

HEARING EYE

The Voice of Open Ears Hard of Hearing Christian Fellowship

Issue 172

Spring 2022



Welcome to the Spring edition of Hearing Eye

It's great to be back with you and I just want to say how thankful I am to Anthea for editing the two most recent editions of Hearing Eye. I thoroughly enjoyed all she put together and the various articles,

insights and laughter lines gave us much food for thought, smiles and prayer. I do hope and pray you will find this edition equally enriching. We are living in very strange times, still journeying through the aftermath of the pandemic, aware of the constant threat that we might yet succumb to Covid and at the same time reeling under the fact that Russia is at war with Ukraine and the world is in a crisis of sky-high living costs, bombs, refugees, humanitarian disasters and politicians in turmoil. How do we react in such times as these? For ourselves, we need to take hold of Jesus' gift of peace: Jesus told us: *Peace I leave with you, my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid. (John 14:27)*

You may ask 'How can I find such peace?' Remember it is Jesus' gift to us. He gives it, we receive it and choose to live in it. He's also given us all kinds of gateways into that gift of peace; beauty for example. Spring flowers are burgeoning all around us. Do we take time to gaze at them and let their message of peace and hope touch our hearts? Yesterday I was walking in the woods on a narrow



path. My balance is poor and I was so focused on not falling into the nettles on either side that I nearly missed the bluebells a short distance away. When I did notice them, my heart filled with joy and I stopped worrying about the nettles! Similarly being with people who upbuild us is so important. I can be quite a serious person, but I have a friend who just seems to tickle my humour and we laugh so much together. It is a wonderful way to step into a state of peace and wellbeing. Let's learn to laugh and to feed ourselves and our loved ones with things that encourage and bring hope. Telling stories, sharing practical ideas, or seeking ways to reach out to others; being creative, praying and drinking in God's Word are all ways to help us grow in His peace. As Jesus said in John 14:27:

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.

In this edition you will find examples of all these means of growing in our peace and joy in God's love, as you move from interesting articles, humorous asides, the prayer diary, poems and stories, news about Open Ears events and take time to relax with a puzzle. Be blessed and enjoy and do remember that for this magazine to truly be 'the voice of Open Ears' we need your voice too! Have you a story or poem you'd like to contribute? Have you an example or two of the ways God has helped you in recent months? Have you enjoyed a book or a film that you could inspire us to read or watch? A few humorous lines, a recipe to share? **Tracy Williamson**

We'd love to hear from you and to include your contributions. Email them direct to myself or Anthea: (tracy@openears.org.uk ; anthea@openears.org.uk) or if you need to send them via mail post to: Christine Pitts, Open Ears, 11 York Avenue, New Milton, Hants, BH25 6BT

Our Online April Conference – Looking towards Easter

We had a lovely Zoom Easter conference on Friday 8th April. Thank you all who came. It was a really special time looking at the various events of Holy Week leading up to Jesus' death and the joy of His resurrection. Various individuals took part bringing their own unique emphases with reflections, poems, teaching, singing and some heart-searching questions from Mary Bucknall on the Passover and powerful thoughts from Emily Owen on Jesus' turning of the tables and what that means to us. Anthea Owen created some amazing PowerPoint slides to enhance each contribution and Marilyn Baker sang some beautiful Easter songs, lifting our hearts to understand the depth of God's love for us.

You can find some of what was shared on the Open Ears Website www.openears.org.uk or our Open Ears Fellowship Group on Facebook. Do take a look and be blessed.

Here's some of the feedback we received:

We both found the OE zoom mini conference extremely uplifting and restful after a very busy week of appointments, etc. A big thank you to everyone for all your hard work. Ken & Jean

I did enjoy being part of the singing, readings and reflections. I am so pleased I was introduced to your organization so many years ago now. God bless you all. Betty

Just want to say how lovely it was to be present today at the OE Easter Conference! Everyone who took part did so beautifully. It helped look at the Easter Story in a deeper way. . . Cynthia

Here's a little example to touch your hearts – Chris Pitts shared a reading from John 12:1 – 11 about Jesus being anointed by Mary and then read us a beautiful poem that she'd written from Mary's perspective. I found it both moved and challenged me deeply.

