

# GOOD LIFE MAGAZINE



A PUBLICATION  
OF THE  
FILLING STATION  
ISSUE 02  
JUNE 2012

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**FILLING STATION NEWS**  
What's happening at your Filling Station



**PAINTING WITH PASSION**  
Oliver Pengilly talks Art & Worship



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COMFORTABLY?**

Mr Sutcliffe shares his story...

[thefillingstation.org.uk](http://thefillingstation.org.uk)

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# Hello & welcome to GOOD LIFE MAGAZINE!

What are we about? Life. The joys. The challenges. Anyone who lives life to the full enjoys friendships and likes debates on every aspect of life! People who inspire us, challenging issues, God issues, stories, food and fun!

This particular issue of Goodlife magazine has something of an artistic flavour to it, our main interview being with James Wynn, a respected actor who talks about his work, faith & life. Professional artist Ollie Pengilly, adds his take on what living a creative life is like. Other contributors from our increasing wide network of Filling Station meetings talk of their loves and lives. We hope you will enjoy this second issue of Goodlife magazine and come away inspired and challenge!

If you want to find out more about us and what the Filling Station is all about do take a look at our website.

Good summer reading!

Yours,

**Richard Fothergill**

(Director - The Filling Station)



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# Latest News



## GOING INTERNATIONAL

The Filling Station now has a meeting taking place each month in Chef Boutonne, in the Deux Sevres departement of western France. A further meeting will be opening in the Vendée area north west of Poitiers in the autumn. Further French meetings are likely in the near future. These meetings cater for the extensive British ex-pat community and are held in English although French speaking meetings are very likely in due course.



## NEW APPOINTMENT: ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR

Rev James Nickols has been appointed. As TFS network has expanded rapidly in the last year, James will help with the growth of the ministry. He will be supporting meetings in the London & Home Counties by teaching and guiding the local teams. James is currently also on staff at Christ Church Peckham. He brings a number of pastoral & teaching gifts and is very excited to be joining the FS team.



## WHAT IS THE FILLING STATION?

The Filling Station is a contemporary vehicle for bringing Christian renewal and evangelism to the UK.

Our Biblical mandate is from Psalm 114: 8 'Who turned the rock into a pool, the hard rock into springs of water.' We see the 'pools' described here as places of deep spiritual refreshment for the existing church bringing water into the hard dry areas. The 'hard rock into springs' represents the new spiritual life that occurs through evangelism.



## LOSSIEMOUTH MEETING TAKES OFF

The coastal town of Lossiemouth in northern Scotland opens it's own Filling Station meeting in September 2012. Local Christians are excited by this development which will see the second FS meeting established in Scotland. Lossiemouth is the home of the well known RAF Tornado base. A third Scottish meeting will be also starting in Stirling in the autumn.



## FILLING STATION CAMPING AT NEW WINE 2012

Some 60+ people camped at the Filling Station network 'village' at New Wine 'A' this year. Families of all ages came from the Farnham, Henley, Bedfordshire, Somerset and even the French FS meetings to join in this Christian holiday week. The FS Director, Richard Fothergill, also hosted 2 seminar discussions on 'rural renewal' at NW 'A' and 'B' weeks.

## HOW DOES THE FILLING STATION WORK?

Using monthly mid-week evening 'celebration' meetings held in non-church venues we have seen Christian communities grow in depth and numbers where a Filling Station has been opened. We offer high quality speakers and teachers, contemporary worship and powerful, accessible prayer ministry. Within meetings personal testimonies, led group prayer and networking also takes place.

Our mid-week meetings are designed to be overtly spiritual but presented in a manner that those outside the existing church would feel comfortable in experiencing. Meetings are held on a monthly basis and aim to be short, sharp and focussed in character. We find many people meet God through them and their faith is built up.



## FILM RE-LAUNCHES

The 7 minute film explaining the Filling Station vision and interviewing guests at various meetings has been re-vamped over the summer and shows what goes on at meetings even more effectively. We would like to thank our film maker, Mr Jerry Curd, for his hard work in drawing this together and editing the new footage. To see the film visit the home page of the website: [thefillingstation.org.uk](http://thefillingstation.org.uk)



## PRAYER DAY A SUCCESS

A national day of prayer & fasting was called on leap-year's day, Feb 29th 2012, to pray for Britain and the growing number of Filling Station meetings. Nearly every local team took part and reports came back that many had sensed the Spirit of God meeting them in prayer. Specific prayer requests for particular groups were answered straight away, ranging from financial support to new venue opportunities. Further days of prayer are in the calendar for:

**Monday Sept 17th 2012 (Rosh Hashanah).  
Wednesday Feb 21st 2013.**

The Filling Station is not a new independent church movement, rather a model of how existing churches can work together to bring new spiritual life to their areas and in the process bring many people to faith in Jesus Christ. One of our fundamental principles is to promote Christian unity. As it says in Psalm 133: 1 'How good and pleasant it is when brothers live together in unity! ... for there the Lord bestows his blessing, even life for evermore.'

