

# HEARING EYE

*The voice of Open Ears*

Hard of Hearing Christian Fellowship

No: 163

January 2020

## Welcome



Welcome to this edition of Hearing Eye. Once again, I am pleased to be guest editor while Tracy is busy writing her new book.

I hope you had a good Christmas and are looking forward to all that lies ahead, now that we have entered the 20's! It hardly seems any time since we were welcoming in the new millennium; where does the time go?

Time is an interesting phenomenon, isn't it? When we are eagerly awaiting a good event, time seems to crawl, yet when we are anticipating something less enjoyable, time appears to gain wings and fly!

My grandchildren often count time in the number of sleeps: "We're here for 6 sleeps" or, "only 20 sleeps until we see you again!" When they visited over Christmas, Micah, aged four, took it upon himself to keep a daily tally on the white board in the kitchen, carefully rubbing out the previous day's number and writing in the new one. Initially the '6 sleeps' seemed to stretch endlessly ahead for the children, but, of course, eventually the day arrived for them all to head to their own homes.

The Bible often refers to time, pointing us to the certainty that God is Sovereign over all of history. At Christmas we particularly celebrated the Incarnation, that time when God-in-Man came among us. Galatians 4:4-5 says, "*When the set time had fully come, God sent His Son, born of a woman, born under law, to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption to sonship.*" (NIV)

As believers in the Lord Jesus, we live in a kind of 'split time' – the here and the 'yet-to-come'. Both are real, yet both cannot be experienced together. The time will come when we will be with Him forever, but, meanwhile, we are called to live daily for Him. The wait can seem interminable and yet in reality, it is brief! The Psalmist said: "*Show me, Lord, my life's end and the number of my days; let me know how fleeting my life is.*" (Psalm 39:4 NIV) The thought behind numbering our days is that of making each day count, having something good result from each day, to intentionally live lives of purpose. In a sense, each day is like Micah's tally chart, once it's gone it cannot be recalled. How are we using the time we have?

We do not know how many 'sleeps' we may have before our 'now' becomes the new, and eternal 'now'. I wonder, are we sharing the good news of Jesus' love and salvation with all we can? Do we live out His Kingdom values as we go about our daily lives? Are we eagerly anticipating the return of the Lord? Are we counting down, as it were, and preparing ourselves for His coming?

Joel 2:1 "*Blow the trumpet in Zion; sound the alarm on my holy hill. Let all who live in the land tremble, for the day of the Lord is coming. It is close at hand.*"

May this year be full of blessings and opportunities for you as you count each day with Jesus.

*Anthea Owen*

## News from Nepal

Extracts from Mike and Fiona Smith's Christmas Newsletter  
December 2019

Dear Friends and Family,

The Ear Hospital is going from strength to strength. Patient numbers rise each month and the current three Nepali surgeons are all making good progress. One (pictured) was recently very pleased when he completed his first mastoid procedure without Mike having to step in. We are about to start an important research project linked with a university in England and have recruited a Master's degree Nepali audiologist to lead that at our end.



We are also about to employ and train several more paramedics and nurses to go out and do primary ear health camps and screening. There is a constant stream of patients for surgery and many stories could be told about their experiences.

We are hoping to start doing cochlear implants soon. These are very expensive but make a massive change in a deaf person's life. We have a couple of suitable people in mind to help.

Green Pastures Hospital overall is growing, with more services offered and recent opening of a big chapel/teaching facility. We have lots of staff events, usually ending with dancing! Quite a few visitors and volunteers come through, which is always a help. Right now, we have a group of Australian nurses and some are helping Mike to research outcomes of operations. Every day



brings its small challenges, so it is never dull. But we also see so many grateful people that it is all worth it.

Mike recently presented at a conference about ear disease and hearing loss around the world in Arizona USA; and took a couple of extra days to visit the amazing Grand Canyon.

Mike has also just completed his detailed radio control model boat, for relaxation in the evenings!

We will be coming home in February, Mike for a month and Fiona for longer as we begin to transition gradually back to the UK. Finding a lead surgeon for the hospital in Nepal is a priority. There are some new doors opening for Fiona, one of which is becoming a volunteer for Compassionate Communities (Co-Co) in Herefordshire, an initiative for befriending and supporting people who are isolated and often lonely.

Thank you to all who support us and the work through INF and Ear Aid Nepal, we really appreciate it.

