

CONNECT

Connecting and Communicating in Changing Times

We have been considering for some time as Elders how best to communicate more effectively with all who attend Woodgreen regularly. 'Connect' is one of the ways we want to attempt to do this. *CONNECT* will appear on our new website and also in paper form on a Sunday, from time to time. It's purpose is to raise ideas for your feedback, explain the thinking behind any new initiatives, cast vision for the future, follow up issues raised during Sunday ministry and generally communicate more effectively with all those who attend Woodgreen regularly.

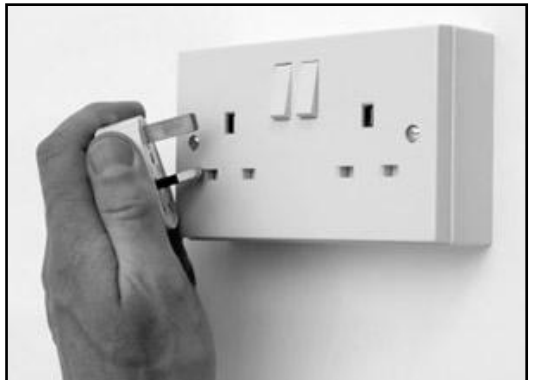
In this edition we want to flag up a new Woodgreen booklet that's hot off the press, suggest some summer reading material for your hols and explain a bit more about what our new church logo is all about.

WHERE DO YOU PLUG IN?

Are you plugged into church-life at Woodgreen? Would you like to get involved but you just don't know where to start? Are you unsure about how God has gifted you and where you would be most effective?

Summer holidays often give us the time and space to review how things are going in our lives and

the same can be true of our involvement in church life. Can we encourage you to use this summer period spending some time considering about how you might plug in more to life at Woodgreen?



To help you we have just published a new Woodgreen booklet entitled: '*Discovering your God-given Spiritual Gifts*'.

The first part of the booklet is an overview of what the Bible teaches about spiritual gifts, but it's the second half of the questionnaire that is different, because it's designed to help you start to identify how God has gifted you.

What gifts would you include under the term 'spiritual gifts'? We can be tempted to categorise some jobs in the church as 'spiritual' and some as 'non-spiritual', however the Bible makes no such distinction.

Alongside the more upfront spiritual gifts in the Bible you will also find gifts of helping others, showing hospitality, giving money and administration!

One theologian defines spiritual gifts in this way: *'A spiritual gift is an ability that is empowered by the Holy Spirit and used in any ministry of the church.'*

The Apostle Peter wrote that every Christian has been given at least one spiritual gift and should be using it to bless others and build up the church: *'Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms.'* (1 Peter 4:10)

So how has God gifted you and how can you best plug-in to Woodgreen?

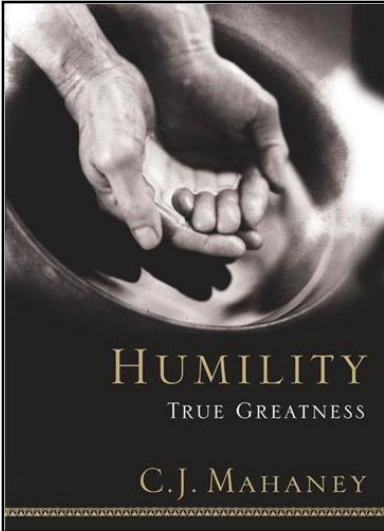
- ✓ Do you have the gift of craftsmanship or practical DIY-type skills?
- ✓ Do you have a creative gift in the areas of music or art?
- ✓ Has God gifted you with an ability to relate well to young people?
- ✓ Are you an innovator and possibly a church planter or evangelist?
- ✓ Are you able to get alongside people and encourage them?
- ✓ Do you have a heart to pray for people?
- ✓ Are you gifted at quietly helping others with day to day tasks?
- ✓ Has God gifted you with the financial resources to give generously?

These are all qualities the Bible defines as 'spiritual gifts' and they are all areas where we currently need people to step up at Woodgreen.

Copies of *'Discovering your God-given Spiritual Gifts'* are available in the foyer. Why not have a go? At the very least it will confirm you're plugged into the right areas of service, and if not, it might just open up new avenues of service after the summer. When you've done it, why not talk through the results with your Growth Group leader, or arrange to see any of us as Elders.

