



# NOTICES

## Onions and Chillies

A bar where heartbroken people can cry as they drown their sorrows is proving a big success in eastern China. It even provides onions and chilli peppers for those who need



help bursting into tears. The Nanjing bar charges 50 yuan (£3) an hour, on top of the charge for drinks, and provides tissues, menthol drops, sad music and dolls which customers can throw around or beat, if they need to vent their anger at a broken or struggling relationship.

Expressing our emotions can bring healing. This is certainly the psalmist's experience: 'Weeping may linger for the night but joy comes with the morning' (Psalm 30.5). If we're in an environment where we feel safe enough to let out our anger, frustration or disappointment, what follows can often be greater clarity about the situation which caused the outburst and even a way of dealing with it.

When I was 18 years old, one of my best friends, Will, and his girlfriend died in a motorbike accident and I did not need a bar to show my sorrow and pain of loss. As if I needed reminding I have just heard today that Dave, a good brother from our previous church, has died in a motorbike accident. His wife Lyn and his sons are devastated! I know that as I write this, there are church friends sitting with them, crying with them, praying for them and standing strong in unity. Jan and I pray that his family will not despair but throw themselves into the arms of God.

When Will died I was not a Christian and it reinforced my belief that God does not exist. But now, hearing about Dave's death, even though I still don't understand the reasons why he had to die - even though I am still in shock - even though my heart breaks for his family but . . . now I want to cling to God even more. I want to pray even more. I want to trust Him even more. I hate death - God hates death - and by the blood of Jesus, Dave is safe, having believed in his heart and confessed with his mouth that Jesus Christ is Lord! As we sang last Sunday: 'Death is crushed to death!'. No doubt in my mind!!

Still, when I think of the pain Lyn and the children must feel, a great sadness hits me! Praise God, Lyn has church support to help her through this awful time!

This makes me appreciate that I, too, already have good brothers and sisters in Beacon church and in our lovely Connect Group. So if you ever see me in tears in church or in the Connect Group, don't worry. I have most likely just been cutting onions or chillies!

## This Week

### Sunday April 8th:

Morning Service: Our speaker will be Dave Williams on the theme of 'Choosing Leaders' (Acts 6 v 1-7).

Evening Service: There will be no evening service this evening.

**Saturday April 14th:** Part 2 of the office spring clean will take place between 9am and 11am. Come and help.

### Sunday April 15th:

Morning Service: Our speaker will be Ken Holland on the theme of 'Stephen arrested' (Acts 6 v 8-15).

Evening Service: Jamie Muir will lead on 1 Samuel 11. This service will be followed by Prayers for the Persecuted Church.

## For your Diary

### Saturday April 21st: Inspire Event

Beacon Church is inviting all ladies for a session of making material flowers at 'Design by Gill' at Watergate Arcade from 1pm to 3pm. Limited spaces available. Sign up via Jan.

**Sunday April 22nd:** On this Sunday afternoon there will be an opportunity to be baptised when Beacon will be going to Cloverley Hall for a 'bring your own picnic' and swim. If you are considering baptism please speak with one of the Elders as soon as possible.

### Friday May 11th: The Theology of the Letter to the Romans

The study-day from 9:30am to 3:00pm includes a time of worship and **4 sessions of theological teaching**, Refreshments and a **2 course lunch**. £30 per delegate.

For bookings email [laura@cloverleyhall.org](mailto:laura@cloverleyhall.org) or telephone the Centre on (01948) 890688.

### Tuesday June 12th: Connected - Confident Parenting in a Digital Age

Do you feel out of touch with your child's online habits? The venue is in Chester from 7:30pm to 10pm. For information & 'early-bird' booking go to

[www.careforthefamily.org.uk/event/connected-chester](http://www.careforthefamily.org.uk/event/connected-chester)

## Other Items

**The Whitchurch Foodbank:** This month the items needed are:

***Deodorant for Men & Ladies, Toothpaste, Rice and Sugar***

To find out more, take a look at their website or have a chat with Alan or Chris Scutt.