We wish you every blessing in the coming year.

With love from,

**Fiona and Mike**

[mike.smith@inf.org](mailto:mike.smith@inf.org)

[mike.smith@earaidnepal.org](mailto:mike.smith@earaidnepal.org)



## Relief from Chronic Ear Problem

Samuel Shrestha (35 years, name changed for anonymity), a resident of the city of Pokhara in western Nepal, is currently a contractor by profession. He lives in a joint family of 13 members and is the main source of income in his family.



In the year 2007, Mr. Shrestha went to Dubai for employment. He had a good earning over there and was very active in his work. Slowly day by day his health started to deteriorate and he faced a hearing problem which also affected other parts of his body. He had aches and pains in his joints and discharge with blood and mucus in his ear. In Dubai, he consulted a doctor and the doctor after analysing the case suggested that he return to Nepal.

Immediately after returning to Nepal, he went to several reputed hospitals. He was told that he didn't have much time because the infection was incurable. After months of hospital visits and recommendation from the doctor he decided to have major surgery in Pokhara. Unfortunately, before his surgery he saw a teenager with the same problem at another hospital dying right after the surgery. He was disheartened, the fear of death was so much that he decided to cancel his surgery and live his life.

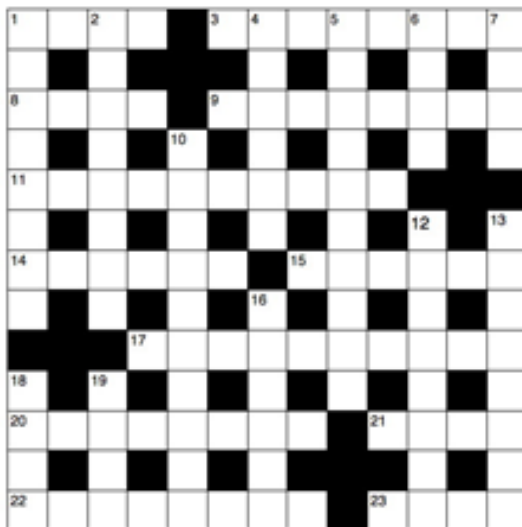
Months after this he heard of an ear camp conducted by International Nepal Fellowship Green Pastures Hospital from his

elder brother and decided to give it a try over there. In the camp he met Dr. Mike Smith and Dr. Nirmal and the doctors, after analysing the case, performed the surgery in the year 2013. The surgery was successful and slowly his ear condition got better and better.

He could not believe that within such a short period his ear condition would get so much better because previously he had almost lost hope of treating his illness. Now apart from general precautions he does not need any medication. At present, he is running his own construction company and is happy with his family. If he comes across anyone with ear problems, he immediately suggests them to visit the Ear Centre in Green Pastures Hospital.

*It's Puzzle Time!*

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**Across**

- 1 'The blind receive sight, the — walk' (Luke 7:22) (4)  
3 Got (Philippians 3:12) (8)  
8 Leave out (Jeremiah 26:2) (4)  
9 Castigated for using dishonest scales (Hosea 12:7) (8)  
11 Weighty (1 John 5:3) (10)  
14 'Now the serpent was more — than any of the wild animals the Lord God had made' (Genesis 3:1) (6)  
15 'Those controlled by the sinful nature cannot — God' (Romans 8:8) (6)  
17 Because Israel lacked one of these, tools had to be sharpened by the Philistines (1 Samuel 13:19) (10)  
20 In his vision of the two eagles and the vine, this is how Ezekiel described the latter (Ezekiel 17:8) (8)  
21 Rite (anag.) (4)  
22 Nine gigs (anag.) (8)  
23 'The eye cannot say to the — , "I don't need you"' (1 Corinthians 12:21) (4)

