

W.I.E.C. News Sheet September 2018

Sunday 2nd	11.00 am 6.30 pm	Matthew Sharpe (Communion) Matthew Sharpe	
Wednesday 5th	7.30 pm	Prayer Meeting	Place to be advised
Sunday 9th	11.00 am 6.30 pm 3.00 pm	John Mann Matthew Sharpe Signature House	
Wednesday 12th	7.30 pm	Bible Study	
Sunday 16th	11.00 am 6.30 pm	Matthew Sharpe John Mann (Communion)	
Wednesday 19th	7.30 pm	Bible Study	
Sunday 23rd	11.00 am 6.30 pm 3.00pm	John Mann Matthew Sharpe Signature House	
Wednesday 26th	7.30 pm	Bible Study	
Sunday 30th	11.00 am 6.30 pm	Matthew Sharpe John Mann	

Please contact us for the venue of our midweek meetings

Prayer: We give thanks for the opportunities for the gospel during the Beach Mission last month.

Many young people that we know will be starting new schools, colleges or looking for new situations in life. Please pray for them.

John Willoughby – Personal Christian Testimony

In my early schooldays in Ealing, W13, like a number of boys and girls at that time, I went to Sunday School, sang in the church choir and later joined the St John's Church Sunday morning Bible class. Hence I grew up with some reasonable grasp of the Biblical narratives and doctrinal fundamentals. However, on leaving school and going into an engineering apprenticeship, which involved studying at the local technical college, I ceased to have connection with the church. Although never consciously anti the Gospel at any time, when entering the working world and losing touch with old friends, I became disenchanted about attending church meetings or services, judging it would be a rather lonely, uninspiring experience.

It was not until my early thirties, by which time I had a son and daughter, that a radical change in my spiritual outlook began to take place. By this time I was running my own Laundrette and Dry Cleaning business in Yate (near Bristol). The premises were located in a shopping precinct not far from the local church hall, which was mainly used as a youth club. At some point, as a trusted local resident, I became the key-holder for the hall. It was then that I found out about the regular Sunday evening church service that was held in one of the side rooms.

Having long before rejected much of the Darwinian Theory, it was more out of interest than curiosity that one Sunday evening I went along to the service. Now, I thought I was going to attend a C of E service, as the local parish church in Yate town centre owned the hall, however, I found out that a newly formed Evangelical Fellowship had hired the hall. For the first time I heard the Gospel conveyed with real conviction and in terms of clear Biblical truths. From this point on I became a pretty regular member of the somewhat small congregation. I began attending the Fellowship's Bible studies each week and over time, by God's grace, became a firm believer and was later baptised at an evangelical church in Bedminster. I cannot say exactly when that radical change, that renewal of the Spirit, took place, as my coming to faith in the Lord Jesus Christ was a gradual process rather than a sudden thunderclap conversion. (It may be of interest to know that the little Fellowship at Yate grew over the years and took over a rundown church building in nearby Westerleigh. Today they are thriving and have set up an additional church in Chipping Sodbury).

Disposing of my business and buying a house locally, I went on to work for the MoD, and a few years later moved to Weymouth to work at the MoD establishment on Portland. I became a member of the Christian Union there and made some good friends who later joined me in running the nominally three quarter hour Sunday afternoon service at the old Mount Pleasant Care Home – taking over the baton from Harold Portsmouth. When Tim Serjeant came to Weymouth and began his door-to-door ministry, I took up his offer to help out. So for the past twenty years he and I have sought, under God's hand, to conduct Gospel outreach in Wyke Regis and further afield in Weymouth.