

NEUCHÂTEL CHURCH MAGAZINE – SEPTEMBER 2009

FOR YOUR DIARY

Bible Study evenings, held at the home of Roy and Mieke Farrar (see above):

Tuesday September 1st at 8 pm

Tuesday September 15th at 8 pm

Tuesday September 29th at 8 pm

Debate @ Eight discussion evenings, at Roy and Mieke's home:

Sunday September 6th at 8 pm

ADVANCE NOTICE: HARVEST FESTIVAL PLEDGE SERVICE AND SUPPER
on **Sunday, October 25th at 5 pm**

From Roy and Mieke

Mieke and I were privileged to spend two glorious weeks touring Scotland this summer, and during one of our walks on the Island of Skye when we came across



this ruined house on one of the headland of the Island. Our thoughts went to imagining the families that once were here and all of the life that must have occurred around this house, but now it was totally abandoned and ruined, the nearest habitation being some 10 kms away.

What had happened to cause the population to move away?

What histories could be told around the walls of this house?

The question that arose in our minds was about a walker coming to Neuchâtel in a few years time and wondering about the English Church. Would they find just faint memories of the family that had been there, or would they find a vibrant and lively community that was still proactive in spreading the good news of Jesus Christ?



Quite a challenge before us as a church; will we grow and be more creative in our worship and influence or will we just fade into an insignificant memory?



To help us to grow we will be exploring new ways to be church over the next few months, with the start of a daytime **ALPHA** course in September, in which we shall explore the basics of the Christian faith in an open and interactive way. The precise details of the day and time will be arranged to suit those who want to come.

We are also continuing the new Sunday evening event "Debate @ Eight" this provides an opportunity for open debate about a whole range of topics. The purpose is to explore a subject and listen to the questions, queries and different points of view that people might have in an informal atmosphere

We started with "The Holy Spirit" and the next ones will cover topics such as "Forgiveness - not bearing grudges", "Homosexuality" and "Do all roads lead to God".

Both of these activities will allow us to grow and become more effective in our witness and impact on the community.

Another point of growth on my heart is for **many more** people to become active in leading our services, prayers and preaching. I believe that one of the prime roles of a church leader is to liberate and set free people's gift for ministry. If you would like to be involved, talk to me and I will support your exploration.