The Filling Station Trust has been set up to facilitate any local group wishing to start a meeting in their part of the world. We can provide human and practical resources, guidance on how to establish a successful local meeting, liaison with your local clergy, background prayer support, prayer ministry training workshops plus tried & tested speakers for meetings.

# Jim'll Fix It, Integrity, and God



James Wynn is perhaps best known to the public for his TV role as 'Mr Sutcliffe' in the BBC show *Grange Hill*. Since then he has worked at the BBC producing many well-known shows but now he spends his time in South Kensington working for Holy Trinity Brompton and Alpha.

**GL:** So James, what got you into Acting?

**JW:** Well, I always liked plays when I was at school. The whole theatrical experience was something that got me excited from a very early age. I didn't think I was any good, so I didn't think I could ever make it my living, it was just an interest. I thought I was good at communicating, writing especially so I wanted to be a journalist. So I went to University, and on Freshers day the Uni paper was full. Next to their stand was the drama society so I went to them thinking I could do some bits back-stage but they said 'we don't really want people for backstage, would you play a small part?'. So eventually I came out of University loving acting but still not really thinking I could do anything with it. Within a year of leaving University I got an Equity card and bitty jobs, and then I moved to London and got some small TV roles. Nine years later, I was thirty and I was frustrated thinking 'Is this really for me?' I wasn't really a Christian at the time so I wouldn't have said God guided me but I felt this wasn't me and started to feel like I had another purpose, and for me that was putting the frame around the picture rather than being in it: directing.

**GL:** What was it like to be involved with iconic programmes such as *Grange Hill*, *Jim'll fix it* and *Comic Relief*, programmes that were real trend-setters?

**JW:** Well I was doing them in different capacities; one was as an actor the others

as a producer. *Grange Hill* was amazing actually. I was 25, I was an actor in a hit programme watched by millions of people. It was extraordinary on that level. I was famous, whatever that meant, and people would recognise me wherever I went. It meant I could buy a flat and had security. Although on the other hand you had to wait months and months for a good episode and other that you were being paid to hang around. That was the frustration; it was quite creatively boring. On the production side, *Jim'll Fix It* and *Comic Relief*, they were amazingly fulfilling. You'd be able to make some amazing things happen. *Jim'll Fix It* in particular was quite innocent and pure which is why it was successful for so long. A kid writes a letter and you make it real, not all the time as some of it was manufactured! I remember on the first *Comic Relief* when I was a production manager, the morning after the show I was in a queue at the post office and someone was saying "Did you see that *Comic Relief* last night? Seeing those kids really made me want to help and dig into my pockets" and I was there going 'Wow! I'm really part of something special here'. The BBC is quite a cynical place all about climbing the ladder, overtime and such like. Though on this occasion people were sleeping on the floors, Richard Curtis included, and just giving their time for nothing. Everyone worked unbelievably hard because they felt they were making a difference. Even though I was at a pretty lowly level, I just felt lucky to be involved in any capacity.





**GL: When did you find your faith?**

**JW:** I think I'd always been a 'God-fearer'. I believed in God but He had no impact on my day-to-day life. It had an impact on things like; did I want to get married in Church? Yes. Would I pray occasionally? Yes, but did it impact how I was living? No. That changed when I started moving up at the BBC and got married. The BBC was a place full of very young, ambitious, thrusting young people who were all highly over-qualified for whatever their job title was and I remember a friend saying to me 'James, what would you put first; work or your marriage?' and I was thinking 'I wouldn't want to decide'. That's ridiculous of course; I had a contract with the BBC but a life-long pledge to my wife! My life wasn't reflecting that, I would never be late for work and I'd often be late for home, I was the last one out of the office, even if there was nothing to do. Not surprisingly,

I remember a friend saying to me 'James, what would you put first; work or your marriage?' and I was thinking 'I wouldn't want to decide'.

three years later our marriage wasn't working very well and we didn't have anyone to talk to, no-one to get 'real' with anyway. We couldn't even do that with ourselves. It was in the pain of that process that I started to ask all the big questions; is He real? What's life all about? Those were the predominant ones. I was highly anti going to Church, I hadn't had good models, the Christians

I met at University weren't an impressive bunch, I mean, I never engaged to find out, but they looked wet, they looked drippy and I arrogantly thought 'well if I had your problems I'd sign up for something like this too' they seemed so dysfunctional. Nevertheless I had a friend who came to HTB and said 'come to Church' and I thought 'why not?' as I was very keen to get everyone off my back. I had got close in the past but had smelt pressure and ran a mile. My strategy this time was to tell people I wasn't interested so I could work this out myself. I couldn't discern the difference between the spiritual pressure of God pounding inside me and the worldly pressure of friends trying to shepherd me in through the appropriate door. My need was greater to find what life was about. In my case it was very radical, because the need was radical. My life had been shattered at thirty-five with my marriage problems. My plan was to look at 'it' at 70 or 75. My dad had died at seventy-eight and I thought 'well it's probably true but it means life will be miserable, let's just go for five or ten years of misery rather than forty or fifty. That was my logic. Then these events happened that rather threw the timeline. I came to faith through HTB and an Alpha Course put some sort of co-ordinates, or a map if you like. It gave me a context to put those experiences into that was biblical and grounded rather than just personal.

