

BRIDGEMEDIA

“A Living Hope!”

“Praise God that in his great mercy he has given us a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead and an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade.” 1 Peter 1:3-4

One of my favourite modern hymns by Stuart Townend starts with the words, *“There is a hope that burns within my heart that gives me strength for every passing day.”*

I read a comment the other day which said that human beings can live without most things but they cannot live without some sort of hope. Many people’s hopes are built around present or future prosperity or success for either themselves or their loved ones.

However, in the Bible hope is focussed not just upon the here and now but on a hope beyond this present space and time, which it calls heaven. Paul, in writing to the Corinthian Christians said, *“If we have hope only for this life we are to be pitied,”* because he knew that hope only for this life was really no hope at all.

In the verses above Peter was writing to the Christians in Asia about their living hope and their inheritance when they died. The word hope in the Bible means an assurance, a certainty, a confidence; it is not a vague hope as people often have today. It is also a *“living hope”*, a hope that keeps us going day by day in the good times and in the harder times of life – as Stuart Townend wrote, *“a hope that gives me strength for every passing day”*.

This hope, however, is not only for strength for this life but is a promise of our *“inheritance”*, the eternal life which Jesus earned for us when he died on the cross and then rose from the dead. As we believe and trust in the Lord Jesus Christ this hope and inheritance becomes ours. That is why Peter said, *“Praise God!”*

Alan Ashworth

A Message from the Chairman of the Trustees

Hullo Bridgemedians

As I write this month's message, having returned from Bridgemed, I have just watched the news and learned that there will be a general election in June – now that's something I didn't expect – life is full of surprises.

Whether we like it or not we all have to face change – that is part of being human. We change, our circumstances change and so does everybody else. Our problem is when we try to resist change, especially as we get older. We are much more content with life when we accept change – even embrace it.

Things have changed at Bridgemed over the past 25 years and we are sure we will be facing many changes as we move forward. In many ways Bridgemed has responded well to changes. We still have a lovely home with caring staff and have maintained our values which are driven by the same Christian principles on which Bridgemed was established.

However we want to be realistic for the future. That is why we are planning to adapt Bridgemed - to be better able to meet the challenges that we face. Our plans are currently being considered by the planners and can be viewed online by anybody who is interested in seeing them. We believe we have decided on a good scheme which will help us as we go forward.

Whilst we wait for the planners to consider our application we are proceeding with our fundraising campaign. I am reminded that God made the funds available 25 years ago and that he did so, in part, by moving the hearts of many individuals who supported the scheme. In this month's instalment of '*The Remarkable Story of Bridgemed*' you will read of the important part that individuals played in this.

By the time you read this, Stuart will have run (at least most of the way) in the London Marathon, raising funds for Bridgemed. Some of you have supported him or which we are all grateful (it is not too late to do so retrospectively). We will let you know next month how much was collected. The important thing is that everybody's donation, however small, makes a difference.

Well as we have said – there is a general election on the horizon. We will have to see what changes take place. Perhaps we ought to pray about it – there is one Person of course who never changes – and that really is great news!



Friends of Bridgemead

Hello Bridgemedians,

I'm just back from a wonderful holiday in France only to find that my elder daughter has acquired a puppy, Bertie – a Cockapoo! What a ridiculous name you might think, but wait a minute – my younger daughter has Bruno, a Labradoodle! I think that they must be competing to see who can find the funniest sounding dog! However both are delightful and excellent additions to our family!



Cockapoo



Labradoodle

On Saturday 8 April a very few of us enjoyed the Easter coffee morning – turn out was very poor, but none the less it was a happy occasion and we did make £154 in profit. Many thanks to everybody who contributed, helped on the day or attended – we are very grateful to you all.

Tickets are now on sale for our Fish and Chip Supper with Quiz which is on Friday 12 May 7pm at Bridgemead. Rosemary on reception will be delighted to sell you a ticket – cost is £12 which includes the quiz and fish and chips – please bring your own drinks.



The AGM is on Tuesday 11 July 7.30pm, Bridgemead – it would be lovely to see some of you there – it will save me talking to myself – yet again!

The Strawberry Tea this year is on Saturday 22 July – our usual offerings – strawberry cream tea and a few stalls which will include Phoenix cards. The event starts at 2.30pm.



A reminder that your annual £5 subscription is now due – I offer a big thank you to everyone who supports this cause.

