



## NEWSLETTER SUMMER 2014

### Report from Adrian

Dear Friends,

By the time you receive this newsletter I will have returned from my visit to Korçe, Albania with my daughter, Carla.

As you will know by now, this yearly visit, and the extraordinary range of people with whom we have developed very special relationships, has become an integral part of my own journey. The work with children, young people and adults from all sorts of vulnerable backgrounds, and with many varied needs and difficulties, has enriched me every bit as much as I've been able to bless and encourage them.

There's something really special about knowing a place so well. As well as friends we've known for many years now, there's also the church community, the Kennedy Institute staff, the beautiful family hotel we always stay in, the extraordinary number of Pizza restaurants, cafés, market and Korçe beer(!), all of which contribute to making this

visit feel like a kind of homecoming.

As you'll remember, last year we were able to return with Elena, one of the full time workers at the House on the Hill. And how she learned and received so much during her time with us, and at Three Ways school. It will be so good to see how she's been able to implement some of what she learned here in Bath.

And this year I'm planning to work closely with Alda, who is working regularly and increasingly with folk on the autistic spectrum in the region of Korçe. As well as offering her support and training 'in situ', I'm also hoping to start the process of getting her over to the UK – once again to Three Ways – where there would be so much on offer in terms of expertise and experience around this very special and complex group of people.

And as far as 'partnerships' are concerned, well there are very few people I enjoy working and 'chilling' with more than... Carla, my beautiful daughter!

Over the years we've learned so

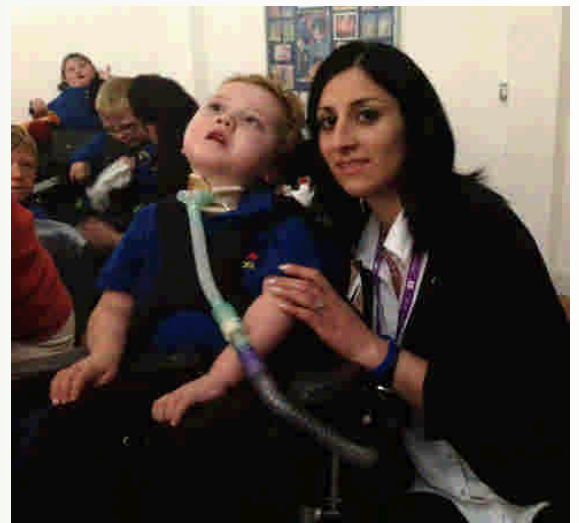


much about the most effective way of complementing each other's gifts and ways of communicating. As a result I just feel SO comfortable working with her. And with all the 'Fierce Love' material to draw upon when appropriate, well, I'm also anticipating



*Above: 'You are beautiful'. A simple mirror delights an elderly resident of a home in Korçe.*

*Above right: Poster in Korçe advertising the concert to be performed by Adrian and Carla*



*Right: Elena at Three Ways School in 2013*



Above: Adrian is seen performing tracks from his new CD 'Fierce Love' with Carla

## Paul Hobbs News

a very fulfilling time musically too.

Probably the highlight of the year for me personally was the launch of 'Fierce Love' last September. The Coverdale Trust hosted a wonderful launch concert / party here in Bath. We had a full house, with friends, family, various interested parties, and, perhaps most important to me, many colleagues from Three Ways School. This



was followed just a week later by the BBC Radio 4 programme on Sunday morning entitled 'Fearfully and Wonderfully Made', which was broadcast from Three Ways, and featured songs from the new album\*. According to the producer not only was the programme listened to by up to one and a half million people, but the following day the BBC had more audience response (positive!) to this than any other R4 programme.....what a start to Fierce Love!

Again, thank you from the heart for your support in this work. I know it's said so often, and can feel like a cliché, but TRULY these visits could not happen without you.....and none of us can really know just how many people have been touched in one way or another over the years of these visits....

The Lord bless and keep you, and make His face to shine upon you,  
Shalom,  
**Adrian**

\* The Sunday worship service was duly shortlisted for a broadcast award as the listener response had been in the words of the Producer 'exceptional'. Along with Revd. Martin Lloyd Williams (Trustee), Adrian attended the Sandford St Martins Awards Evening at Lambeth Palace although unfortunately did not receive a prize. Nevertheless it was a great accolade to have got so far.

