

Elder's Report

Sitting down to pen (word process) this report I am put in mind of the film **"Back to the Future"**. Looking back over the past 12 months it seems that a lot of our focus, conversation, prayer and planning has been about a future building project. Now the prospect of the start of the build phase is almost upon us it's as if reality is finally catching up with our long held hopes and aspirations. There's still no such thing as hover boards for kids to scoot around on and indeed no flux capacitors to power our cars but who cares they were only make believe. What God does has substance. Being careful to hold the prospect of the new building lightly I am of the mind that through this and the enabling of the Holy Spirit, which is at work in each of us, OCC is on the threshold of a new and exciting adventure with God. I am reminded of the time in the book of Joshua when the people are preparing to cross the Jordon they are told **"where you are going you have never been before"**. Unlike them we have no physical river to cross to enter a Promised Land but for us there are victories to be won, chains to be broken, strong holds to be brought low and a banner to be lifted high in Redditch. My hope and prayer for the coming 12 months is that in parallel to the growth of the building on the skyline of Redditch the ministries and testimony which flow out of OCC are what convey Gods Love to this town.

Recently I was reading in Matthew 28, where Jesus says **"All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."** My hope and prayer for this coming year is that each one of us will know that Godly authority, enabling us to "go" and make disciples wherever the Lord Jesus leads us.

Accepting that the Men's Ministry has had a reduced program in the last 12 months, there have still been several events. Following Enable 2014 a number of our guys were sponsored for running 10K or cycling 100K. Their efforts helped towards raising a grand total of £20K for the BeFree Campaign. We also have had breakfasted and shared fellowship together on a couple of Saturdays mornings and we held the annual skittles evening last November. However it is my hope and prayer that the next 12 months will, with Gods help and with that of one maybe two "Timothy's", see us start to recharge this ministry and maybe to begin to start to colour outside the envelop of those things we have normally done.

Jerry