Una

May Birthdays

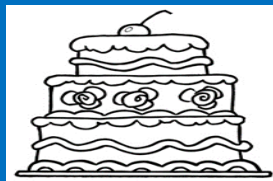
Residents

28th May - Don Sparks

Day Club

13th May - Mary Pope

21st May - Gordon Sheppard



May Activities

Tuesday 2nd May - Smithy Singers

Wednesday 3rd May - 'Now & Then' sing and play

Tuesday 9th May - 'Forget-me-Not' sing

Wednesday 10th May - 'Musica' musical fun with Claire

Thursday 11th May - Holly Marks entertains

Monday 15th May - Weston TG Singers concert

Tuesday 16th May - Phil Smith plays the guitar

Thursday 18th May - Bing Lyle plays the piano and accordion

Wednesday 24th May - James Hogg's 'Music & Memories'

Friday 26th May - Laurence Kell plays calming violin

Tuesday 30th May - Danny Guest sings Rat Pack songs

Farewell

Miss Ruth Wrigley passed peacefully away at Bridgemean on Saturday 8th April 2017. Ruth will be fondly remembered and missed by all those who knew and cared for her.

Mr Roy Dolman passed peacefully away on Sunday 9th April 2017. Roy was with us for a short time at Bridgemean and will be much missed.

Miss Olive Platt passed quietly away on Tuesday 18th April 2017. Olive will be missed by all those who knew and cared for her.

Our thoughts and prayers are with their families and friends.



Our Memories Build a Special Bridge

When loved ones have to part
To help us feel we're with them still
And soothe a grieving heart
They span the years and warm our lives
Preserving ties that bind
Our memories build a special bridge
And bring us peace of mind

Emily Mathews

The Remarkable Story of Bridgemead

Part 11. Fundraising continues

The first Trustees needed to raise in excess of £2 million to construct Bridgemead. At the beginning of 1989 they were contemplating inviting contractors to tender for the work later that year and fundraising was lagging far behind the design. As the New Year dawned, Ray King encouraged the team that, so far, God had met all their financial needs. He also shared from a Christian magazine that, in order to influence changes in society, Christians are called to take risks. The challenge was to "... take risks, to set targets, to underwrite budgets before a penny is received." Ray was convinced that this was a timely reminder.

Over the year that followed, in excess of £750,000 was raised or pledged. Remarkably, although some large donations were received, a lot of money was raised through small gifts. Various churches and Christian organisations held events on behalf of Bridgemead or donated gifts. The United Christian Choir of Bath staged a number of concerts to raise funds. Children in Sunday Schools donated small amounts of money to buy bricks and other items for the building. Many gifts were less than £50.

Ray King used the illustration of a mountain with its peak – visible but far in the distance. He would ask: "What's the point in taking the next little step?" The answer is: "Each step is significant – it takes you one step nearer your goal. Don't be intimidated by the size of the task or the opposition. Do what God lays on your heart." It was this spirit and dependence on God that drove the team forward, undaunted by the size of the task before them. The cost of the scheme was broken down into a 'shopping list' of items of work – some large and some small. This enabled people to give towards specific items they could afford.

In April 1989 Sheila Haughton encouraged prayer both in thanking God for his provision to date and requesting wisdom "... that we may know how best to enlist the prayerful concern for this project on God's people in and around the City." We need to pray for this in 2017.

As the months proceeded God moved people's hearts to give in remarkable ways. Next month we will recount some instances of specific giving and answers to prayer that demonstrated to the team that God was answering their prayers.

May their experience be an encouragement and example to us.

Sunday Afternoons at Bridgemead

Every Sunday afternoon at Bridgemead there is a Service for the residents at 3.30pm. This is led by volunteers and lasts about half an hour. It consists of a Bible reading, prayer, short talk and perhaps three hymns/songs.

Each week a speaker and pianist is required, and over the last couple of years the number of speakers and pianists available has decreased.

If you are able to help in this respect for two or perhaps four services a year, or know of anyone who might, please contact Alan Ashworth on 01225-350567 or talk to Michelle Jenner at Bridgemead.

This is fairly critical as we do need more people in order to keep this service going effectively.



Virgin Money Giving

Bridgemead has a Virgin Money Giving Page set up. If anyone would be interested in giving, the link to it is: <http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/charity-web/charity/finalCharityHomepage.action?charityId=1007255>

Please note that Bridgemedica can now be found on our website. Go to www.bridgecare.org.uk, click on Bridge-media and you will find the latest issue. We also now have a page for Staff Vacancies on the website.

If you would prefer to receive your copy of Bridgemedica by e-mail, can you please let us know on admin@bridgecare.org.uk

All contributions to this newsletter are welcome from residents, relatives, staff and volunteers. If you have something you think would be of interest, anecdotes, personal recollections, news events, short poems or anything relevant would be welcome. Published by Bridge Care Ltd, Bridgemead, 81 St John's Road, Bathwick, Bath BA2 6PZ. Bridge Care is a company limited by guarantee and registered as a charity under number 299400. Limited Company registration number 2001246

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Give us a call for more information about our services.

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