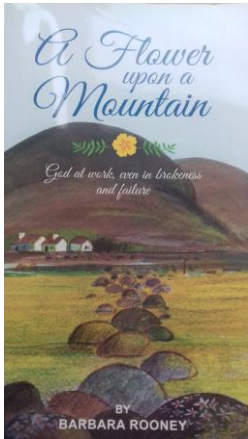
**Down**

- 1 'Flee for your lives! Don't — — , and don't stop anywhere in the plain!' (Genesis 19:17) (4,4)  
2 Principal thoroughfare (Numbers 20:19) (4,4)  
4 'The tax collector... beat his — and said, "God have mercy on me, a sinner"' Luke 18:13) (6)  
5 'The zeal of the Lord Almighty will — this' (2 Kings 19:31) (10)  
6 'The day of the Lord is — for all nations' (Obadiah 15) (4)  
7 Specified day (Acts 21:26) (4)  
10 Deadly epidemic (Deuteronomy 32:24) (10)  
12 Roman Catholic church which has special ceremonial rights (8)  
13 Tied up (2 Kings 7:10) (8)  
16 In his speech to the Sanhedrin, Stephen described Moses as 'powerful in speech and — ' (Acts 7:22) (6)  
18 'Although he did not remove the high places, — heart was fully committed to the Lord all his life' (1 Kings 15:14) (4)  
19 Tribe (Deuteronomy 29:18) (4)

Solution on page 9.

Book Review  
*A Flower upon a Mountain*  
by Barbara Rooney

I have been reading a very interesting and moving autobiography by the late Barbara Rooney, a member of Open Ears, called “A Flower upon a Mountain”. This book was privately printed and circulated in 2018 by her friends and admirers. The subtitle is: “God at work, even in brokenness and failure”.



Barbara was born in Northern Ireland in 1945 with dual sensory loss, and this book chronicles her lifetime struggles with her disabilities and subsequent health problems. She is engagingly honest and open about her difficulties in accessing education and finding suitable employment. Due to her determination and innate strength of character, she was able to train to become a social worker with blind and partially sighted people in England.

Her book is full of acute insights into the nature of disability and how to cope and accept one’s situation despite one’s limitations. There is a useful chapter on Independence, and another about forgiving oneself with God’s help, entitled “My Journey towards Total Forgiveness”, and another chapter on Prayer. She also writes about her four-legged friend, a cat called Shadow, who was a great comfort to her as well as to her lodgers.

Barbara writes with great clarity and empathy, and I found myself nodding and saying “Yes, that’s exactly how it is”. She seemed to speak into my own situation so powerfully that tears came into my eyes. I warmly recommend this book to any student of disability, as she raises several issues of great importance, highlighting the particular needs of people with dual sensory loss, and their gifts, too.



My only criticism of Barbara’s book is that it was easy for the reader to get lost in detail in one or two central chapters.

Perhaps the last word should be given to Barbara herself:

***“The most important thing to me is that I have grown increasingly aware of God’s love for me. As already stated in the introduction – and continues to be unchanged – is that if my story has been of benefit to just one person, then it has been worth all I have put into writing it.”***

Mary Bucknall

*A Flower upon a Mountain*, published for Barbara Rooney by Verité CM Ltd (2018). ISBN: 978-1-910719-56-5.

We are planning to introduce a letters page to future editions of Hearing Eye.

We would love to hear your comments and feedback on the articles produced, as well as hearing your news and anecdotes, stories, prayer requests and anything else you would like to share.

Hearing Eye is a magazine for ALL our members and we want to include EVERYONE.

Please send contributions to the addresses on the back page.

Edition deadlines are:  
 January: January 7  
 April: March 24  
 July: July 7  
 October: September 24.



*Emily Owen writes:*

For Christmas, my parents (mum has edited this magazine, so I'd better be on my best behaviour!) gave me a wonderful present: a ticket to a Light Show at Belton House, in Lincolnshire. I'd never been to a Light Show before. On a cold, dark December evening, five of my family wrapped up in coats, scarves and hats, and set off to the Light Show. What followed was a walk through the grounds, which were lit up in many ways: we went through a flame garden which had lots of candles, a 'firefly path' with little fairy lights, an arched tunnel of light, and much more.



My brother in law, Ian, pushed me in my wheelchair, patiently stopping when anything caught my eye for a longer look. On one of these fairly frequent stops, he said to me, "oh, hang on, the music has changed." What I hadn't realised, being deaf, was that each Light 'zone' had its own musical accompaniment. Ian listened for a moment, then said, "I think it's a waltz" and he picked up my hand, making his fingers 'waltz' along my palm. I couldn't access the music audibly. It was inaccessible to me, until Ian helped me in a different way; by taking my hand.

As I write this, we are but a few days into 2020. I imagine there are a mix of emotions among Hearing Eye readers as we face the year to come. Excitement, trepidation, anticipation, fear. Perhaps we feel daunted by what lies ahead, wondering how we will cope; there's so much we are unable to access. Perhaps we feel exhausted and empty.