'She took about a pint of pure nard, an expensive perfume. She poured it on Jesus' feet and wiped his feet with her hair.'

MARY

Kneeling at His feet,
listening to Him teach,
now He's here again I feel
excitement mixed with fear.

Martha busy preparing food;
room so full of men,
suntanned, ruddy, with tousled hair,
fishermen strong, and muscular.

Thin, pale, aloof, Judas,
Does he really belong?
Noisy chatter fills the room,
talk of the day's events.

All too busy to notice me,
Only a woman.
No one seems to understand.
Do they care?

Is this the last time He will eat with us?
Will we see Him again?
When will it come?
Death, I mean.

This man, my Lord, my all,
my teacher and my friend.
What is life without him?
Worthless.

My life's savings in this jar,
but not enough to give Him,
most precious one.



I pour it over His feet,
beautiful feet of love,
that walked to bring me life.

The only towel – my hair,
my crowning glory, so they say,
long, soft, black, shiny,
mine to give - I give my all.
Goodbye my Lord, my love, my life. © Christine Pitts

Have you considered attending our next online conference on Friday Sept 16th? Or what about our quiz social event on June 16th? We'd love to see you there! Email Chris Pitts to book your places: info@openears.org.uk

Subtitling at Spring Harvest by Susanne (Flying Fingers) Willdig

Spring Harvest and me... we have history.

Back when I worked at Prospects for People with Learning Disabilities, my charity would usually run inclusive ministry sessions - but that wasn't my part of the work. I was responsible for the exhibition part, where we'd have a stand in the resources section and talk to anyone who would listen about how people with learning disabilities not only could, but should be part of church life. I'm not a natural salesperson, so being at this stand for hours on end was close to my idea of purgatory... the occasional lovely conversation just didn't make up for the hours of standing there smiling and waiting.

Plus, it cost the charity a fortune to exhibit there! Spring Harvest had always been the biggest and most important, but also the most



expensive place we went. I've been to Minehead and Skegness as an exhibitor. Many years later, Open Ears (where I have served for years by subtitling at meetings and events) asked me to go to Spring Harvest Harrogate, which was a new and very different venture for Spring Harvest: not at a Butlins, but at a convention centre with a hotel next door. A different target audience, not so much families with littlies but perhaps a more mature group. They did offer children's sessions there, and my kids went (though they were really small, this was well before the Pandemic!), but they quickly realised that people didn't come there with kids because it wasn't so much of a holiday - apart from the targeted kids sessions, there wasn't much for kids to do there. Unlike at Butlins.

So I had never actually stayed at Butlins and taken part in Spring Harvest before, despite having this involvement going back 10+ years!



Because the Minehead event already had a person doing subtitling, I was asked if I could go to Skegness this year. The family would come for free if I served, and I thought they might have fun and the kids would learn more about Jesus, so I jumped at the opportunity!

After five hours' drive (!) we arrived and as the kids began exploring the site - a fairground! An amazing swimming pool with multiple slides! - I went to the big hall to get set up. Two years' break from putting on the event meant that perhaps the team had to find their feet again in some ways, so things felt a little frantic as I was sent from pillar to post to get my workstation set up. But we just managed: with 15 minutes to spare for the main event start!

The four sign language interpreters were a wonderful team to be part of, we would always pray for each other at the beginning of each section. One evening, the main speaker - Pastor Agu - actually

sat down with us to go through his talk and make sure we were prepared. That was much appreciated; he seemed to really get it, and wanted to ensure we were ready to bring his points across well.

One morning at breakfast, Nadine (7) struck up a conversation with a lady sitting next to us and when I mentioned what I was doing, she was astonished: "You do that? I thought it was automatic!" - I had to laugh: would have thought all my typos might have given my humanity away!

