

Can you help us?

This is our 7th edition of Hopeunlimited and we would appreciate some feedback from you. If you can spare 5 minutes please complete our on-line survey at <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/2H5XWRD> Thank you for helping us to serve you.

Hopeunlimited

Good news for the people of Grove
Issue 7 Spring 2013

In this issue: Because you're worth it ... Glyn's story—a family forced to move



**You are welcome to our
Sunday meeting**

10.30am

at Old Mill Hall

School Lane, Grove

Morning meetings include a
Children's club & Youth group.

Contact Paul John on
(01235) 210037
www.gfec.org.uk



Tel: 01235 772280
Savile Way, Grove, OX12 0PT

Open for drinks & cakes all day.
Sandwiches & hot food prepared
to order till 2.30pm.

Mon-Fri 9.30am-4pm, Sat 10am-4pm

Churches working together
serving the Community
Charity No 1048923

Because you're worth it!

L'Oreal's slogan 'Because you're worth it' can tempt many people to think that the application of some potion or lotion will miraculously boost their self worth. People of all ages suffer from low self esteem, thinking they're not worth anything. But when God measures what you are worth, He doesn't look on the outside—at your waist-line, height or nose size, or... (need I go on?!) but He looks on the inside—at your HEART!



Unlike adverts for beauty products, God's love isn't skin deep. *Psalm 139 v14* says, "I will praise You! For I am fearfully and wonderfully made." Basically, God made you an amazingly wonderful person. He planned you in your mother's womb and knew exactly the person you would be, look like and are today. You are precious in God's view—so precious that His Son, Jesus died for you. When God thinks about you his assessment is 'Because you're worth it'.

Abi Kerr

How do you move a church?

"A journey of a thousand miles must begin with a single step".

Whoever we are, we're all on a journey in life. Our personal journey is often marked by times of blessings and buffetings. There are joys and disappointments along the way.

Our church is on a journey. Over 30 years ago we began meeting as a small group at the local Village Hall. The need for more space took us to Grove CE

School in North Drive, where we've been for the past 21 years.

We're now on the move again—this time to Old Mill Hall in Grove.

The officers at the Hall have been very helpful and we acknowledge their support and patience.

This is a really exciting development in the life of our church as we transition to a new location.

But why are we moving? We believe that God wants us be nearer the heart of Grove where we can serve the community more effectively.



Our desire is not just to preach the good news about Jesus, but also to be good news as we seek to work out our Christian faith in practical ways.

Why not pop in one Sunday at 10.30am and check us out.

You never know—this could be the first step on a journey where you discover the real truth about Jesus.

Pastor Paul John

Hopeunlimited is published by Grove Free Evangelical Church (Registered Charity 283079). If you have any comments to make or do not wish to receive further editions, please contact us on (01235) 210037 or email hope@gfec.org.uk

The Adventure Cruise Holiday Bible Club - 29th July to 2nd August - Grove CE School, North Drive
We are holding another Holiday Club this summer, followed by a special Sunday morning service on Sunday 4th August.
If you would like to register your interest in the Holiday Club or request an application form,
please contact Helen Harwood on 07754 392890 or email: funday@gfec.org.uk
If you have any items/props relating to boats, boating, cruising and sailing, we'd be delighted to hear from you.

"... in all things God works for the good of those who love him" - Romans 8:28

Independent Advice Centre - Help is at hand

The Centre was founded over 40 years ago and since 1995 has operated from its current premises at 16 Market Place in Wantage.

In 2008 we received the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service. Our organisation currently has about 90 volunteers in total across our 3 services.



We offer a free advice service, covering a wide range of topics, including debt counselling. In addition we are able to provide clients with free legal/business advice, time and expertise generously donated by several local professionals.

Our transport scheme provides travel to hospitals, doctors, shops and other destinations for people who are unable to use public transport.

Our 'Good Neighbour scheme' provides help with small tasks, such as putting up shelves and a befriending service to someone who is lonely or isolated.

We are currently expanding our premises to ensure that we have more private client interview space and a better working environment for our volunteers. This has been made possible through generous support from the whole community ranging from local councils to individual public donations.

We are open Monday to Friday 10.00am to 3.30pm. Clients can "drop in" or make an appointment. Monday afternoons are by appointment only. Telephone lines are manned from 9.30-4.00pm from Monday to Friday. Our telephone no. is 01235 765348.

We're always pleased to have more volunteers joining our happy team.

If you think that volunteering might be for you, please call the office and arrange an appointment to come in and find out all about us!

Lisa Bengel—Joint Operations Manager

Glyn's story - a family forced to move

Having moved 9 times in 14 years due to our work with the Church and the associated "Manse Life", moving into our own home not only fulfilled a dream, but also offered potential stability. We enjoyed a tangible sense of relief that we wouldn't be packing and moving again for a long time!

But this Easter we were packing again! On Good Friday at about 11:30pm two cars filled with teenagers collided whilst overtaking on Newlands Drive and one of them crashed into the front of our house. Thankfully and miraculously, no-one was hurt but the Fire Service decided we needed to be evacuated, so we found ourselves being rescued by loving friends, before being placed in a hotel at Milton. We expect several months of upheaval now as the house is repaired.



In my work as a Church leader I am very conscious that when events like these unfold in our lives, negative forces can discourage, distract and disappoint.

But God promises that He can work all things for good if we trust Him and keep focused on His purposes for us. We believe the challenge we face can be used for our personal growth as a family and we hope it might well lead to saved lives in the future as young drivers heed the warning. We have a renewed appreciation for the skills and professionalism of the Emergency Services and I am very grateful for insurance!

What life event can God work for your good today?

Pastor Glyn Oliver—Wantage Christian Fellowship