Just before Christmas, my sister – Kirsty - said to me, "Did you know the film Little Women comes out on Boxing Day? We should go and see it." I replied, "Yes, but it won't be subtitled, so I won't be able to come." And then the busyness of Christmas took over, until, on the evening of 29<sup>th</sup> December, we were wondering what to do for another of my sisters – Sophie's - birthday the following day. Kirsty said, "I'll just look up the showings for Little

Women.” And, almost unbelievably, it was being subtitled on Sophie’s birthday! So, we went.

Without giving too much away - other than to say I recommend the film - the L.M. Alcott book on which it is based, contains the quote, ‘Not empty now’ referring to hands that were no longer empty because another was holding them.

Isaiah 41:13 (NLT) For I hold you by your right hand— I, the LORD your God. And I say to you, ‘Don’t be afraid. I am here to help you.

I pray that, this year, we will know more and more the compassion of our God who takes us by the hand, reminding us that we’re not alone, and helps us in a different way. Calming our fears. Making accessible the inaccessible. Filling us when we’re empty. Giving us His peace.

The Gate of the Year, by Minnie Louise Haskins:

*And I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year:*

*“Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown.”*

*And he replied: “Go out into the darkness  
and put your hand into the Hand of God.*

*That shall be to you better than light  
and safer than a known way.”*

*So I went forth, and finding the Hand of God,  
trod gladly into the night.*

*And He led me towards the hills  
and the breaking of day in the lone East.*

*So heart be still: What need our little life,  
Our human life to know,  
If God hath comprehension?*

*In all the dizzy strife of things both high and low,  
God hideth His intention.*

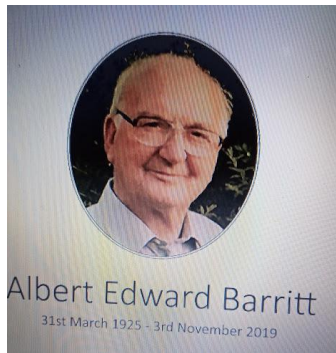
*God knows.*

*His will is best.*

*The stretch of years which wind ahead, so dim  
To our imperfect vision,  
Are clear to God.*

*Our fears are premature;  
In Him, all time hath full provision.*

OBITUARY - Bert Barritt (1925-2019)  
Founder & Trustee of Hard of Hearing Christian Fellowship



Bert Barritt, who died in November at the age of 94, was born in Bermondsey in London Docklands. His mother was Deaf, and his father lost his hearing while serving in the Army during the First World War. Bert himself joined up in 1943 and his regiment, The East Yorkshire Regiment, was involved in the D-Day landings in Normandy on 6<sup>th</sup> June 1944. As a “Normandy Veteran”, he attended the Cenotaph march-past every November until old age and ill-health forced him to give up.

Bert gave his life to Christ at Bermondsey Gospel Mission at the age of 14. He met his future Scottish-born wife Marie at the Christian Union in the Rhine Army HQ, as she was serving in the Auxiliary Territorial Service (ATS). They married in 1947 and had one son and two daughters.

He originally trained as a schoolteacher, but then he and Marie decided to train to become missionaries at a Christian Training Centre in Hertfordshire. They moved to Portrush in Northern Ireland for their first placement. As Bert had Deaf parents he was soon invited to speak at a Deaf meeting in Lisburn. He discovered that the pastor was due to move to Canada, and Bert

was invited to replace him! Even though he did not know finger spelling, he soon learnt how to communicate with Deaf people.

For three years he and Marie worked in Belfast among the Deaf, before moving back to London in 1960 to establish a church for Deaf people there. Bert headed up the Deaf Christian Fellowship (DCF) over many years, leading and preaching at meetings and conferences.

Then his attention was drawn to the needs of hard of hearing Christians, who were also missing out in church services. He met up with Richard Livermore, Liz Heike and Sid Humphries in 1973 and thus the idea of setting up a Hard of Hearing Christian Fellowship (HHCF) was born.

Bert was the first chairman and trustee of HHCF right from the start in 1974. He returned to lead and speak at the HHCF conference at Brunel Manor, Torquay, in May 2000. After Marie died, he married a long-standing friend from the DCF, Janet Evans from South Africa, and they both came to Open Ears' 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary weekend at Hinsley Hall, Leeds in October 2014.