We had our struggles, too. On the third day, someone had complained that the captions were giving them a migraine, and so the decision was taken to take them off the main screens and only have them on a tiny monitor off to one side of the stage: useful only to maybe the first two rows of people sat on that side of the auditorium, and then only if they had good eyesight!



I was terribly discouraged... but I shouldn't have been: so many people came forward to ask to have them back that the next day, we had them back up. It just goes to show that most of us only speak up with complaints, not compliments, so Spring Harvest had only heard the complaints and

didn't realise quite how many people appreciated the subtitles until they were suddenly gone!

Two years away, social distancing, and not being around other people in groups probably contributed to another problem Spring Harvest perhaps hadn't expected: I think many people struggled with being around so many others, and at one point, they had to give a reminder to please be kind to one another and remember that stewards and others were serving as volunteers. I personally definitely didn't experience any unkindness, on the contrary, the amount of people who came up to me to tell me they appreciated my work was overwhelming and wonderful. Apparently, the lady I

met at breakfast wasn't the only one who had thought I was a machine, though: one of the organisers told me one evening that she'd had several comments on what a great AI / automatic speech recognition software they had, and when she told them that I was a human they were astonished!

Frankly, I don't think I'll be out of a job too soon. It's probably coming, the way software is improving day by day; but at the moment, between different accents and specialised words (at a Christian event in particular!) I'm fairly safe.

So while I worked every morning and evening, the kids had the time of their lives. They had special sessions from 10-1 each day: D was on the 'green cat' team while N was a 'green frog' and they were also taken through the theme teaching of "Renew, Restore, Rebuild" - which I thought was an incredibly apt theme to choose after two years of Pandemic life. It was clear that so



many people needed renewing, restoring, even rebuilding; and it was so beautiful and life-giving to be physically together with so many Christ-followers again! To sing together: "All my life, you have been faithful!" He has. So he is. Thanks be to God!

Time for a smile

Moses was leading his people through the desert for 40 years. It seems, even in Biblical times men avoided asking the way!

Why didn't they play cards on the Ark? Because Noah was always standing on the deck



To make us think...

There is more to life than meets the eye and the ear. We have spiritual eyes, spiritual ears, spiritual senses that each contact heavenly realities. © Marian Sale

Members' Prayer Meeting

We recently had our first, and very successful, prayer meeting by Zoom, which welcomed any Open Ears members who were interested in coming. The meeting was subtitled by Susanne Willdig and ably led by Julia Chapman. We were delighted to welcome about fourteen people in total.

Led by Julia, we prayed about various world events, including the war in Ukraine and also for our leaders in the UK. For Open Ears, we asked the Lord to guide us, particularly as to how and when we should start in person events again. There was also time for us to ask for prayer for ourselves, our family and our friends. It was lovely to see



how many members contributed to the prayers and sharing – a real sense of community! We were also very aware of the Holy Spirit's leading, presence and peace.

The next members' prayer meeting I have in my calendar is on Friday 11th November from 2 to 3 p.m.

Marylin Kilsby

In fond memory

Long standing OE member Alan Wearn who used to attend many of our events passed into glory this Spring at the grand age of 101! Now happily reunited with his dear wife Kath. RIP Alan.

An Important Reminder
Open Ears email address has changed to:

info@openears.org.uk

The old address will no longer work

Bailey's Blog

Hello everyone! My good friend Goldie told me way back in January that I'd need to take over writing the ULTRA important article for this fabulous magazine. What article is that, I hear you say? The one about prayer? Or Open Ears conferences? No, of COURSE not! I mean, those things are ok I guess, but I mean the article about me and how wonderful I am and how VITAL my work is for my mum, Tracy.



So here I am. You can see my photo and how smart I am. My mum says I am pretty, but I think she forgets I'm a boy! So SMART is ALWAYS the word to use please. Goldie wasn't sure if I'd actually be able to write as I was only one when he met me, but you know my smartness goes far deeper than looks, so OF COURSE I can write! I can read too, actually; I am very clever as I've learnt two exciting words that kind of fit one inside the other. EAT and TREAT. These are such exciting words that bring joy to all I do.



