



INSIDE THE COCOON

A newsletter for supporters
of Chrysalis Arts Trust

SUMMER 2008

A Note from Jo



I cannot believe it is Summer already! Spring has been a very exciting time, working alongside ministers and churches in their outreach to their local communities. We have had such a diversity of venues recently, including Bullingdon Prison in Bicester, an Evangelistic Festival in Bucharest, Romania, a summer open air picnic at Ditton, as well as our more 'conventional' presentations

in churches. God is really giving us the opportunity to 'meet people where they're at', and continuing to touch people along their individual walks in coming to know him.

I was also very encouraged on attending the Diocese of Oxford's 'Living Faith' Conference in June, which was all about Evangelism and what it means today. The conference was sold out, with almost 800 people from the local area, all with a heart for sharing their faith and equipping their church with the 'tools' to do so. It was just great to chat to the delegates and to be able to offer help and fresh ideas for them to take home to their parishes.

If you want to hear more about how Chrysalis can help your organisation or church in its outreach, then please contact the office. I would love to talk to you!

BULLINGDON PRISON CONCERT

On Sunday, 27th April I joined the Cabaret team performing excerpts of their presentation 'Peaces of the Past' at the morning worship slot in Bullingdon Prison. After an early start to get all the kit through security (each item had to be individually scanned, so it took a while), the team gave a marvellous performance. I sat amongst the men, which was a great opportunity to talk with them about what was going on. I was especially encouraged when one of them asked me about the Alpha course and I saw him afterwards putting his name down with the Prison Chaplain. The guys felt touched that people wanted to do something for them.



We received the following comments from Tim, the Chaplain there:

"Prison is a distinctive group of adult males (where age range 21-29 is high and education low) and is difficult for anyone. We were delighted to have Chrysalis, and the presentation was very life affirming and a professional presentation. Several men have simply told me how affirming it was of their plight.... I believe some are still processing the event".

We thank you so much for your prayers surrounding this event and Chrysalis is now looking to expand its ministry in this area.

Liz Albery

Our thanks go to Liz, our student from London School of Theology, whose voluntary placement has sadly come to an end. Liz has been a very valued member of the team and we will miss her. We wish her every blessing in her final year's studies – Jo



The Cabaret Team are privileged to have been asked to appear at the Cancer Research UK 'Relay for Life' at the Royal Masonic School, Rickmansworth on Saturday 30th August 2008 at 7.30pm.

It promises to be a 'huge fun-filled day/evening/overnight event for all the family'. The event will be led by our patron, Fiona Castle. This is a 20 hour community celebration of hope. Hope that those lost to cancer will never be forgotten; hope that we will see a day when cancer can be overcome. It is particularly apt that the 'Aspects of Love' programme, which ultimately looks at the sacrificial love of Jesus, offers us the greatest hope of all.

Please contact the office or:
www.cancerresearchuk.org/relay/venues/rickmansworth
for further details.

DIARY

- Aug 30 Rickmansworth Cancer Research Relay for Life – Cabaret Team
- Oct 3 Emmanuel Church Northwood – Classical Team
- Oct 11 East Leake Notts – Cabaret Team
- Oct 17 CHRYsalis QUIZ NIGHT – Chesham

THE CLASSICAL TEAM have been very busy recently with many performances in this country and in Romania:

ROMANIA

May 29th saw a very early 3am start for the intrepid classical team as we set out towards Gatwick airport to fly to Bucharest to join the Andrew Palau mission. We were one of several groups including Hill Song London and a rap group 'The Band with No Name'.

After a bumpy flight we landed safely and with a quick turn around were soon on the way to our first concert at the main music school in Bucharest where all the best musicians of secondary school age come to learn!!

We had 20 mins to set up before about 100 students packed themselves into a very hot classroom. The programme was well received and Mary gave a short talk about why she plays and the meaning God brings to her life.

