ('Shola') Akinrinade

Bola and Shola met in Nigeria where they were brought up, and while Bola was studying in the UK, Shola was finishing nursing college in Nigeria and qualified as a nurse and midwife. They met at Primary School and attended close Secondary Schools, and courted for 10 years before marrying in 1982 after a year of Bola studying in the UK. Shola joined Bola for what was anticipated to be a short term stay in the UK while he finished his course, but finding that she could not work as a nurse here without doing an adaptation course, she enrolled and lived at Queen Mary's Nursing Hostel.

In the middle of her course they were thrilled to be expecting their first child, so Shola left the course at that point and returned to auxiliary nursing. With a baby and with other family here, it was a tough decision on whether to return home or stay in the UK, and the UK won in the end. With 3 children, as time allowed, she joined Southwark Social Services providing part-time home care, eventually working for Crossroads Care in Catford looking after other carers. When the children were all in their teens, and urged by a colleague, she finally returned to study and started at Greenwich University 3 years full-time to train as a Psychiatric Nurse, a course gradually developed in partnership with Oxleas NHS Foundation Trust. Her first job was at Green Parks House, the mental health unit at Princess Royal University Hospital in Farnborough, then when there was space, she transferred to Oxleas House at the Memorial Hospital, Shooters Hill (a mainly psychiatric hospital) for bank shifts where she has been for the last 13 years and from which she will retire later this year. Bola began his working life as a Primary School teacher, and



then a Civil Servant in the Dept of Health. He came to the UK study Hotel

Management (and while he was about to enter one of his final exams, Shola went into labour and he only had time to call an ambulance and go to sit his exam!). He gradually moved into Business Administration and then became a Trainer in Business Admin. He has worked as a trainer in a hospital administration environment, as an administrator and revenue collector at TfL (Transport for London), and has also worked as a Cabbie. His main occupation however has always been in a Church environment, with his paid work

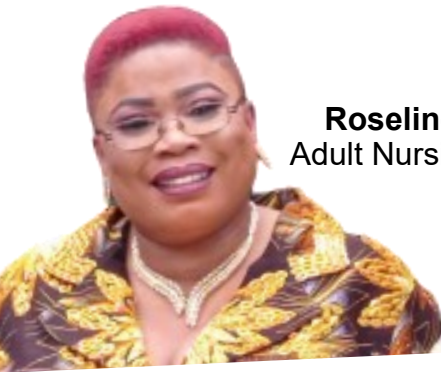
supporting that.

He used his skills and training, combined with a passion for God, to plant (*was this as part of a team?*) a Christ Apostolic Church (CAC) in Surrey Quays (the centre from which Welling CAC was then planted. He was Choirmaster at CAC for 10 years, balancing the hours with his paid work, became an ordained Pastor, and was appointed an Associate Pastor. He had been identified to be the next Senior Pastor, but situations on the staff team determined otherwise. He feels strongly that it's all about God. He still misses preaching, but enjoys peace of mind according to the Word of God. He still works a little as a Business Trainer at 68 but is largely retired.

Before church planting, Bola and Shola were both Ordained Pastors in the Fursque Gospel Church in North London, where Bola was also Music Director for 10 years. Shola's strengths are in hospitality, caring, prayer and the choir. Even at work, she says "People call me when they're in trouble, I see God at work everywhere. He will guide me." They have lived in Welling for 7 years, and before that were in New Cross.

**Kate Foot**

# Congratulations to new graduates:



**Roseline Ogunde**  
Adult Nursing 1st Class

**Johanna Dan-Ikhide**  
Computer Programming



**Sophie Banks**  
Law



**Charlotte O'Leary**  
Popular Music  
and Worship



**Gareth MacBean**  
Palaeontology



We thank the Lord for their success

# My Faith Journey: Andy Tey



study session, I asked whether I could have a Bible to read and I was given a Chinese Bible. I was thrilled initially but felt a bit daunted as it looked more like a dictionary than a normal book to me. I flipped through it and felt that it was impossible to finish reading it in a short while and decided that I would not rush through it. During those days, maybe due to lack of guidance, I had a naive belief in God's prescription of advice/instruction for me on some issue with studies and with growing up by my opening the Bible at random pages and reading the passages where my eyes happened upon. Eventually I realised that it didn't work that way or rather God doesn't work that way. I began to learn to pray. I began to speak to Him and tell Him my worries and care of the day. I could sense I felt much better every time after prayers as I shared the invisible burden with Him.

I grew up in the 80s in Malaysia and remembered my childhood being a happy and lively one partly because there were seven cousins living together with my immediate family. My cousins came to live with us as their family was stricken by financial complications. The eldest one was a Christian and she sometimes brought back home Bible story books for my other cousins to read. When I was about 8 years old, I came across a story book about Jesus. There were painted illustrations where Jesus was standing on a stage side by side with a scruffy looking guy whose name I later found out was Barabbas, in front of an angry crowd. And then the story proceeded to tell that the people chose to release Barabbas over Jesus and shouted "Crucify him!" when asked by the Roman governor on what to do with Jesus.