Here's another pic of me learning what they mean.

Well, it's true there's another dog learning too but that's just Arlo, my Auntie Marilyn's other half. It was ME that mummy was training with treats but that naughty Arlo just had to muscle his way into the action!

So about me and what I do – Well you see, I am VERY, VERY clever and it seems I've been chosen as part of a divine plan to come and tap Mummy's knee with my nose or chin every time I hear a certain little noise. It may, for example, be 'beep beep, beep beep' and I am SO clever because I just KNOW that when Mummy says, 'GOOD BOY! What is it?' after giving me a treat, of course, for nudging her, I must lead her to the exciting place that's full of lovely food smells. It's true she DOES try to make me move away while she opens its door but it's just SO TEMPTING to stick my nose in. And the treats she gives me are TINY! I mean what's a growing dog supposed to do? But I must admit, that exciting place is just a little HOT, even for me! But Mummy is SO pleased when I get her to the Beep Beep Beep Beep because for some reason she doesn't seem to know it's happening . . .



So I decided early on that another really exciting sound that Mummy seems to miss a lot is one that goes tring a ling ling. Every time that happens I know there's someone outside and I just can't contain myself in my desire to tell Mummy. I mean, what else can I do but bark passionately and hurl myself at the door? And in case Mummy hasn't got the message I leap up on the settee so as to bark out of the window. It's SO exciting and really fulfilling too, because even Mummy gets really excited then and joins in with a screaming kind of bark of her own! Poor Mummy she hasn't got NEARLY so good a voice as me, but shush, don't let her know.

Mummy's even started giving me lumps of this most delicious stuff called 'CHEESE' every time I come to tap her leg with my nose when the tring a ling ling goes. That's SO scrummy and I just know I have to get Mum to the door as soon as possible so as to let in my

new fav person and even more treats! I just can't help leaping up at them, mouth open wide for more; but Mummy is HORRIBLE then because she always shuts me away at the most important moment! So of course, I bark all the more! But hey ho, life is fun and I'm glad to be here. I DID hear Mummy and Auntie talking very seriously one day and caught the words 'Bailey will have to go?' What on earth was that all about? Even I felt a bit worried as they seemed so serious. But I put my head on Mummy's lap and looked her in the eye and told her with everything I had that I wanted to be her boy. I was SO happy a few days later when I heard her say to Auntie that she'd definitely decided to keep me. I had a lovely time leaping and barking to celebrate!

Well you've had two pages from me now, not bad as I'm only JUST two. I hope you've enjoyed it and want to read more cos I'll be back next time.

Bye for now and lots of cuddles, licks and of course happy barks from me,

Bailey

(Note from Tracy – Bailey came in mid Jan and Goldie retired to his new home in Broadstairs a week later. Goldie is very well and sends you all loving cuddles. Almost from the start of Bailey arriving he started barking and jumping frantically, both at the front door and at any visitor. He was so manic that he wouldn't come to nudge me at all so the Hearing dog trainer suggested giving him cheese as an exclusive doorbell treat. I nearly gave him up several times because of this frantic behaviour, but the Lord spoke to me clearly and I've now committed to keeping and forging a partnership with him. We also discovered that Bailey was a lockdown casualty because he had to be removed from his litter early because of the impending lockdown and was not then able to be socialized with other people and dogs as is normal, for a long time.)

We've all been thinking a lot recently about the terrible war in Ukraine and the devastating effects Russia's actions have had upon hundreds of thousands of civilians. Some of you may have been reminded of your own experiences during WW2 and I thought it would be lovely to hear in this editions of Hearing Eye, Jim Horsnell's account of being evacuated at 10 years old. Many thanks Jim for sharing your story.