Latterly the onset of dementia meant that Bert could no longer attend Open Ears conferences. He will be sadly missed, but he will be well-remembered as a stalwart Christian and founding member of HHCF.

*Mary Bucknall*

Sources:

A History of the Deaf Christian Fellowship, 1950-1990. Researched by John Delve and edited by Janice Silo. Published by Go! Sign, 2017. Used with copyright permission from the author.

Open Ears Anniversary booklet, "40 Years of Serving the Hard of Hearing Christian Community 1974-2014", privately printed and circulated.

## Memories of Bert - *Cynthia Leeman*

I first met Bert in 1975, when invited to join my late cousin's wife Janet, (whose eldest son is deaf), and attend a meeting in Rotherhithe, London. Bert along with others started the Hard of Hearing Christian Fellowship (HHCF) the year before, and he was also actively committed to the Deaf Christian Fellowship, who also met together regularly at Rotherhithe.



Bert was a man who loved the Lord Jesus, and passionately served Him amongst the deaf folk, making Him known through preaching and teaching the Word in sign language. In 1974 he also started helping those who were hard of hearing, with different communication needs than the Deaf, enabling them to have fellowship together and receive the Word of God clearly with the help of the loop, overhead projector and screen. This fellowship is still continuing in the name of Open Ears. In the 1980s Bert



and Marie spent 3 years in S. Africa, serving the Deaf and helping establish a Deaf fellowship in Johannesburg.

Bert was a very friendly person with a happy disposition and a good sense of humour; he was humble, too. Everyone felt at home in his company as he was easy to converse with, an encourager who shared God's Word of love to all people.

Bert and Marie were very hospitable people who shared their home with others. I recall with a grateful heart how in 1995, they accommodated four of my family for a few days, in their York home.

We give thanks for Bert's faithful service to the Lord, ministering to the Deaf and Hard of hearing people and rejoice that he is now resting in the presence of His Lord.

## Memories of Bert – *Marylin Kilsby*

One of Bert's daughters, Ruth, was a long-standing member of my church. Bert and his first wife, Marie, used to come down to London from time to time to visit Ruth, her husband, Martin and their two daughters. Since Ruth was often in the worship team (she inherited her good singing voice from Bert), Bert and Marie either sat with the Deaf group or joined us at the end of the service. Bert's love of, and commitment to, both born Deaf people and to those who have become deaf or hard of hearing was obvious to all who knew him.



Bert became hard of hearing himself in older age and attended Open Ears events with his second wife, Janet. One memory I have is of Bert, Janet, Cynthia and I having a music session during a break at the Hinsley Hall event in 2014.

Bert was always a joy to be around. He was a good conversationalist and loved meeting new people. It was a privilege to know him and he will be sadly missed by many in the deaf and hard of hearing world.

***“This is to my Father’s glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.”***

***“Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful.....Come and share your master’s happiness!”***

## **Lord, Teach us to pray**

### **A reflection on the Lord's Prayer**

God, You are our Father in Heaven:

As a father has compassion on his children, so the  
Lord has compassion on His faithful followers.

Your Name is Elohim – Mighty, Creator, Strong:

El Roi – The God who sees me;  
Jehovah Jireh – my Provider;  
Adonai – The Lord is Master;  
Jehovah Rohi – my Shepherd;  
El Shaddia – The Almighty God;  
Jehovah Tsidkenu – The Lord our Righteousness.

May Your Kingdom Come:

Come, through Your world-wide church;  
Come through missionaries and church leaders;  
Come through those who are persecuted for their  
faith;  
Come through those who believe, yet are afraid to  
speak of Jesus;  
Come through us, ordinary Christians, seeking to  
share your love in the world.

May Your will be done in earth just as it is in Heaven:

Where there is famine, may we be moved to share;  
Where there is terror, may we work for peace;  
Where there is slavery, may we call for justice;  
Where there is loneliness, may we reach out to love  
our neighbours.

We ask you to give us bread to eat today:

Physical bread to nourish our bodies;  
The spiritual Bread of Life, Jesus, Your Word.



Father in Heaven, forgive us our sins:

Reveal to us the immeasurable depth of Your forgiveness;

Help us to receive Your forgiveness so that we can forgive others.

Lead us away from temptation:

You are the Light of the World, help us to walk in Your guiding light;

Lead us in the paths of righteousness.