**GL: How have your experiences as an actor/producer helped now that you are working with HTB and Alpha?**

**JW:** Oh massively, definitely. I found it really helpful when I was behind the camera to know what people were feeling in front of the camera. At the BBC, there weren't many like me, they had all come from stage management. It got me some lucky breaks. At the BBC, as long as you are humble, it's a fantastic place to learn. Especially learning to admit that you don't know something, I think young men find that hard. However, if you admit that you don't know something in a positive way, the person who does know is usually more than happy to help. That came in very useful when learning how to get the right shot and so on. That has translated to here and at Alpha. Pictures are pictures and are the same everywhere. If nothing else, I've learnt what not to do from watching some bad, bad directors who couldn't direct a sausage.

**GL: What do you think the Church can do to support Christian Actors/Producers?**

**JW:** Even though it's my world, the media world, for me personally, I'm interested in the people coming in. From my angle, I'm thinking 'What's the most effective way of fishing?' and media wouldn't be it, quite the opposite in fact, I'd shy away from it. If I walked into some of the events we organise here, with all the cameras and lights I'd be straight out. I'd be suspicious. This is just my opinion; I want to see authenticity and integrity of relationships. What's behind all this? Media type things wouldn't draw me in. Worship Central is highly geared to the media, but is made with huge amounts of integrity. We work on the basis that if it doesn't work, we rip it up and it doesn't get shown. It's only good if it cuts it in the outside world. You can't say 'there, there they are a Church, haven't they done well?'. It has to be as good as, if not better than the worldly based media, it certainly can't be worse.

**GL: What would be your three key words for creating good, ministry based media?**

**JW:** Integrity is a big one. Secondly it would have to be that ability to move. Information is easily downloaded; ability to touch people's heart is something else. We are keen on something that has an emotional connection, it's very hard to tie down it is but unmistakable if you see it. The third one would probably be to do with telling stories; it has to match up to the same piece. The simpler things are the better. Having the confidence to stick with one-shot rather than over-cutting takes time and you can't make those creative decisions by committee, especially when fifteen or twenty people are involved. Although I love that bit with people, that's where the idea grows and evolves and it could shape it. Twenty people can do something better than one. So I think it would be: integrity, emotional connection and cohesiveness.

**QUICK FIRE QUESTIONS**

Favourite Film: The Exotic Marigold Hotel.

Favourite Book: War and Peace.

Favourite Meal: Chicken Curry.

Favourite Song: Sad Eye Lady of the Lowlands.

Favourite Worship Song: Happy Day.

Favourite Memory: Getting Married.

Favourite Place: Cobblers Cove, Barbados.

# SOME TRUTH IN IT...?



\*The difference between an optimist & a pessimist. The optimist sees the donut, the pessimist the hole.

\* Children's wrong exam answers:

- Q. What is a terminal illness? **A.** 'When someone is sick at the airport'
- Q. Name the four seasons? **A:** 'Salt, pepper, oregano and basil'
- Q. How do you stop milk from going off? **A:** 'Keep it in the cow'
- Q. What is a steroid? **A.** 'Things that keep the stair carpet straight'
- Q. What is a fibula? **A.** 'A little lie'
- Q. State a type of fungus and explain one of its characteristics? **A.** 'the Bogey man. He is green'
- Q. What happens during puberty to a boy? **A.** 'He says goodbye to his childhood and enters adultery'
- Q. Explain the word 'migration'? **A.** 'Migration is a bad headache'
- Q. What makes up the human body (biology question)? **A.** 'The head, the borax and the abominable cavity.'

- \* Child when asked on Small Talk TV show if he knew any of the 10 commandments said: 'Thou shalt not allow the cat to climb on the B-B-Q and fry himself'.
- \* Leonard Bernstein was asked: 'What is the hardest instrument to play?' 'Second fiddle.'
- \* Many take great comfort from the fact that it was amateurs who built the Ark and professionals who build the Titanic.



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Sell your chains to break theirs!  
 Treasures of Darkness is a charity (reg. no. 1123082) seeking to reach those sold into modern day slavery. We are asking you to consider giving a piece of auctionable jewellery, or some other "treasure" which can be sold to buy the freedom of someone in desperate need, who is at risk of slavery. The articles could be sold either on Charity e-bay or, if they are more valuable, by private auction, and you will be kept informed of the use to which it is put. We are in partnership with two projects. One of these rescues children who are being sold into slavery in West Africa on the cocoa plantations that produce much of our chocolate. The other works in Cambodia rescuing young girls sold into prostitution. If you have pieces of auctionable jewellery, which can be sold to buy the freedom of someone who is at risk of slavery please contact:  
**Grace Turner on +44 (0)1225 840054 or email: info@treasuresofdarkness.org.uk**

## BIBLE FOR LIFE

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**To find out more contact Nick on:**  
 nick.crawley@blueyonder.co.uk



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# STANDING FIRM

We speak to Tom from Basingstoke about the life of a twenty-something job hunter...