Evacuation (Part 1)

I was born in September 1929. Our family lived in a basement flat in West Ealing, London, W13. My elder married sister and baby had been evacuated with her husband when the aircraft construction firm where he worked was moved from London to a rural location In Leicestershire; my other sister was evacuated to Harrogate with the civil service and my older brother went with the Acton County School firstly to Weymouth and then they were moved inland to Salisbury. I was left at home with Mum and Dad as our side of the defining railway line was deemed to be a safe area. I have always felt that we never really became the same family when we eventually all returned home again.

Quite a number of my fellow pupils at Drayton School were evacuated as they lived on the other side of the railway lines. Drayton School was then taken over as offices for civil servants who had been bombed out of their accommodation in central London. Those of us pupils who remained were firstly moved to St John's School and when this was closed we had rather irregular classes in our teachers' homes. This meant some long walks for me in the freezing winter of 1940 and I remember getting home crying with the cold. Then it was decided we should be evacuated if our parents wanted this. Mum was against losing her last child in this way but I

recall being quite enthusiastic of this 'adventure into the unknown' especially as Mrs Bye next door was going with her two young children, David and Doreen.

Those going gathered on the day in our old school playground, labelled, with gas mask, something to eat, some basic clothing and ration book and identity card. Mum was there to wave us off. London Transport double decker buses took us to Ealing Broadway station where the special train, going to no-one knew where, awaited us. Mrs Ward, Headteacher, and Miss Wesley, my Teacher, were with us and I travelled in a full compartment next to Miss Wesley. All I recall of the journey was going through the tunnels between Dawlish and Teignmouth as that's where I hid under Miss Wesley's coat as tunnels always frightened me.

The train stopped at Teignmouth. We filed off to a local school, were fed etc. and then formed up in crocodiles with a local teacher leading us and another adult at the rear to stop us straying and we set off to be delivered to the homes to which we had already been allocated by the Billeting Officer. Everyone in our Crocodile was duly dropped off and only skinny little 10-year-old Jimmy (me) was left as the place to which I was due to go was close to where the lady leading the column lived.

We got no reply at the house to which I was due to be delivered, even after repeated attempts. By then it was Black-out dark and I was so tired. The kindly teacher decided, "You'd better come home with me and we will try again



later". We were met at the door by the Teacher's younger sister and very quickly I was in their sitting room in what seemed to me a massive comfortable armchair (we hadn't any armchairs at home) and I began nodding off. Well, we had been up very early and now it was well into the evening and I was only ten. All that was happening was being watched closely by Auntie Polly, a real Devonshire

83year old, who was soon saying to her two nieces (with oft repeated regularity) “Her-who! donee putt the poor mite ter bed”.

When several unsuccessful attempts had been made by the teacher to get a reply at the terraced house where I was due to go, ‘the poor little mite was put ter bed’ and (thanks Auntie Polly) that’s the home in which I stayed, a room of my own – wow – in the loving care of Miss Elsie Hayman, who kept house, and Miss Ethel Hayman, Headteacher of Brook Street Primary School.

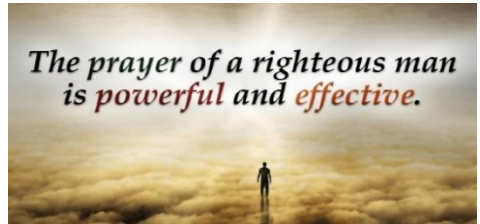
This was a real change in lifestyle for me; a bathroom and hot water tap which I’d never had and they were on the telephone!! Looking back, I wonder how, just how, did these two ladies manage to cope with a ten-year old of such a different background who had arrived in their home ‘out of the blue’ but they did and I know at times I was not an easy task or at all appreciative.

To be continued . . .

Jim Horsnell

Time To Pray

Have you been feeling a bit overwhelmed recently when thinking about the terrible war in Ukraine, the ongoing effects of the pandemic and now the economy crisis? Humanly we may not be in a position to man a food bank, take in refugees or actively help those in need. But as Christians we have the greatest weapon of all at our disposal – **prayer!** As we pray, things shift in the spiritual realm, walls start tumbling down, demonic strongholds break apart and broken hearts are healed. Let’s seek to give all the overwhelming situations to God and pray He will turn them around for His glory.



