

CITY SCAPES



IN PRAISE OF BEES

BY GUY MILLER

Spring is springing up around us, the host of golden daffodils illuminate the barren winter landscapes and the resilient British gardener pokes his head from his hobbit like home and ventures forth to potter. The sun warms his body, the smell of spring blooms assault his nostrils and the sound of the bee speaks of summer harvests.

Bees are an amazing insect, not just in their ability to produce honey but also pollinate orchards and fields to produce our nation's food. Each hive an education:

Let's examine our tiny friends and see the wisdom God has placed in them to help us build communities of blessing i.e. the church.

- 1 Bees pursue common goals, the go it alone bee is nowhere to be found, they pull together for the good of all.
- 2 Bees invest for the future, they don't borrow or steal, neither do they eat all the produce. The god of the bee is the future.
- 3 Bees distribute authority. A common misconception about bees is that the queen does it all. Whilst she does have a prominent role, the hive is nevertheless highly decentralised. Most decisions are carried out by those closest to the action.
- 4 Finally, bees eliminate the alien or diseased bee for the good of the whole. One infectious bee can devastate a hive.

So my friends enjoy the spring, get out into your gardens and parks and prayerfully observe the bee and consider its wisdom.

UPCOMING EVENTS

EVANGELISM EXPLOSION

Saturday 30th April, Southampton
A day of passionate exhortation, theological grounding and practical training to prepare you to pray for the sick and wield the gospel with genuine faith and conviction.

To book in, pick up a flyer from the back of St Swithun's and fill in the form or email Andi Northrop (anorthrop@citygatechurch.net).
Event costs are £10 per delegate or £5 concessions (U18, student O.A.P.)

CITYGATE CENTRE PRESENTATION

On Sunday 8th May, Guy and Andrew will be giving a special presentation about our new Citygate Centre and the building fund gift week, which will be happening on the following two Sundays – 15-22 May.

Please make every effort to be in one of the meetings on the 8th May.

EASTER @ CITYGATE

● **Passion Week of Prayer** // Mon 18, Tue 19, Wed 20 // 7.30-9.00 at St Swithun's.

● **Good Friday Celebration** Consider the Cross // The whole church gathering to worship and reflect on the cross // 11.00-12.30 at St Swithun's // Followed by a picnic lunch together.

● **Easter Sunday Celebration** // 9.30 and 11.30 at St Swithun's // Evangelistic Sunday Meetings: A great opportunity to invite guests.

TOGETHER AT WESTPOINT

18-21 August 2011
Bookings now open!
Head to www.togetheratwestpoint.org.uk for full event info and to book in.

JACKIE PULLINGER IN BOURNEMOUTH

Monday 6th June 2011
This one-day conference is aimed at equipping and encouraging local churches in the area of addiction and those involved in addiction ministries.

Tickets are £25 per person. For full information head to <http://tinyurl.com/pullinger>

Bookings now OPEN!

INTERVIEW WITH JENNY CORNISH OF LITTLE ACORNS



1 What is Little Acorns and when does it happen? Little Acorns is a parent and toddler/baby group. It is for parents with preschool children aged 0-4years. We have a thriving baby area for the under 1's and lots of space for the toddlers to run around, play, do craft activities and sing! We provide delicious snacks for the children and equally yummy biscuits/cakes, tea and coffee for the parents. We run on Wednesday mornings between 10 and 11.30am term time only.

2 So how many mums and little ones do you get along? Each week we have between 30 and 40 parents and their children, which can mean we have upwards of 90 adults and children in total each week! It is always a busy and exciting morning! (Currently we have a waiting list as we are oversubscribed.)

3 Why do you do it, what's the vision for it? Little Acorns aims to welcome and befriend parents and their little ones. In everything we do we give opportunities for parents to find out more about Christianity and what it means to know Jesus. We want Little Acorns to be an excellent parent and toddler/baby group which serves our community and for this excellence to be reflected in every aspect of the morning!

4 And how can people help you, what are Little Acorn's needs? The most important need is to pray for all the mums and children who come to Little Acorns, and for the team as they engage with the mums each Wednesday morning that they each would come closer to knowing Jesus as a result of little acorns. Second to that we are asking God to raise up one (or two!) new leaders with the heart, vision and capacity to take little acorns on in the future. It is expected a new leader or leadership team will be equipped through the summer term ready for all systems go in September!

If as you read this you are stirred to help in a team or leadership capacity then see Jenny Cornish or contact the office by phone (01202 259704) or email (office@citygatechurch.net).

PRAYER DIARY

MON **People serving overseas**
■ Andre & Lucy Shore (Portugal)
■ David & Pearl Pride (Zim)

TUE **The Church**
■ The Poor
■ Church finances

WED **Prayer for healing**
■ Doug Pringle ■ Rip & Dot
■ Jane Lovell

THUR **Newfrontiers**
■ Together at Westpoint
■ Church planting initiatives in the region

FRI **Outreach teams**
■ Little Acorns
■ Oasis ■ Streetlife

SAT **Teams**
■ Team leaders ■ Staff
■ Catering

SUN **Sundays**
■ Folk on Why Jesus/ Why
Citygate
■ Easter meetings

APR

- Sun 10 Baptisms
- Tue 12 Leadership Summit
- Mon 18 Passion Prayer Night I
- Tue 19 Passion Prayer Night II
- Wed 20 Passion Prayer Night III
- Fri 22 Good Friday: Consider the Cross
- Sun 24 Easter Sunday Celebration
- Sat 30 Evangelism Explosion

MAY

- Wed 4 Conurbation Prayer (replaces Engine Room)
- Sun 8 Citygate Centre Presentation
- Tue 10 Leadership Summit
- Sun 15-22 Building Fund Gift Week
- Sun 15 Why Citygate I
- Sun 22 Why Citygate II

LOOKING AHEAD:

JUNE

- Sun 12 Dedication Sunday
- Sat 18 Citygate Social (moved from previous date)

REGULAR EVENTS:

Revival Prayer Meeting is for everyone.

Happens every **Friday lunchtime**: 12.30-1.30 in the Citygate Office.
Everyone is welcome to and come and pray for as long as they're able.

Momentum is for ages 14-18.

Happens every **Friday night**.
Contact: Martin and Rebecca Flood (mflood@citygatechurch.net)

Emerge is for sch yrs 7-9.

Happens every other term-time **Friday night**.
Contact Chris and Helen Vessey (emerge@citygatechurch.net)

Little Acorns is our parents-and-toddler group.

Happens every **Wednesday morning** during term-time.
Contact Jenny Cornish (la@citygatechurch.net)

Oasis is our coffee mornings for over 60s.

Happens every **Thursday morning**.
Contact oasis@citygatechurch.net

Citygate Students and Twenties group is exactly that.

Contact Paul and Hazel Flood (students@citygatechurch.net)

Church office: 37 Palmerston Road, Boscombe, Bournemouth BH1 4HN

Office hours: 9am-5pm, Monday-Friday

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