Heavenly Protector, keep evil far away from us:

Thank you that you have already won the victory over Satan.

Father, You are our King;  
All power and glory is Yours,  
for all eternity.  
Amen



## **A suggested guide for 30 times of prayer.**

<b><u>1</u></b>	Praise God for His love.
<b><u>2</u></b>	Pray for your local Councillors.
<b><u>3</u></b>	Pray for your local and regional hospitals; for all the staff – doctors, nurses, therapists, cleaners, administrators etc
<b><u>4</u></b>	Pray for your local schools, colleges and universities. Pray especially for Christian teachers and those who bring the Word of God into educational establishments.
<b><u>5</u></b>	Pray for local businesses and services.
<b><u>6</u></b>	Pray for the work of Green Pastures Hospital in Nepal.
<b><u>7</u></b>	Pray for Australia and those affected by the bushfires.
<b><u>8</u></b>	Pray for the Trustees and Committee of Open Ears.
<b><u>9</u></b>	Pray for your own neighbourhood.
<b><u>10</u></b>	Pray for Prison Chaplains.
<b><u>11</u></b>	Pray for friends and family who do not yet know Jesus personally.
<b><u>12</u></b>	Pray for people burdened by debt.
<b><u>13</u></b>	Thank God for His goodness and mercy.
<b><u>14</u></b>	Pray for Mike and Fiona Smith as they look towards relocating to the UK.
<b><u>15</u></b>	Pray for those who mourn, especially remembering Bert's family and friends.
<b><u>16</u></b>	Praise God for His love.
<b><u>17</u></b>	Pray for people who are isolated or lonely.
<b><u>18</u></b>	Pray for couples who long for children but who remain childless, and for those who have lost babies and young children.
<b><u>19</u></b>	Pray for Christian youth workers.

<b><u>20</u></b>	Pray for those who work in nursing and care homes.
<b><u>21</u></b>	Thank God for friends and family who brighten your life.
<b><u>22</u></b>	Pray for church leaders, worship leaders, preachers and teachers.
<b><u>23</u></b>	Pray for the Government; for all those in Parliament, especially those who are Christians.
<b><u>24</u></b>	Thank God for the beauty of the changing seasons.
<b><u>25</u></b>	Pray for those with special needs and for those caring for them.
<b><u>26</u></b>	Pray for Christian unity in this country and around the world.
<b><u>27</u></b>	Pray for faith and courage to make a difference for good.
<b><u>28</u></b>	Praise God for His faithfulness.
<b><u>29</u></b>	Pray for an awareness of God at work in your life, minute by minute.
<b><u>30</u></b>	Worship the Lord.



## **Holidays and Conferences.**

### **Churchear Conference** **September 10th to September 14th 2020**

You might remember the advance notice about this conference, which appeared in the Autumn edition of Hearing Eye. Churchear is similar to Open Ears, but it operates throughout Europe. They run international conferences every two years and the next one will take place in Eisenach, Germany. The theme is “Living Out Christian Values”.

I have attended a previous Churchear conference and seeing how the communication works between deaf and hearing people from various European countries is remarkable. Just as with our Open Ears conferences, there is full communication support, including speech to text in both English and German. All presentations will be interpreted into both English and German too, so, if you use the loop system you can follow the English translation. The main speech interpreter is Eyolf Berg from Norway, whom some of you met at our Open Ears conference last October. Ingrid Stillström, who was also at our October conference and who is President of Churchear, will also be there, so that’s two people, plus me, whom you might know already!

This year’s conference will be held at the Haus Hanstein, which looks picturesque and is situated in a beautiful wooded area.

I’m definitely attending this conference as I’ll be running a workshop. It will be called “Listening to God” and will involve pictures, which will overcome any language barriers. Would you like to come, too? The cost for the accommodation, conference fee and an outing to Wartburg will be €545 for two people sharing an en suite room and €625 for a single en suite accommodation.

More information regarding travel will be available nearer the time. Frankfurt will be our arrival airport, from where we will catch a train to Eisenach or to another station nearby. Booking a train is easy. Details of how to do this will be sent to you if you are thinking of coming. We might be able to help you with this, especially if you don't have access to the internet.

Open Ears may be able to pay towards our travelling costs and fees, especially if we are either able to contribute to the conference itself or if we can go back to our own church or group and share with others what we have learned at the conference.

