



# INSIDE THE COCOON

*A newsletter for supporters  
of Chrysalis Arts Trust*

SPRING 2007



## A Note from Jo

Wow, what an amazing few months! Having been a supporter of Chrysalis for many years, it has been a great privilege to join the team and to start working with such a bunch of talented and committed musicians, performers, techies and volunteers. I have been amazed by what Chrysalis has been able to achieve over the years, through the grace of God, and my prayer is that Chrysalis continues to reach out to those on the fringes of the church and to sow many more Gospel seeds.

Since joining the team, there has been a flurry of activity, with firm foundations being laid down for future growth. I have particularly enjoyed developing relationships with churches hosting Chrysalis events, and getting to understand their needs more, and how we can help them. We have established a detailed strategy for fundraising, and have kicked off various initiatives. Watch this space! We are also working with some exciting new musicians and planning inspiring new programmes.

Thanks to all of you for the warm welcome!

Jo Foster  
Development Director

## Congleton Cabaret

One of the amazing aspects of being part of the Chrysalis Team, is that we know that God uses us to bless others and introduce friends and relatives to something of His love. We enjoy not only touring the country – and we have done a fair amount of this - but also meeting other Christians and seeing how God is working. It is such a pleasure for us to arrive at a venue and be welcomed by helpful and enthusiastic people, keen to see that their event goes well. This was just the case for us at Congleton. The organisers had obviously really embraced our concept in creating a relaxed atmosphere and this really set the scene for our 'Aspects of Love' programme, presented by the Cabaret Team. The standing ovation at the end confirmed to all the team that God is really working through and using Chrysalis, to reach out into the community and we give Him all the glory for the successful evening.

### **New Life Church, Congleton**

*We had an absolutely fantastic evening. The presentation was truly wonderful and highly professional and everyone commented on the genuineness of the performers.*

*We would like to book again for 2008 if that is possible!*

**Steve Hodgkinson, Church Leader**

## The Main Team in Cuffley

Last year the Main Team performed a Christmas presentation on December 1st in Cuffley (near Enfield) organised by Grapevine. After a series of rather fraught journeys negotiating or avoiding the dreaded M25, the audience were treated to a programme entitled 'Christmas Memories' which consisted of music, drama and big-screen video. Even Cliff Richard got an airing - this time in a medley of his Christmas hits going back to way-back-when!

The team comprised Mandy, Nicki, Elaine, Steve, Andy, Matt, Fiona and Tim, all ably supported by Steve, Derek and Martin, who were in control of the crucial technical side. Drama was provided by Wendy who performed humorous and thought-provoking pieces dressed as a young girl in a nativity play, a newsreader in Bethlehem and Mary telling her own story.

The organisers subsequently contacted Chrysalis to say that they had a wonderful evening with a great deal of positive feedback on "the lovely blend of music with a real Christian message". Furthermore, they said that many people who had never come to "Grapevine" before and are not Church goers indicated that they would like to come to their next event!

## Thanks Derek!

Our heartfelt thanks go to the wonderful Major Derek Dolling who has been our faithful office administrator for the past 8 years.

When he and his wife Kath left the Salvation Army after a lifetime of service, he offered to support the work of Chrysalis as a volunteer. When we questioned this and wondered if he wouldn't prefer a more relaxed life in his retirement – he replied "I spell it re-tyrement! I'm ready for God's next challenge."

Derek now feels the time is right for someone else to take his place and we sincerely thank him for everything he's done. We couldn't have done without him and he will be greatly missed.

## FOCUS ON PRAYER

We have been aware for some time that Chrysalis should be focusing more on prayer in order to maximize its ministry. In addition Chrysalis has felt under attack recently with serious illness and accidents to team members. As a consequence, we have implemented some initiatives to heighten the profile of prayer, such as an internal team email system for prayer requests and the enclosed monthly prayer diary.

We know that many of you faithfully pray for Chrysalis and we are so thankful for this. To help you in your prayers, and to help us in our fight against the enemy's onslaughts, we hope that you will pray for the named member of the team in the diary for at least that day each month.