### Database Update

If you would be happy to receive the Coverdale Newsletter and other information about the Trust via email please contact the Secretary, Anne Pettifor (annepettifor47@hotmail.com).

This would help to reduce postage and printing costs and would enable you to be kept informed of events throughout the year.

If you no longer wish to receive news of the Trust please advise the Secretary either by email as given above, (or post to Anne Pettifor, 47 Caxton End, Eltisley, Huntingdon PE19 6TJ).

'I don't like art, but yours is great!' said one teenage girl who had spent half an hour looking round the show with her mum. By the end of the week she had returned twice, and her mum had signed up for the Christianity Explored Course.

'I really appreciated the explanations you gave', wrote one adult. 'It's a long time since I saw work of such power in a local setting. Praise God who is in it', commented another.

They say a picture is worth a thousand words. Certainly the pictures and sculptures I showed provoked several thousand words this year. Many great questions were asked about the gospel and many valuable discussions were held. But if a picture is worth a thousand words, what is a single word worth? It depends on the word, the context and the way it is spoken. So too with pictures, how they are made, framed, arranged and displayed. For me, the hardest part of any exhibition event is setting up the show. When the set up is right, the conversations follow. If classes stand at the entrance and gasp with excitement at the artwork, then you know they will be interested to talk about the ideas behind it.

The most important part of a show is relating to the people who come. If the impact of the communication – visual or verbal – depends on the delivery, then we must be sensitive to both the viewer and to God's promptings. Tuning in and listening to visitors is as much part of the event as the artwork. The welcome from people at the host venue is itself an act of witness. The sense of drawing people closer to Christ is more important than all of the exhibits.

Sometimes the conversations are directly about the imagery, sometimes about people's lives, and sometimes both. I pray for God's leading in the conversations, to respect people's opinions, whilst directing them towards gospel truths.

In the last year I showed at five churches and schools, each time running a solid week of talks and events at the show. At Danbury Mission, Essex, more than 800 visits were made to the show – which included a dinner talk and a 'Parkinson style chat show' about art and faith. At St Thomas' Church, Goring-on-Thames, there were five classes of schoolchildren, an invitation dinner and a ladies supper party, as well as a Sunday Sermon considering 'Are we just playing with (belief in) God?'



In the autumn, at Merchant Taylor's School, London pupils from diverse racial and religious backgrounds felt very comfortable discussing the gospel themes presented in the show. 34 classes attended the show at Harrogate Ladies College, Yorkshire. The RE teacher so loved the Ten Words installation, and the changes I made to it each day, that he asked to introduce the exhibit himself to the classes. Another show was held at The Bridge, Tadcaster, Yorkshire where many adults were deeply touched by the stories of faith in Holy Ground, and deeply challenged by the issues of suffering and forgiveness.

Additionally I spent time encouraging theological students to explore how art can engage people with the gospel, and ran workshops with All Nations Bible College, Ridley Hall and other Cambridge Theological Colleges and the Guildford Cathedral Education Department.

One comment summarized the feelings of many:

'Thank you for what you are doing. I was really blessed by the project ... what a great tool and gift the Lord has given you to challenge and encourage the church with and share with unbelievers.'

And just as they have thanked me, may I thank you for all the support and encouragement that you have given me towards this work through the Coverdale Trust. I am so grateful to the Lord for what has been a very fruitful year.