I felt very sad about this story at that time and it has since left a permanent impression on me in that the innocent Son of God died in the place of a guilty man who in many ways represents us. It planted a seed in a young boy of belief and gratitude for God's salvation through Jesus Christ. As we grew older, my brother and myself occasionally tagged along with my cousins, most of whom subsequently accepted Christ as Lord and Saviour, to go to Sunday School and to attend worship service on Christmas days and Easter Sundays. It was fun to play games with other kids and have lots of food to eat to celebrate the birth of baby Jesus and the resurrection of Jesus Christ. I didn't know much about God then but the warm and joyful experience of meeting and mingling with friendly and happy kids and kind and helpful grown-ups was enough to make my day.

One hot afternoon on a Saturday I went into my cousins' room while three of them were sitting around a table and having their usual bible

I continued to read the Bible to learn more about God and do my frequent prayers through my secondary school years all the way to university days. I joined a Chinese Christian fellowship group in Edgware Road when I first came to the UK in the 90s and attended the Sunday Service held there and was happy to worship God in a new country but subconsciously my studies gradually took priority over it, and the challenges of learning to become a young adult in a foreign land away from close friends and family got the better of me. I started to pray less to God and at the same time the faith in prayers and in Him dwindled a bit.

This went on until after I started working where I learned that life proceeds from one stage to another and God reigns supreme in every stage regardless of one's awareness of this. It is through God's grace that one achieves a material gain or a tangible goal in a life's season. This realisation helped me to see worldly successes through a refreshing perspective. I could see that this perspective could sometimes be at odds with a common belief among many people that one could go, get and achieve an ambition in one's own strength. I felt the main consequence of this belief was self-centredness over and often at the expense of others in the community. I chose not to fall into this trap and went back to rely on God's holy word and had Jesus Christ as the centre of my life. I still do and I believe there will be ups and downs ahead but my faith is in our Lord Jesus Christ. My own progress as a pilgrim in life, to borrow the words from John Bunyan, goes on.

**Andy Tey**

# Missionary in Uganda

I have concentrated this article, particularly on the main field of my calling within global mission work, so if you need details of the entire trip and all the mission work I did you'll need to go to my website and read my blogs ([www.linzingolding.com](http://www.linzingolding.com)). I've been going to Uganda regularly since 2013 when I fell in love with the country and especially its people.



I knew before that trip that God was calling me to Africa long term and I've been waiting (not always patiently) to go there but God was getting me ready. He's still getting me ready. And it needs to all be in God's timing, and be His will if it's going to go right.

This was my first venture by myself, so the first time

I was flying by myself too, but throughout all of this I could see how He planned for things to happen, even my friendship with the person I'd be living with in Uganda, whom I'd only met in October of last year whilst visiting Uganda! She's also a missionary from England, called Mo.

One evening, I met a Ugandan, Silas and another missionary with a charity (Bucence Children's Centre) in the bush. Mo was there to fix their computer. It was an unexpected but God-ordained connection that would be key to my future in Uganda.



At Bucence Children's Centre, I learned of the tragic pasts of each child, yet they had become a family and knew they were loved and safe. Even during Covid lockdowns, staff stayed to look after them. I played games and did art activities with the children. I felt a connection with this area and its possibilities.

Silas took me to Bucence so I could visit the local primary school (not part of the charity).

The school had lost pupils due to poor education. At the school, I met the welcoming Headteacher and observed the English class. The children had no resources, and only four had access to television. Excitedly, I borrowed textbooks and Schemes of Work until midnight to convert them to PDFs, discovering the school couldn't teach the entire curriculum due to lack of books. They invited me to teach some English lessons from their Curriculum.

I enjoyed being back in the classroom and loved being called 'Teacher Linzi'. Teaching about television and radio without any



props was challenging, so I had to rely on my chalkboard drawing and imagination. My example of a 'knob' made them laugh as I spoke loudly while turning it up and whispered while turning it down-they jumped! They did great during independent activities, but I found it hard not to help them. This experience boosted my confidence, and I was excited to teach again.

For my next lesson, the P2 English teacher and Headteacher watched. They were impressed by the children's response and growth.

For my final lesson, the Headteacher watched as I played a game with pictures I'd drawn to help understand similarities. Missing lessons could mean missing key vocabulary, making future lessons more difficult.

Teaching those kids was a joy. A couple of boys who weren't used to doing well were all smiles when they did. They grew more confident over just a few days.

In Uganda, teachers lack intervention classes or teaching assistants. Strugglers fall behind and repeat the year without discernible reason. The teachers are passionate but helpless to move the class forward when some struggle. Textbooks don't differentiate for ability. I feel that part of my calling is to teach 'booster' English lessons to help students with learning difficulties.

Mo was taking photos and videos for a promotional video to help me get sponsors for my mission work in Uganda. It will show potential sponsors what I'll be doing there.

During my time in Uganda I linked Bucence Primary School with a school in the UK. A UK teacher friend felt that her school should send letters and books to the children. This was a massive encouragement to me in my calling to be there. The doors are swinging wide open!



I will return to Uganda briefly when the team from church goes in October to have the children at Bucence Primary School write their responses, and bring them back with me.

My two months in Uganda ended, yet it feels as though a brand new chapter of my life has just begun. I'm eagerly anticipating long-term mission work in Uganda - I can't wait to see what comes next! To be continued...

**Linzi Golding**



**Clementine Hoy being baptised, with Godparent Bethany, and parents Charlie and Rebecca**



**The fearsome Lamplighter team at the end of term Pirates Party**