We would also ask for your prayers before, during and after the listed Chrysalis events in order to make what is always a great evening into a serious life-changing event for the person who doesn't know God and who perhaps hears about His Grace for the first time. Pray for discernment that the right people are invited to events and that they would have open hearts to receive the message of Christ's love for them. Pray that the evening goes well for the organisers of the host church and afterwards that any seeds sown will grow with the help of sensitivity and nurturing from Christian friends.

For the Chrysalis team please pray for good health, safety in travelling, freedom from technical hitches, that the show will run smoothly and professionally and that the team will be open to God's guiding spirit on the night itself.

Please also note the meetings of the Management Team and Trustees and pray that God's wishes will be carried out efficiently through them.

## CLASSICAL TEAM NEWS



We played in two churches recently, one in Emmanuel, Chesham, and the other in Danbury, Essex. Both were set out attractively, café style, making for an informal atmosphere.

The concerts went well musically, apart from the Cardellino by Vivaldi,

which is supposed to be for Flute, Violin and Cello. In the first concert however, the Cello part was omitted and replaced with solo cough by Fiona (she usually plays the Cello)!

Encouragingly, a number of people commented that the music and words had really touched them and asked when we would be coming back. A musical young man who played the Violin commented that he had really enjoyed the concert. He said that he hadn't played for a while because of other commitments, so hopefully the concert will have inspired him to pick up the instrument again.

A testimony was given by Jill on the theme 'The Rhythm of life'. Afterwards a young man said that he had been to a service that morning in which there had been a similar theme. He was in a rock band so the references to drumming and music in Jill's testimony had been particularly relevant to him. It's amazing how God can use us in this way, different parts of the body of Christ working together without us even being aware of it!

### UPCOMING EVENTS

March 20 Meeting of the Trustees  
 March 25 Chrysalis Main Team at Broughton Community Church, Aylesbury

March 29 Management Team Meeting  
 March 31 Cabaret Team at Women's Breakfast, Eastwood Baptist Church, Leigh-on-Sea  
 April 13/14 Main Team at EASTER PEOPLE, Blackpool

## TRUSTEE PROFILE – Brenda Rixon



Brenda was born and brought up in North West London. She attended Sunday School at a small evangelical mission church where she became a Christian and met and married Malcolm. They moved to Chesham in 1963 and were baptised and joined Broadway Baptist Church, where she has been an active member ever since. Brenda was a founder leader of 2nd Chesham Girls' Brigade and was for a time Chiltern District Commissioner. Evangelism has always been on her heart, and she helped at the first ever Chrysalis evening. A secretary/accounts person by trade she has worked in several different areas, including commerce, the NHS, Local Government, farming and recruitment. Brenda and Malcolm have three married daughters and five grandchildren (soon to become seven!)

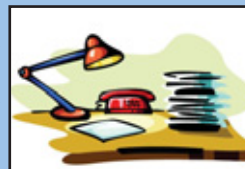
## Derek's Desk

Listening to a church congregation sing the other day I noted the words, 'We are standing on holy ground'. But what is 'holy ground'? For me, it is the kitchen of a Co-op hall in Weston-super-Mare. It would never have passed EEC health standards today! But it was there, on 16th October 1949, kneeling between a chipped and dirty stone sink, a cigarette stained and burned table, and a pile of broken tubular chairs that God became a reality to a 13 year old boy. I have never since doubted the experience.

Now, 59 years later, I look back on a life time of adventure in God's service taking me into avenues which I could never have dreamed of pursuing.

What was the faith of the elderly pastor (a direct descendent of the Scottish martyr George Wishart) and his elders that took them to hire the Co-op hall that night? Did they see it as 'holy ground' or just a convenient venue?

Very often holy ground is outside of church walls, but a place where people feel comfortable to gather. The Chrysalis motto, 'Meeting people where they are at!', still leaves me doubtful about the grammar but I know with the hymn writer William Cowper that 'where're they seek thee, thou art found and every place is hallowed ground'.



## Stop Press...



Our warmest congratulations go to Faith McDuffie and Simon Dwight who are to be married at Faith's family home in America in April. Please pray for the couple as they start their exciting life together.



Big news for Steve and Nicki Pullen (nee Matthews) who are expecting their first baby in August. Please pray for the healthy development of baby Pullen and for both parents as they plan for the monumental changes to their lives! Please also pray for the impact this will have on Chrysalis in the short term as Nicki takes a sabbatical until next Spring.



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