

WE ♥ STUDENTS Students...

WED 28 - FRI 30 SEPTEMBER
8-10AM, EBENEZER CHURCH
286 FILTON AVENUE, HORFIELD, BS7 0BA

THE BIG BREAKFAST

COME AND HAVE A BOWL OF CEREAL, OR A BIG FRY UP, WHATEVER GETS YOU GOING FIRST THING IN THE MORNING. EVERYONE WELCOME! NO COST! JUST TURN UP!

FREE FOOD!

Just turn up! And go to...

  bristolstudents

Sunday Services

10.30am at Orchard School, Filton Road, Horfield

Music, video, real life stories, a talk & prayer.

Children and youth groups available, as well as a crèche for under 3's.

THE BIG MEAL

3 COURSES, GOOD FOOD, AND EVEN SOME VEGETABLES... EVERYONE WELCOME! BRING YOUR FRIENDS. IT'S FREE!

SUNDAY 25TH SEPTEMBER
SUNDAY 2ND OCTOBER
SUNDAY 9TH OCTOBER
1PM, EBENEZER CHURCH
286 FILTON AVENUE, HORFIELD, BS7 0BA

 www.facebook.com/bristolstudents

 www.twitter.com/bristolstudents

 Ebenezers & Young Adults Community at Ebenezer Church



Saturday 24th September
3.30pm at Ebenezer Church

FREE Harvest tea, crafts and a 10 minute thanksgiving service.

All ages welcome especially young families.

Just turn up!

Ebenezer Church organises many local initiatives and weekly activities for all ages in this community, including Rendezvous (parent and toddlers group), Taste Café, Footprints (senior citizens group), TGI Friday Kidz Klub, TGI Lates (youth group), 'The Noise' and much more. Contact us for more information.

Ebenezer Church, 286 Filton Avenue, Horfield, Bristol, BS7 0BA
0117 9791399 | info@ebe.org.uk | www.ebe.org.uk
www.facebook.com/ebechurch | www.twitter.com/ebechurch

Ebenezer Church Community Newsletter

Autumn 2011

'Faith under Fire'

Ebenezer Church is looking forward to welcoming **Canon Andrew White** to Bristol to speak at our 'First Sunday' service on **Sunday 2nd October**. Canon Andrew White has an extraordinary work in the Middle East encouraging peace in a place of conflict. Canon White now works almost exclusively in Iraq, earning him the nickname 'The Vicar of Baghdad'.



In the face of significant threats to him personally and repeated bombings of the church, Canon White pastors one of the largest churches in Iraq, St George's Baghdad. St George's Church works with over 550 local Iraqi Christian families and operates well outside the safety of the International Green Zone. Most of the congregation are widows and orphans – since a lot of men have been killed in the decades of violence in Iraq.



Also in the church compound, St George's Clinic employs medical staff from all backgrounds who work side by side to help and care for their neighbours, regardless of where the patients come from or their religious beliefs. They provide free medical and dental care to around 100 Iraqi patients every day, treating 2,000 people every month.

As well as working in the church, Canon White frequently exchanges his dog collar for a bowtie and engages in talks to try to resolve conflict in the area. He has a good reputation and is respected by the most senior religious leaders in Iraq. These religious leaders have enormous influence in the region; influence that they can use to encourage peace, or violence.

Come along to Ebenezer Church and hear more about life in Iraq and what the Middle East conflict has taught Canon White about the God who can change lives.

Sunday 2nd October
10.30am at Orchard School, Filton Road, Horfield
Music, video, real life stories and talk by
Canon Andrew White ('Vicar of Baghdad')
Children and youth work available. Everyone welcome!

The Alpha Course

Wednesday 12th October

Come at 7.30pm for the meal!

at Ebenezer Church (286 Filton Avenue, Horfield)

7.30-9.30pm each Wednesday evening
for nine weeks

LIFE IS WORTH EXPLORING



Tough? Exciting? Disappointing? Precious? Life is full of highs and lows. There are times when you stand in awe of nature, completely exhilarated, instances when you laugh your socks off, and moments when you put your head in your hands with crushing disappointment. Sometimes in the middle of it all, when you least expect it, something makes you stop and think. You ask one question, and the others start coming, "Where does love come from?", "Where am I heading?", "Why am I here?"

Socrates famously said, "An unexamined life is not worth living." The fact is, sometimes it is easier not to ask questions, but on the Alpha course we think life is worth exploring. That's why we created a place to explore the questions of life.

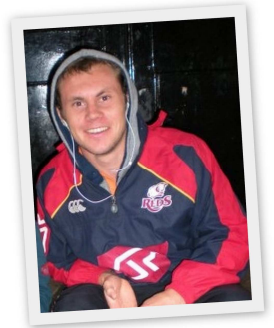
The Alpha course is open to everyone interested in discovering what Christianity is about. It's a place where people can come and relax, eat, share thoughts and explore the meaning of life.

An Alpha Story

What's your name? Jack

Tell us a bit about yourself...

I'm from Kent and went to Military Boarding school in Dover before flying to New Zealand for a Gap Year. I came to Bristol to UWE to Study Human Biology and graduated this summer. I am now about to start a PhD in cardiovascular physiology.



Why did you do Alpha?

Throughout my first year of Uni I had been depressed due to a long term injury, I was drinking and getting into fights. After a bit of a wakeup call involving a large fight in which I was kicked in the face, got concussion and nearly burnt my best friend's house down, I realised I needed help and was at a crossroads. I met a Christian girl who suggested going to her Church. Later in 2009, after going to church a few times I decided I needed some questions answering about what Christianity actually was, if God existed, and why everyone kept banging on about Jesus.



What was it like?

It was a really friendly and warm environment. We sat down and had a meal before having a presentation on a particular topic, after which we broke into small groups and discussed it further. I really appreciated the way the leaders made me feel safe enough to ask difficult questions and there was no pressure to be 'converted'.

Alpha

How has what you learnt/heard at Alpha impacted your life?

It helped to put a lot of things into perspective, and dismantled many of the stereotypes I had about Christians. I found out who Jesus was and what it meant for him to die on the Cross. I still had loads of questions, and still do, but I think I now have some of the basics fairly sorted. I now pray into my problems and it has instantly started to affect my life, I treat people differently and challenge my own attitudes and behaviour in a really positive way. Alpha started a process in which I gradually came to find God, and I can wholeheartedly say my life is better for it.

What does this mean for you today?

The relationship that I discovered I could have with God means everything to me, and helps me to deal with everyday issues in life. I'm not angry or aggressive, I have a lot more compassion towards other people and am generally happier. I understand a lot better what it means for Jesus to have died for me, to take away my sins and allow me to lead life to the full.

"Alpha started a process in which I gradually came to find God, and I can wholeheartedly say my life is better for it."

Book your place by contacting the Church Office -
0117 9791399 or info@ebe.org.uk

www.ebe.org.uk/alpha