If you find it helpful, do use this prayer and encouragement guide over the next month.

1	<i>The Lord is my light and my salvation. Whom shall I fear? Ps 27:1</i>
2	Pray for all you know who need God's light of wisdom and the peace of His salvation.
3	Pray for those who are afraid or who suffer anxiety and other mental health conditions. For His great help and gift of peace.
4	<i>For your love is ever before me: Ps 26:3</i>
5	Thank Him that He is always with you. You can never be separated from His love.
6	Pray He will open the eyes of anyone you know of who is going through hard times, to recognize His love before them, behind them and all around them.
7	Pray for our Government, the Prime minister and Cabinet, for our local MP's and Council. Pray for wisdom, righteousness in high places and godly decision making.
8	<i>When my enemies attack me, they will stumble and fall. Though an army besiege me, my heart will not fear. Ps 27:2-3</i>
9	Pray for Ukraine, for those trapped in the underground system and for the cities like Mariupol. Pray the enemy will become confused and will stumble and fall in their efforts to bring devastation.
10	Pray for those who are displaced in Ukraine and elsewhere; For those who have lost everything; for those who are strangers now in foreign lands. Pray for kindness to surround each person in need.
11	Light a candle as a sign of hope for all who face the terror of darkness and death.
12	<i>I lie down and sleep. I wake again for the Lord sustains me. Ps. 3:5</i>
13	Thank Him for His gift of rest. Lift up to Him someone you love who is struggling and weary and pray He will sustain them.

14	Pray for Open Ears Chairperson, Anthea Owen, and for all needed wisdom in her role.
15	<i>I no longer call you servants. Instead I have called you friends. John 15:15</i>
16	Pray for those you know of who are isolated and alone, maybe struggling because of their deafness. Pray they will know the real friendship and help of the Lord. If you are struggling in that way thank Him that He is always with you, always your friend.
17	Pray for your church leaders that they will be anointed and enabled in their various roles. Pray for the global church that all will be witnesses of Christ's amazing love.
18	Pray for OE Treasurer, Julia Chapman, OE Administrator Christine Pitts and OE Vice Chair Mary Bucknall for wisdom and strength in their service to the deaf community through Open Ears.
19	Take a walk around the streets near your home and pray for blessing over each house, shop or workplace. Bless the schools, medical centres, refuse collectors and cafés and restaurants. Pray for awareness of the Lord to fill each home and street.
20	<i>I know the plans I have for you. Jer 29:11</i>
21	Pray for the future of Open Ears, that we will walk in God's plans and be made effective to reach the many with hearing loss and bring hope to all who feel isolated.
22	Pray for OE Trustee Marylin Kilsby who is having knee replacement surgery, for a successful operation and speedy, full recovery.
23	Pray for all those still affected by Covid, either with the actual illness, or through the loss of a loved one or through their own medical needs being deferred. Pray for wonderful help and resolution.
24	Pray for OE Speech to Text typist Susanne and for her husband Vic and children Nadine and Dominic. Pray God will provide for their every need.
25	Spend time enjoying the beauty of creation. Be refreshed by the Spring breezes and the warming

	sunshine. Worship Him as you gaze at the beautiful flowers, hear the birds singing and know He created you in such love.
26	Pray for Hearing Eye and myself and Anthea as we create it each quarter, that it will bear fruit and touch lives.
27	Pray for the royal family, especially the Queen in her greater frailty and for Charles and Camilla as they take on more of her duties.
28	<i>May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing. Romans 15:13</i>
29	Pray for those who feel bereft and are mourning, for new hope to fill their hearts.
30	Ask the Lord to use you in some special way to bless someone today.
31	<i>May the blessing of the Lord our God rest upon you day by day. May He keep and guide you, every step of the way. And may you know His peace, deep within your heart. And may His love control all you do and say. © Marilyn Baker</i>

Churchear Conference 5th to 9th September 2022

Living Out Christian Values **Haus Hainstein, Eisenach, Germany**

Churchear is a pan-European organisation with very similar aims and values to Open Ears. Open Ears has been a member of Churchear for several years. We always aim to support them by attending their conferences, which are usually held every other year.