I'm not one in a million. Although I am one in the 2.67 million unemployed, but I prefer to say I'm "on sabbatical". Whilst I've been job hunting, I've tried hard to look to God for the next season, and I've prayed for and seen His provision in amazing ways, but until recently my prayers for this season had stopped at provision. I've needed to seek him more fully, to not just ask "what will you do next" but "what

are you doing in me now?"

This is a significant season in my life, a time of waiting and searching. In the Bible there are loads of people who spend significant times in a desert or wilderness season, either literally or metaphorically. I'm thinking of Moses, the Israelites, Paul, John the Baptist and Jesus to name a few, all of whom had to go through these times in order for God to work in them, to shape them into the people they needed to be, and to make them dependent on Him, increasing their faith.

Sometimes the most familiar passages in the Bible can suddenly jump out of the page in a whole new light and speak something totally new into our lives. In the familiar "Do not worry" passage in Matthew 6, Jesus encourages us to seek the Kingdom, and not to worry about food or clothes, because "your heavenly Father knows that you need them" This encourages me so much, God knows the things we need and doesn't want us to be obsessed by the practicalities of life; He wants our attention on Him. I can testify God's faithfulness by looking back at times when he's been incredibly faithful to me, looking at the low times where God has carried me, and these testimonies help build my strength and encourage me now. I know that I will look back on this time and say "wow, God was really carrying me then, even though perhaps I felt like he was distant", and that

helps keep me going. As a youth worker I've met a lot of teenagers facing big challenges to their faith for the first time, and without the strength of those personal testimonies behind them it can be a real struggle.

What happens when we keep praying but don't get what we want? Can we let God be God, know that he knows what we need and sees the desires of our hearts, and put our attention to worshipping Him, loving Him, serving Him and standing in His kingdom, living by faith and not by sight, and letting the joy of salvation and relationship with the Almighty out-weigh the sorrow of our situations? Do we stand in our circumstances and from there consider how to have faith in God, and how that might work, and then attempt to worship? That's certainly how I automatically work. Although surely we should first look to God, put our faith in Him, worship Him, and then we can stand upon our circumstances and work out how our faith in God affects the situation, rather than the other way round. I'm certainly trying anyway!

Tom is a musician and all-round creative type, with a degree from a tiny arts college on a hill in Devon. Since finishing there he moved home to Hampshire where he's done a lot of youth work, and been heavily involved in the local church. He's still trying to work out why he ever left Devon, still trying to get good at surfing, and still looking for a job if you'd like to employ him!

# Looking forward to summer



Nicky King. Somerset

I can immediately think of two things – one, usually something to do with water and the other involving sitting down! Anyway, one of my favourite places is Looe in Cornwall and if I don't manage to get down there I have a wonderful local alternative. I love to drive through the countryside down to the lakes at Chew Magna, drive past the tea rooms with all its bustle and the Children's playground, to the very different Woodford Lodge further on round the lake. The terrace at the back of the Lodge looks over the water and sitting there in the sun is so beautiful and somehow reminds me of being by the sea. I love peace and quiet and also reading so spending a little while there is perfect. Just in case you end up thinking I am completely lazy, I have just taken to riding my racing bike again after a back problem, so riding through the lanes near my home in the evening sun is another favourite that I have been happy to get back to. I do like being with people as well but those are two of my favourite things.

Kevan Baker. Somerset

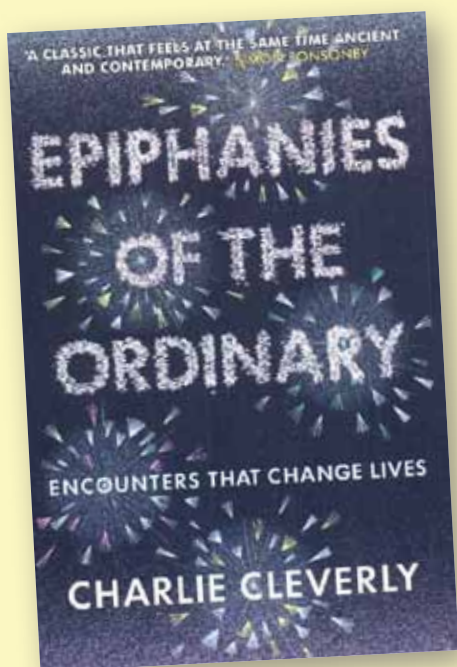
What do I love about summer? Well here a few things I'm looking forward to! Going to France on holiday with my lovely wife, the first glass of cold rose on holiday in Provence. Other simple pleasures include, picking our first ever Apricots from our orchard, drawing off our first batch of fresh honey, hoping that the bees have been hard at work.

Lots of food, living off the land at home and in France. The simple things are the best I'm learning!



Sarah Bures. Cambridgeshire

With three teenage boys (nearly!) our summer is all about getting out and being active. Here are a few of the things I like to do: Take the dog out on a sunny morning without having to put on a coat, hear the birds sing and see the lush green of the countryside. Watch the boys play cricket on a warm evening on our Cambridgeshire village green. Catch up with family and friends - perhaps over a barbeque in the garden or for a few days visit. Spend family holiday time in North Norfolk sailing, mud sliding and going to the beach. Sailing out to Blakeney Point with an evening picnic to watch the sun set is wonderful! Put aside time for God - this year we're off to New Wine with the Filling Station and really looking forward to great worship, teaching and fellowship ... although not so sure about the camping!