On the second day the main evening event was in a 750 seat theatre of the old communist style - big but not beautiful. The concert went well with about 450 people present. Andrew Palau gave the Gospel message and about 25 people became Christians and another 35 either re-dedicated or said they would take it further. The day ended with an enjoyable evening at a restaurant - also celebrating Fiona's birthday!

Saturday saw us return early to play at a junior choir competition. Andrew gave another message and again a number responded.



The competition ended with a fun rendition of the toy symphony with many kids joining in and the winning choir receiving a brand new digital piano.

Sunday 1st June started with playing at a 9 am church service before rushing off to catch the 11.30 flight home. On arriving at the airport we felt like stars as we were met by a camera man wanting to interview us for a documentary he was doing!

We want to thank God for using us in this way; for allowing us to make new friends and introducing us to great people and city. Please pray for the hundreds of people who became Christians over the mission. Also for Andrew Palau and the Christians in Bucharest who continue to work so hard.

MILFORD ON SEA

We arrived at Milford on Sea on a lovely sunny day to beautiful surroundings and were met with a warm welcome and lots of cups of tea and cake! The Pastor and his wife were very hospitable and provided us with generous amounts of food before the concert.

There was a great atmosphere and the audience laughed so much at the pictures on the screen that we thought that the slides may have been put in the wrong order! Out of about 100 people who attended the concert, 30% were seekers or non church members.

At the end of the concert audience members were quick to tell us how much they had enjoyed the evening. Somebody called the church the following day to say that after the concert they would be keen to join the Churches 'Creative Hands Group' which is a bridge building group within the church.

PUTNEY

Friday 13th June! Despite the inauspicious date it was a wonderful day - even the traffic on the M25 wasn't bad!

We had a warm and helpful welcome at All Saints Church in Wandsworth where we were playing for the first time. By 7.30pm the Church was alive with the conversation of an audience of over 100 people ranging from young babies to octogenarians with every decade in between represented! Such is the amazing nature of classical music that it appeals to young and old alike.

We played to a very responsive audience, and had many conversations with people afterwards. A retired lady said she loves classical music, and found the use of our overhead presentation to be excellent, having initially thought it would detract from the music. One young man had brought his parents to the concert. He was rather worried as classical music wasn't his 'thing', but said he really enjoyed the evening as he knew the music. Many people were moved by Jill's testimony.

It was a fantastic evening...we were blessed and encouraged to continue in our ministry by the responses from both the organisers and the audience. There were about 40 visitors from outside the Church, and we pray that any seeds sown will be watered, to enable people to step out on an amazing journey to change their lives. We pray too for the Church as they follow up the connections made in the community that evening.

AN ENCHANTED EVENING

WOW! A whopping £3800 was raised at our fund raising concert in June at The Elgiva Theatre Chesham.

The audience were entertained by all the Chrysalis teams; Cabaret, Core, Classical and Rocks, alongside special guests Fiona Castle our patron, Colin Hearn, Gayhurst Chamber Choir, and David Robinson as an excellent MC. The programme was an eclectic mix of musical styles as we leapt from Mozart to Lloyd Webber, Van Morrison to Bernstein with a whole load of others in-between!

Also aiding the fund-raising effort was the silent auction with amazing items up for grabs which really helped to swell the coffers and will help us to reach more people with the truth of the gospel. We particularly needed to raise more funds to support our work in prisons which is unfunded so a huge 'thank you' to all who came and supported the evening, gave auction items, and to those who worked so hard to make the event possible.

PENTECOST FESTIVAL 2008



On Friday 9th May the main team took part in the evening celebration of Pentecost 2008. This was a new venture for 'Share Jesus International', the previous organizers of 'Easter People' and was billed as: *'A massive weekend party in central London with hundreds of free events and high impact performances. A cross-generational, multi-cultural celebration of the Church's creativity and compassion that will fill hundreds of venues in the nations Capital'*.

Our performance took place after the worship session in the Westminster Central Hall to a small, though enthusiastic audience. We had the unenviable task of following a humour-packed 40 minutes provided by Adrian Plass. Our programme had some old favourites and some new items and it was good to hear, yet again, the appreciation of the audience.



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