Would you be interested in attending? If so, please could you contact me via the correspondence and enquiries details on the back page of this Hearing Eye. I'll then be able to send you more information and will try to answer your questions. Meanwhile, do keep an eye on Churchear's website at <http://www.churchear.org>

*Marylin Kilsby*

## **Spring Harvest** **Tuesday 14th to Saturday 18th April 2020**

### **“Unleashed – The Acts Church Today”.**

As you will know from previous editions of HE, a group of us from Open Ears will be attending Spring Harvest 2020 at the Harrogate Convention Centre. Both Speech to Text and British Sign Language interpretation will be available. Our very own Susanne Willdig will be doing the STT service, so we know that this will be of a very high quality! ***You will need to book and pay for the actual Spring Harvest conference yourself.*** The easiest way to do this is online. The website address is <https://springharvest.org.harrogate/>. If this is a problem for you, or you don't have internet access, please let us know and we'll do all we can to help you. The price for a five-day conference pass is £120 per person.



**Open Ears Holiday/Conference  
Monday 5<sup>th</sup> – Friday 9<sup>th</sup> October 2020  
Woodlands, Hothorpe Hall, Market Harborough, Leicester**

We do hope you will be able to join us for our weekend holiday/conference in October at this beautiful venue, set in 12 acres of private grounds surrounding Hothorpe Hall, Leics. We will enjoy fellowship, worship, good teaching, fun and relaxation.

Our Speaker will be Emily Owen ([www.emily-owen.co.uk](http://www.emily-owen.co.uk)), an inspirational Christian author and speaker, who challenged and encouraged us enormously when she spoke three years ago at our Bournemouth conference. Emily has a rare neurological condition, Neurofibromatosis Type 2, which has led to numerous operations and left her deaf.

We intend hiring a minibus to meet guests at the train station and for trips out. The town of Market Harborough is just 10 minutes away with a lovely memorial garden, tea shops and shopping. Leicester is not too far away and there are plenty of other interesting attractions to visit.

The actual cost to Open Ears for the four nights is £800/pp for a single room and £720/pp for two sharing. Open Ears is able to offer a subsidised rate of **£595/pp single** and **£495/pp shared**. Please indicate your preferred cost on the enclosed booking form. Early booking is advised and your deposit of £100/pp together with the completed booking form should be sent to the address on the back page of this magazine by 31/08/2020. We very much look forward to seeing you there.

## **Volunteer Minute Secretary**

Open Ears urgently requires someone to take, collate and distribute minutes for our committee meetings, which take place on Saturdays, four times a year, in Wokingham, Berkshire. Some experience would be beneficial and access to a computer and internet is essential.

Travel expenses will be covered.

Contact: [openearsministry@hotmail.com](mailto:openearsministry@hotmail.com)

## **Looking to the Future – Can you help?**

Our small, active and friendly committee would welcome two or three extra members to ensure the continued success of Open Ears. If you are interested in helping us, or know someone who might be interested, please get in touch. In the past several committee members have come to us from outside Open Ears membership.

Committee members do not have to be deaf or hearing impaired themselves, but do need to have an interest in, and some understanding of, hearing loss. A Speech to Text service is provided at all our committee meetings, which take place on Saturdays, four times a year, in Wokingham, Berkshire.

For more details, please contact:

[openearsministry@hotmail.com](mailto:openearsministry@hotmail.com)

## History of Open Ears

Open Ears is a Christian Charitable Organisation providing fellowship with no denominational barriers. It is for people who have impaired hearing, and anyone else who is sympathetic to their special needs.

Open Ears was founded (as the Hard of Hearing Christian Fellowship – HHCF) by a group of concerned Christians in London in 1974. The first Fellowship Weekend was held in 1977, and a national weekend or holiday has taken place every year since then. These events are fully accessible to all those with a hearing loss, with loop, speech to text and BSL provided.

For more information about Open Ears and our mission statement, please visit our website, [www.openears.org.uk](http://www.openears.org.uk).

**Hearing Eye is published by Open Ears  
(formerly the Hard of Hearing Christian Fellowship).**

**‘Open Ears’ is a registered Charitable Incorporated Organisation  
(No. 1181896) led by a Committee formed of Trustees  
and Committee Members who meet quarterly.**

**Chairperson: Marilyn Kilsby. Administrator: Christine Pitts.  
Treasurer: Julia Chapman.**

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