This conference is a wonderful opportunity to meet in person with people from all over Europe and beyond, the majority of whom have hearing loss which varies from hard of hearing to a profound or total loss. I went to the conference in Denmark in 2016 and thoroughly

enjoyed myself. You would be made very welcome and included in every aspect of your stay. The conference languages are English and German. There will be speech to text in both languages for all the main meetings. Every effort is made to help with communication in the workshops, too. One of the speech to text providers is our very own Susanne Willdig. She is fluent in both English and German, which could come in handy 😊. Two Open Ears members are already booked to attend, so you won't be the only person from the UK.

Registrations for this conference close on 1st July, so please give this some thought sooner rather than later! More information and a registration form can be found on Churchear's website, www.churchear.org. Alternatively, you can phone, email or write to Christine Pitts, our Administrator, for a brochure, which also includes the registration form. Christine will also do her best to answer any practical questions you may have.

Marylin Kilsby



Keeping in Touch by Landline Phone

Although the Internet might be a means of communication for many, the landline phone is still indispensable for the majority of us. There are two factors to consider when using a landline phone: communicating over the phone and knowing when the phone is ringing.

Below is a brief guide to both of these aspects. I haven't gone into too much detail, as each of us has different requirements. There is no "one size fits all" answer! Mobile phones are a whole other option. These can be covered in a future Hearing Eye if you're interested!

1. Communicating by Phone

If you have a mild hearing loss, you may be able to manage with a standard phone. However, most of us need an amplified phone with a volume control, which adds loudness, plus a tone control, which can add clarity. Many amplified phones also have an induction loop in the handset that can be used with the T (for Telephone) switch on your hearing aid.

Most phones, even standard ones, have a Speaker option. When this option is chosen, the phone volume becomes louder. The speaker at the other end of the phone can therefore be heard from a greater distance, thus freeing the “hearer” from having to hold the handset. You might like to try your phone with the Speaker option, holding it closer to your ear or hearing aid. Experiment with caution, though, as it could be too loud for you, especially if you are also using amplification.



Corded phones

Corded phones are those where the handset is attached by a cord to the body of the phone. Although they can have the disadvantage of tethering you to one place near your phone socket, they can amplify better than the cordless ones. Many also have a tone control to boost the treble or bass tones, which can aid clarity.



Cordless phones

Cordless phones are the ones where the handset can be removed from the phone base and carried around your home. Even if they don't amplify so well, they could still be clearer, especially if they have a tone control as well as a volume control.

Trying out different phones

This is probably not possible at hearing aid departments or via charity exhibitions currently because of the covid situation. However, if you buy a phone from the RNID (Royal National Institute for Deaf People – website: www.rnid.org.uk, email: information@rnid.org.uk, phone 0808 808 0123) or another company, as listed on our website, you are normally given a 28 or 30 day trial period. You can then return the phone if it's not suitable and you will be refunded your payment.

Your local social services may be able to help with providing a suitable phone or at least advising you. However, the equipment they can give for free varies depending on where you live and often involves a long wait before they can assist you.

2. Phone Alerts

There are two main ways for knowing when the phone is ringing. One is for the phone to have a loud ring or other tone; the other is to use flashing lights, with or without a vibrating pad under-pillow pad.

Many amplified phones have a light on the handset which activates when the phone is ringing as well as a loud ring option. However, this isn't so useful if you're in a different room when the phone rings. In that case, other rooms might need to be fitted with extra sounders and / or lights that flash.

There are too many different alerts available to mention here, unless you want this article to take over the whole magazine, which I'm sure you don't! However, the RNID, other companies as listed on our website, or your local social services should be able to advise you as to what would suit you best.

Marilyn Kilsby

Please feel free to contact Open Ears via our Administrator, or via our mobile number, if you have specific queries. Our contact details are on the back page of this magazine.

Time to relax...