## Book Review

# Epiphanies of the Ordinary

by Charlie Cleverly,  
Rector of St Aldate's Church, Oxford

The title of this new book drew me in at once. The ordinary is something with which I can identify. Charlie Cleverly yearns for God in the ordinary, for the breaking in of the extraordinary, and for others to know this too.

"This is a book about seeing God," writes Cleverly, "about having your eyes opened in such a way that everything changes." It is a three-fold process and the book follows this structure: "coming and seeing" Christ, spending time in his presence, and then going out "to set the world on fire".

The eighteen chapters lend themselves to different ways of reading; short or longer bursts, as a basis for meditation and even as a discussion in a study group. The reference to other spiritual writers is impressively wide-ranging, bringing depth and perspective to the author's own reflections. At the end of every chapter is a summarising prayer or 'collect' to draw the reader into worship.

This is a fine book, one to spend time with and savour, to read and reread. It is thoughtful, honest, and clear-sighted. It calls us to look up from the world's 'melee of worry and hurry'. It identifies that "keeping love for God burning and not letting that fire go out is the key to everything" and Charlie Cleverly brings this within our grasp.

Carolyn Scriven  
May 2012

Hodder & Stoughton,  
March 2012, £11.99,  
large format paperback  
(also available electronically)



## COURGETTE & LIME CAKE

### INGREDIENTS

60g raisins (optional)  
250g courgettes (2-3), weighed before grating  
2 large eggs, 125ml vegetable oil  
150g caster sugar, 225g self-raising flour  
1/2 teaspoon bicarbonate of soda  
1/2 teaspoon baking powder and 2 x 21cm sandwich tins, greased and lined.  
For the filling: Jar of good quality lime curd  
For the icing: 200g cream cheese  
100g icing sugar, juice of 1 lime (or more to taste)  
2-3 tablespoons chopped pistachio nuts.

### INSTRUCTIONS

Preheat the oven to 180C/gas mark 4  
If you're using raisins, put them in a bowl and cover with warm water to plump them up.  
Wipe the courgettes with a kitchen towel (but don't peel them), then grate. The coarse side of an ordinary box grater is the best thing to use: anything too fine or too quick can turn them to a wet mush. When you've grated them, turn them into a sieve over the sink to remove excess water.  
Put the eggs, oil and sugar in a bowl and beat them until creamy. sieve in the flour, bicarb and baking powder and continue to beat until well combined. Now stir in the grated courgette and the drained raisins. pour the mixture into the tins, and bake for 30 minutes until slightly browned and firm to the touch. Leave in their tins on a rack for 5-10 mins, then turn out and let cool on the rack until your icing is ready.  
To make the cream-cheese icing for the top, beat the cream cheese in a bowl until smooth, add the sieved icing sugar, beating well to combine, and then stir in the lime juice to taste. Now get your cakes ready for assembling. Put one cake on the plate and spread with lime curd. Put on the top cake and smear it thickly with the cream-cheese icing. If you feel the icing needs firming up a little, put the cake in the fridge for a while. Just before serving, scatter chopped pistachios over the top.

**SERVES 8**



# Healing On The Streets of Bath



Healing on the streets, what's it all about then? Is it the latest fad? Just for fanatics or simply doing what Jesus asked us all to do? In this article, Paul Skelton, founder and leader of HOTS Bath explains more.

'About 4 years ago, I came to a place where I realised that if I wanted to see the same kind of fruit in my life as Jesus did, then I had better start doing the things that he did. When we look at Jesus in the gospels, he models for us what it looked like to live a supernatural lifestyle and then invites us to do the same. He modelled this by walking around outside, sharing the good news about God and healing people.

So every Tuesday and Thursday between 11am and 1 pm a team of 8 to 10 everyday Christians gather outside Bath abbey and invite anyone in the square to receive Healing. As we pray for them we have seen some incredible results.

We have seen God move powerfully with stories of cancer being healed, spines realigning and backs being helped, all manner of pain and sickness being removed and many people coming into a real relationship with Jesus Christ themselves.

We have also been able to train, mentor and help grow many other healing teams locally, nationally and internationally. So if you would like to become part of the ever-growing number of Christians who have realised that one day a week Christianity is not the same as living a lifestyle of the supernatural, then Hots may well be for you. Why not contact us to find out more [www.hotsbath.org](http://www.hotsbath.org)

**Paul Skelton . June 2012**



## Confident about the future!

**May Clark, a student from Nottingham talks to GoodLife about her hopes & fears.**

'Relying on God is sometimes so much easier said than done! I'm eighteen years old and this year I am hoping to go to university, this process seems so easy but when you're going through it, things often aren't as simple as they seem.