**Paul**

*Paul talking to pupils at Merchant Taylors' School*



*Exhibition at Harrogate Ladies College*



*Exhibition at Danbury Mission, Essex*



### BOOKINGS

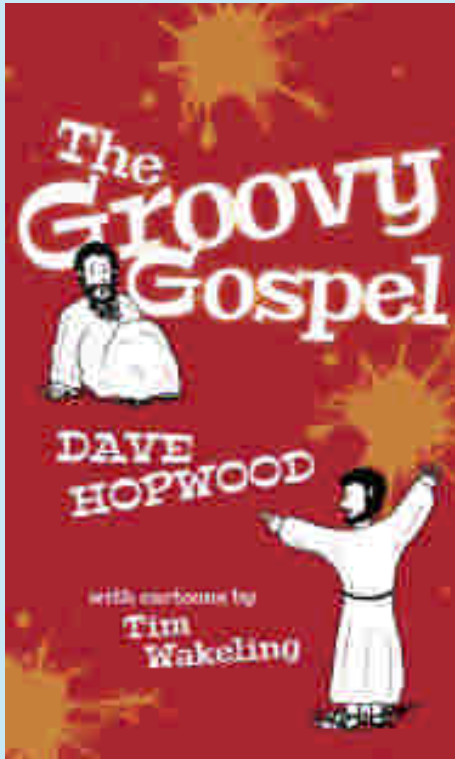
As you will have gathered, Paul can be booked to do a variety of different exhibitions, talks and workshops. Do have a look at his website [www.arthobbs.com](http://www.arthobbs.com) for further ideas and contact him to discuss opportunities.

### FORTHCOMING EVENTS FOR 2014-15

Paul will be exhibiting and giving talks at:

- St Germain's Church, Edgbaston from 8th to 13th October 2014
- Hexham Abbey, Northumberland from 20th to 24th October 2014
- St John's Northgate Methodist Church, Gloucester from 10th to 21st November 2014
- Liverpool Anglican Cathedral, from 16th to 26th February 2015
- Christ Church, Abingdon, March 2015

## Dave Hopwood's News



Dave continues to go out and about communicating the Bible using contemporary media, humour and stories.

Recently he has been speaking in Bath, Yorkshire, Stoke and Devon and in the near future has bookings for film nights, men's events, a youth evening, some church services and a few conferences. If you would like to know more about booking Dave to speak please just email him - [dave@davehopwood.com](mailto:dave@davehopwood.com).

Dave has begun publishing a Biblically-based reflection on his website every Friday. These draw on recent films, and can be found on the website under the heading of Film Friday. To see them just have a look at - [www.davehopwood.com](http://www.davehopwood.com). He also publishes a regular thought for the day in 50 words. A link to this, entitled 50/50 Creative Bible Thoughts, can also be found on his website.

Book-wise Dave has recently published two books for children *The Groovy Gospel* and *Jonny and the Fog*. Details of these and his other books can be found on his website. He is currently working on a book of new parables for adults, just called Parables, and a Bible course drawing on the film *Machine Gun Preacher*.



## Chairman's Report

Dear Friends of Coverdale

Welcome to our Summer Newsletter outlining our activities and those of the artists we support. You will see that they have all been very busy and the trustees are always so impressed when presented with their reports at our meetings.

At a recent Trust meeting we discussed our future strategy and concluded that our Vision and Mission statements are still valid and continue to provide us with a road map in terms of our future direction. However it was agreed that we should endeavor to increase the number of trustees and look to provide a greater and broader depth to our thinking. If anyone would like to get involved and feel they have a contribution to make please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Our meeting also discussed the question

of finance as it was felt by all trustees that this is our limiting factor in that there are so many opportunities for us to support artists, restricted only by our ability to provide financial assistance. Whilst we really do appreciate your financial support, we as trustees are very keen to encourage further opportunities for giving thereby enabling us to provide not only additional support to our existing artists but to broaden our support base also.

We hope you enjoy reading this newsletter and feel inspired and, possibly, humbled by the work being carried out, due entirely to your generosity, support and prayers. We thank each and every one of you.

John Pettifor

Keep up-to-date

For further information on the artists supported by the Coverdale Trust visit our website: [www.thecoverdaletrust.org](http://www.thecoverdaletrust.org) which has a link to the individual websites of Adrian, Paul and Dave.

### Gift Aid and Standing Orders

If you pay tax and would like to Gift Aid your donation, please let Geoff Bishop know. The Trust can claim an extra 25p for every £1 given.

Standing Orders are also a very helpful way of giving regularly so please ask for a form if you are interested.

Donations can be made direct to the Trust account using the following:

BIC: MIDLGB2102G

BAN: B63MIDL40091911731157

The Coverdale Trust, 47 Caxton End, Eltisley, Huntingdon PE19 6TJ  
[johnpettifor47@hotmail.com](mailto:johnpettifor47@hotmail.com) [www.thecoverdaletrust.org](http://www.thecoverdaletrust.org)