The Good Samaritan Parable

D	F	X	T	I	L	R	O	A	D	X	Z	D	G	D
T	S	I	R	H	C	O	M	O	P	C	H	O	C	Y
E	V	N	R	X	I	Z	R	M	D	R	S	O	X	F
L	T	P	T	J	X	E	E	D	D	N	T	G	U	W
B	K	Q	N	H	N	L	V	O	J	I	O	Q	Q	R
A	I	X	D	Z	A	M	G	E	X	J	R	K	F	R
R	N	H	V	S	D	O	X	Z	S	F	Y	P	H	I
A	D	O	U	R	T	S	A	M	A	R	I	T	A	N
P	N	R	U	A	H	R	R	Q	J	E	S	U	S	N
J	E	R	I	C	H	O	S	E	H	T	O	L	C	E
T	S	A	F	Z	D	Q	O	F	J	Y	N	H	N	K
T	S	R	H	P	L	Y	J	E	W	I	S	H	L	K
B	L	E	V	I	T	E	J	A	N	Z	D	A	U	I
O	Z	W	T	M	V	C	S	D	A	Q	W	V	A	L
T	P	S	E	G	A	D	N	A	B	C	A	L	N	U

BANDAGES

JERUSALEM

SAMARITAN

CHRIST

JESUS

STORY

CLOTHES

JEWISH

THIEVES

GOD

KINDNESS

WALK

GOOD

LEVITE

INN

PARABLE

JERICHO

ROAD

<http://sunday-schoollessons.blogspot.com/>

Travelling Adventures When Deaf

I travel quite a lot on public transport and always pray before my journey, as the fact that I am partially sighted as well as deaf can make things complicated at times.

Last week I was visiting my mum, a journey involving buses, trains and a taxi across London. Although I have poor vision, I don't book assistance on familiar journeys, but on this occasion, when I went to get my first train at my local station I was surprised to see the usual platform wasn't in operation. The ticket man knew me and asked for an official assistance person to take me to the temporary platform and they put me on the train. I relaxed and got off confidently at London Bridge with Bailey, my Hearing dog, and my suitcase. I was taken aback to be met by an assistance person and said I hadn't booked any. But he said they'd phoned through that I needed help, so I let him take me out to the taxi rank and he helped me in. I told the driver 'Liverpool Street Station, please' and we were on our way.

A few minutes later I was glancing casually out the window as we went through the busy streets. I noticed 2 police officers and was shocked when the taxi pulled into the curb and called them over. The driver spoke to them through the front window. I couldn't hear, and so was even more shocked when they opened my passenger door and asked me to get out! Were they about to arrest me? Did they think Bailey was a drug courier? All these questions raced through my mind as I scrambled out and stood before them expecting handcuffs to go on at any moment!



More talking which of course I couldn't hear! Eventually I realized the taxi driver had asked them to escort me into the station because he couldn't get up to the usual entrance and as I'd had the assistance, he wasn't sure if I would manage on my own from an unknown place. It was actually a real kindness, but it did make me laugh. Especially when I asked one of the officers if I could take her arm as we had to negotiate steps and I am unsteady. That looked even more like I was under arrest!

God provides help in mysterious ways!

Tracy Williamson

Mission Statement - Open Ears

Open Ears is a non denominational Christian Charity (Charity No 1181896) for people who have various degrees of impaired hearing, mainly (but not exclusively) those who communicate orally assisted by hearing aids, cochlear implants and lip reading. It aims to provide accessible fellowship, Bible teaching, prayer support and pastoral care; to produce informative literature and a quarterly magazine, **Hearing Eye**. We may also give a proportion of our donated income to specified Christian charities and other organisations involved in supporting people with hearing loss.

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

'Open Ears' is a registered Charitable Incorporated Organisation No 1181896

**Open Ears is led by a Committee formed of Trustees and Committee Members who meet together quarterly
Of the Trustees, Anthea Owen is Chairperson; Christine Pitts is Administrator and Julia Chapman is Treasurer**

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