I've always wanted to go to university, but like many teenagers I was never really sure of what I wanted to do. My school life was pretty boring, I had been a Christian since I was twelve and I had really been relying on God in other situations, but not in my academic success. I left school with some GCSE's, enough to get into Sixth Form College but not the college I wanted. I remember at the time I was gutted that I hadn't managed to achieve the grade in Maths that I needed. In November 2010 I finally passed my maths GCSE which I was not expecting at all. I had got it and could now move on and focus on my A-levels; this showed to me truly how God does prevail if you trust Him!

By nature I am a worrier, I worry about anything and everything. Waiting for my AS-level exam results felt like one of the worst feelings ever. The week of the results I was at Soul Survivor (a Christian youth festival) and I spent the evening services trying to gain some sort of peace about it. I was panicking about my results. I knew I hadn't tried as hard as I could have, but this is what I really wanted. On the morning of my results I was so nervous, I tried to keep busy. My brother was picking up my results and finally a text came through. I read it and was shocked; the results I received were not expected at all! I did so much better than I thought I ever could, all the worry and pain was for nothing, looking back, if I had used the energy more constructively on other things, I am certain

that I would've worried less and been less stressed! This proves that with God, any stress, any worry, anything that hinders us is not needed.

I am currently in my final year of sixth form and have applied to go to university to do English. Making the decision to actually go to university and picking the ideal university for me was made easier with God. As I looked into each university I made sure I also looked at the Churches and Christian Unions. I know there is still so much hard work to go, my exams are coming up and as I revise. I now pray about it all. It's such an uplifting thing to do. There is no more worrying about whether or not I am doing the right subjects, I have a certain peace about it. I am not sure what my future holds, but I know who holds the key. It's exciting to think that whatever I will be doing is known by God and knowing that He has everything under control means all the stress and worry from my past has gone. Like it says in Jeremiah 29.11 'God knows the plans he has for me; plans to prosper me and not to harm me, plans to give me a future.' I have stopped trying to be in control now. This has helped me rely on God, making my relationship with Him stronger as well as ultimately healing me from the panic and anxiety attacks I used to experience. Putting your life in God's hands can be scary, but it's worth it!

# Worship Without Words

Worship: a word that is associated with Christianity, and all religions, the world over. Although, do we know what it really means? The dictionary describes it as 'reverent honour and homage paid to God or a sacred personage, or to any object regarded as sacred.'

As Christians, we don't believe in Idolatry but we do believe in worshipping our God. Often these days that takes the form of singing and playing the guitar on a Sunday morning; whether that is as part of your local worship team or leading worship at large events. This has become the definition of worship, and although immensely valuable and a beautiful way to show our great affection towards Him, is it the only way to worship?

In this series of articles, in Goodlife we will be spending time speaking to people who make their living through worship.

This issue we speak to professional artist Oliver Pengilley, who has become widely known through his inspired paintings. His combination of artistic excellence and spiritual sensitivity enables him to capture and convey images that bring comfort and envisioning to many. Oliver has painted in many parts of the USA, Canada and Europe, painting during live music sessions, one-on-one training and running workshops.

[www.oliverpengilley.co.uk](http://www.oliverpengilley.co.uk)



The Father



## "Father, artist, worshipper."

**GL:** So, Ollie, tell us a bit about yourself; what do you do and how did you get here?

**OP:** Hi, well, I am a professional artist and I have been painting ever since I can remember. I have painted pretty much everything you can imagine, although I started out properly painting animals and people's pets. Once I had left education where I had been studying art in its various forms (illustration, design, fine art and textiles amongst others), I chose to stick to painting. I started running small art classes and had various part time-jobs to help pay my way. Even though I did do quite well with the wildlife painting, including a few trips to London to auction paintings for charity

alongside the world's best known wildlife painters, I knew there was something more I wanted to do with my art.

My relationship with God was patchy until I was about 22 years old, when I really decided to follow Jesus; I had a revelation of His love for me as a loving father. I started to see things in my heart that I knew I needed to express. Little did I know that this was what the Lord had planned for my painting from the start. I have seen the Lord use art to touch people in a deep way, where words cannot go. I found art to not only be a passion of mine, but a tool to help others, and my way of worshipping the Lord.

**GL:** What was it that inspired you to make art your full time occupation? Which artists inspire you?

**OP:** My parents are both into the arts, they met at Art College, and my dad is a graphic designer, and my mother paints. So I was encouraged from an early age. My mother never told me off for drawing on the walls at home and my dad would teach me how to really look at things in the right way and how to draw them. My mother is the best critic I have ever had. As a child, I always liked David Shepherd's paintings of animals and his life inspired me. At college I sent his company some pictures of my work, to see what they thought. Mr Shepherd called me up. It was amazing to think he would personally call me and ask to show my work



in London alongside his. Then after college I met Mary Shaw, an artist working in a studio near Bath, and she helped me to become a more commercial artist and taught me how to paint for a living. I spent two years with her and that was the best training I have ever had.

**GL: Do you find it hard 'competing' with secular art/artists?**

**OP:** I don't tend to look at what other artists are doing; it is hard as we live in such a visual world, and things we see can affect us every day. When I was painting in the secular art world, I had an empty feeling inside of me; people only bought paintings because of how much they cost and based on which artist's signature it carried. I would rather sell paintings that have a deep meaning for people and show them something of God's love for us all. I believe in art work that is not just there to look pretty but to engage people that enter a room. Good art has a wonderful ability to change the atmosphere of a space.