SUMMER READING IDEAS

A few years ago we suggested some good Christian books you might want to pack in your suitcase for your summer holiday reading. A number of you said you appreciated that, so here are a few ideas for this year...



Humility: True Greatness

C.J.Mahaney

'This is the one I esteem: he who is humble and contrite in spirit, and trembles at my word.'
(Isaiah 66:2)

'God clearly says that he is drawn to the humble. He's also clear that he opposes the proud... Which will you pursue?' That's the question the author of this challenging and yet at the same time refreshing book on humility asks. C.J.Mahaney not only defines humility in a clear and compelling way, he also gives lots of practical down-to-earth advice about how to cultivate it in your life. The result is a readable and inspiring book.

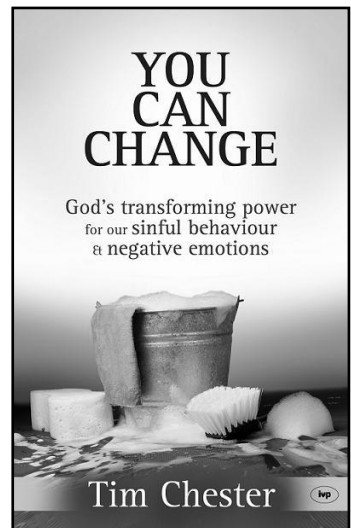
You can Change

Tim Chester

This book has been quoted from a number of times by Woodgreen preachers in the last few months. It is profoundly biblical and immensely practical.

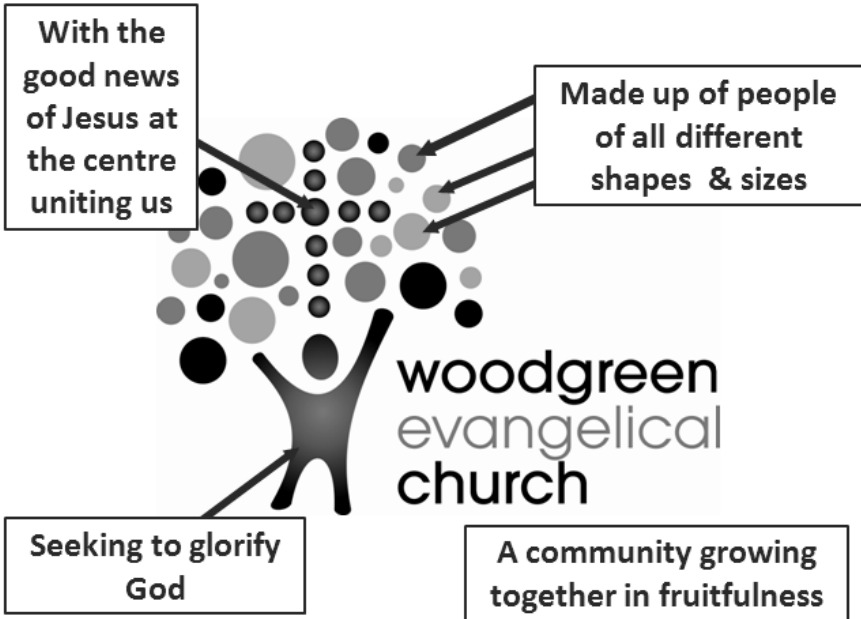
In his introduction Tim Chester writes: *'For years I wondered if I'd ever overcome certain sins. And while I can't claim to have conquered sin - for no one ever can do - here are discoveries that have led to change in my life and in the lives of others.'*

Whether you're a new Christian, struggling to change the habits of your former way of life or an older Christian, feeling you've plateaued, this is a great book to read.



OUR NEW CHURCH LOGO

As you will have noticed, we adopted a new church logo for our 15th Birthday Celebrations. It's been carefully designed to sum-up what we are about as a Church and link in with our Ethos Statement. This is what it all means...



In summary, it reminds us we are:

- *a community committed to growing together in fruitfulness (the tree),*
- *made up of diverse people of all different shapes and sizes (the balls)*
- *seeking to glorify God together (the worshipping trunk-man)*
- *with the good news of Jesus at the centre uniting us (the cross).*

PLEASE TELL US WHAT YOU THINK...

The purpose of CONNECT is to communicate better with Woodgreen members and regular attendees, prompt constructive discussion, and encourage feedback. If you have any feedback as a result of what you've read in this edition please get in contact. You can do this either by speaking directly to one of us as Elders or by emailing us at: elders@woodgreenchurch.co.uk