Breaking Chains

**GL: How would you define your art as worship? How do you reflect spirituality in your work?**

**OP:** Anything we do is worship if it's done for God. Baking a cake and blessing someone with it is worship. When I paint I have a choice, I can paint out of my own desires for money and to glorify myself, or I can ask the Lord to paint with me in worship to glorify Him. During any type of event, I have a limited time to paint and I use that pressure to help me to 'let go' to express my love for God through art. I have always struggled with selling the pictures, as I didn't know if it was right to, but after praying and talking to God about it, I realised if I want to carry on painting for a living I need to charge for the end result so I can buy more paint and canvas. I don't charge to come to an event and paint, but the finished painting is always sold...unless the Lord tells me to give it away!

These 'event' paintings do have something special about them, I think they are free, and hold so much feeling and meaning in them and I love the end result. I believe God uses them to heal and encourage people.

*"Anything we do is worship if it's done for God. Baking a cake and blessing someone with it is worship."*

**GL: If you have one aspiration relating to your art work, what would it be?**

**OP:** I have heard stories of where paintings have really touched people so deeply that they are healed instantly, or they have given their lives to the Lord. I guess that would be the best: a picture that speaks of God's love in a clear and sharp way.

**GL: What would be your advice to aspiring young Christian artists?**

**OP:** If you want to be an artist of any kind it is just like anything else: practice. Find someone you like and learn from them. Be careful of what you look at, the eyes are a gift, not just what you see physically but what you see spiritually. Start out by showing people you trust, they will help you learn about what is good and from God and what might be your own negative issues coming out on the canvas. Be free and express, paint anything, God can use all things to speak to others. I once painted a brown horse in front of 6000 people because the Lord told me to. Only one person related to it, she asked "why did you paint that horse?" I didn't know and just told her that I just knew I had to paint it. What she then told me was that she had been praying that day and asking the Lord if he cared about her horse that had been put down; and then I painted the horse, her horse. God answered her in a very simple way through a brown horse painting. She was on her last legs with God and this changed her view on Him.

Also, it is worth doing some sort of inner healing school or worship school. These schools help you develop a deeper relationship with God therefore allowing you to create amazing artwork from a healed heart.

**GL: Can the Church be doing more to support Christian Artists?**

**OP:** Yes! The Church is great, but understanding the artist is a tough issue in most Churches. We all need to be able to worship the Lord in the way we were created to do so: including music, dance, art, words and many other ways. I think the main issue for Churches is that artists generally are very sensitive people, it comes with the job, and



Together Forever

often as artist we have deep issues that need to be prayed through with other Church members.

*"We all need to be able to worship the Lord in the way we were created to do so."*

**GL: What is the most exciting thing about your work and the most exciting thing your work has enabled you to do?**

**OP:** I now get invited to paint all over the world in various conferences and Churches. As an artist, money has always been an issue, but the Lord provides what we need and has enabled me to travel around Churches paying my way. I would never have seen some of the places in the world that I have without His blessing on my work. I am truly blessed.

**Oliver runs a variety of workshops, paints to commission and also loves to paint on location at any special event. Please go to his website for contact and more information (listed above)**

**Editors Note - I hope this article has proved interesting and opened some new doors to us all about how we can worship and express ourselves! It is important that we find time to enjoy the talents and skills of ourselves and others. As Ollie says "Anything we do is worship if it's done for God. Baking a cake and blessing someone with it is worship."**

**QUICK FIRE QUESTIONS**

- Favourite Meal: Spaghetti Bolognese
- Favourite Book: The Lost Glory by David Markee.
- Favourite Film: The Tree of Life or The New World.
- Favourite Song: Broken Road
- Favourite Place: Dartmoor or Canada.
- Favourite Sport: Cycling.
- Favourite Quote: Any part of the Lost Glory book.

# THE FILLING STATION LOCATIONS

[thefillingstation.org.uk](http://thefillingstation.org.uk)  
For all the latest news and events



## FURNESS VALE DERBYSHIRE

Every 3rd Tuesday, 7.30pm  
Venue: Furness Vale Community Centre  
Yeardsley Lane, Furn's Vale, SK23 7PN  
Administrator: Gordon & Val Taylor  
gordontaylor@talktalk.net  
01663 741071

## WITNEY OXFORDSHIRE

Every 1st Wednesday, 7.30pm  
Venue: 'Open Doors', Cotswold Business  
Park, Range Road, Witney, OX29 OYB  
Administrator: John & Annie Hughes  
johnandannie@gmail.com  
07817465996

## STANFORD-IN- THE VALE OXFORDSHIRE

Every 2nd Wednesday  
Venue: Mill Farm, A417, Stanford-in-  
the Vale, Oxon, OSN7 8NP  
Administrator: Chris Weatherall  
chris.weatherall@obsmedical.com

## MARLBOROUGH WILTSHIRE

Every 1st Thursday  
Venue: St Peter's Primary School, The  
Parade, Marlborough, SN8 1LQ  
Administrator: Helen Stokes  
hcstokes@gmail.com  
01672 516592

## PRISTON MILL SOMERSET

Every 3rd Tuesday  
Venue: Priston Mill, Priston, NE  
Somerset, BA2 9QE  
Administrator: Debbie Pow  
debbie.pow@btconnect.com  
01225 421985

## CHEW MAGNA SOMERSET

Every 4th Thursday  
Venue: Old School Room, 7 South  
Parade, Chew Magna, BS40 8SH  
Administrator: Charles Roberts  
chewrector@gmail.com  
01275 332199

## BURNHAM-ON-SEA SOMERSET

Every 3rd Tuesday  
Venue: Berrow Village Hall, Parsonage  
Rd, Berrow, B-o-S, TA8 2NL  
Administrator: Roger Harvey  
sales@villageurban.co.uk  
01278 788219

## MIDDLEZOY SOMERSET

Every 4th Sunday  
Venue: The village hall, Nethermoor  
Road, Middlezoy, Somerset, TA7 0PG  
Administrator: Keith Powell  
jill.powell3@googlemail.com  
01823 698999

## HORRABRIDGE DEVON

Every 4th Friday  
Venue: Horrabridge village hall. Station  
Rd, Horrabridge, Devon, PL20 7SS  
Administrator: Diana & Les Wood.  
woodonthemoors@googlemail.com

## BECKINGTON SOMERSET

Every 2nd Thursday  
Venue: Beckington School, Church  
Road, Beckington, BA11 6TG  
Administrator: Liz Wordsworth  
hintonwords@btinternet.com  
01225 722520

## WINFRITH NEWBURGH DORSET

Starting in October 2012  
Venue: Dates & venue to be  
agreed. DT2 8JW.  
Administrator: Dot & Mike Palmer-Fry.  
mikendot10@gmail.com  
01305 853158

## TWYFORD HAMPSHIRE

Every 2nd Thursday  
Venue: (private dwelling) Twyford,  
Hants. SO21 1QX  
Administrator: Nicky Barber  
nicky@barbershome.com  
01962 711234

## LOSSIEMOUTH MORAYSHIRE, SCOTLAND

Every 1st Friday  
Venue: TBA  
Administrator: Elizabeth Brooks  
elizabeth.brooks@uhi.ac.uk

## STRATHDON ABERDEENSHIRE, SCOTLAND

Every 2nd Sunday (a.m. meeting)  
Venue: The Stables, Inverernan House,  
Strathdon, Scotland, AB3 8YA  
Administrator: Sylvia Lawson-Johnston  
sylvia@sljinteriors.co.uk  
019756 51356

## STIRLING STIRLINGSHIRE, SCOTLAND

Every 3rd Tuesday  
Venue: TBA  
Strathdon, Scotland, AB3 8YA  
Administrator: Alistair Cowper  
alistaircowper@talktalk.net  
01786 471998

## INTERNATIONAL FILLING STATION

### CHEF BOUTONNE DEUX SEVRES, FRANCE

Every 2nd Thursday  
Venue: The Little Stone Church,  
14b Ave de l'Hotel de Ville, 791100  
Chef Boutonne, Deux Sevres,  
Poitou-Charentes, France.  
Administrator: Mike Willis  
michael.willis@sfr.fr  
+033 (0)549 879816

## GREAT OUSE BEDFORDSHIRE

Every 3rd Monday  
Venue: Moggerhanger Pk,  
Moggerhanger, Bedfordshire,  
MK44 3RW  
Administrator: Jo George  
jojogeo@btinternet.com  
07840540271

## NORTH COAST NORFOLK

Every 4th Monday  
Venue: Swanton Novers village hall,  
Near Holt, Norfolk, NR24 2RB  
Administrator: John Pugh-Smith  
john.pugh-smith@39essex.com  
07785 716272

## EYE SUFFOLK

Every 3rd Thursday  
Venue: The Kings Arms, 44 Castle  
Street, Eye, Suffolk, IP23 7AW  
Administrator: Ros & John Kemp  
roskemp@googlemail.com  
01379 788426

## HENLEY-ON- THAMES OXFORDSHIRE

Every 1st Wednesday  
Venue: Henley rugby club, Marlow  
Road, Henley, Oxon, RG9 2JA  
Administrator: Sarah Moberly  
(ask for 'Maggie')  
sarah@moberlys.net  
07875203409

## STELLING MINNIS KENT

Every 3rd Tuesday  
Venue: Stelling Minnis Primary School,  
Stelling Minnis, Kent, CT4 6DU  
Administrator: Nick & Heather Ratcliffe  
ratcliffe.owl@btinternet.com  
01227 738537

## FARNHAM SURREY

Every 3rd Friday  
Venue: 'Farnham Working Men's  
Conservative Club Company', Ivy  
House, Ivy Lane, Downing Street,  
Farnham, Surrey, GU9 7PQ  
Administrator: Raphe Palmer  
raphe\_palmer@tiscali.co.uk  
07770833772