

SALEM BAPTIST CHURCH

LADY LANE, LONGFORD, COVENTRY



**MESSENGER
APRIL 2011**

Dear Friends

We come to that time of the year when we celebrate with mixed emotions the account of Easter.

As we celebrate on Easter Sunday morning the rising of our Lord Jesus are we in danger of forgetting that a price was paid for us all. Jesus was prepared to lay down His life for his friends.

Yes, you and I along with all of humanity are his friends; we must never fall into believing that Jesus is for the few, those who would follow him.

When we read and understand the ministry of Jesus we see 'love in action' a life given for the broken, shattered and fallen of this world.

Jesus seeks out those who would seek forgiveness and turn to him in repentance.

Luke 23:40 'But the other criminal protested, don't you fear God even when you have been sentenced to die? We deserve to die for our crimes but this man has done nothing wrong'. Then he said, 'Jesus remember me when you come into your Kingdom'.

And Jesus replied, 'I assure you, today you will be with me in paradise'.

Jesus is alive and working in the world, seeking to open up the lives of those who have closed their hearts to Him. We are called to be his disciples working in the world; that is our local community and beyond, seeking to save the lost.

- May he open our eyes to his presence in everyday life?
- May he open windows of opportunity to enable us to speak and witness to all he has done for us?
- May he continue to open up the Scriptures to us so we might receive a fresh understanding of the Word of God?
- May he give us hands ready to receive all that he and others are willing to give?

As we face this new and exciting time in the life of both churches may we know the guiding of the 'Risen Lord Jesus' in every decision we make.

As we share in a time of reflection on Maundy Thursday, Communion on Good Friday and Praise and Thanksgiving on Easter Day, let us reflect on a world in need at this time. May our Easter be a time of sharing and reflecting on the call of Jesus to 'Follow Him?'

A very happy Easter to all

Mike

Minister and Friend

Sandra and I would like to say a BIG THANK YOU for your love and support over the last three years. Yes it is three years since we came among you, responding to the call placed on my life to serve you as your minister.

What exciting times these have been and what wonderful opportunities await us into the future. I'm convinced that God by His Grace and Power will make it abundantly clear in the days ahead where we will build our new Spiritual home. Trust in the Lord always and He will meet our needs.

Sandra and I would like to invite you all to supper on Friday 6th May

The cost will be £4.00 for adults £2.00 for children

All proceeds will go to the 'New Church Building Fund'

Mike

I would like to say 'Thank You' to everyone who has sent me get well cards, gifts, flowers and phone calls following my recent surgery. Many thanks to Mike for his pastoral visits and to all who have prayed for me and my family through this difficult time.

I am making steady progress and hope to be with you on a regular basis very soon.

Many thanks again

Glenys

**WELCOME TO THE NEW ARRIVAL
RUBY LOUISE TRIXIE LOVICK
BORN ON 18TH MARCH
TO CHRISTINA AND CRAIG
A GRAND-DAUGHTER FOR PAM AND CLIFF
CONGRATULATIONS AND BEST WISHES TO ALL**

**GREAT EXPECTATIONS!
SARAH AND ANDREW STRINGER
WISH TO ANNOUCE THEY ARE EXPECTING
A BABY IN AUGUST**

I am considering starting an Adult Tap Dance Class in late April. This will be for beginners and will consist of gentle exercise and fun!

If you are interested, please contact me and express your preferred evening either by phone (07969033114) or the contact page on my website <http://www.dance-zone-academy.co.uk>.

Sarah Stringer

Pastoral

We remember:

Glenys who, at the time of writing, is still not able to start her radiotherapy treatment due to the wound still needing to be drained.

Marianne who is likely to be in hospital for some time with her mental stress but should, hopefully, have had a scan by the time you read this. She is also missing her grandmother who died recently and to whom she was very close.

Paul Smith whose mother, Grace, died rather unexpectedly at the grand age of 91.

Sheila Grant who is, at the time of writing, in Hall Green Residential Home whilst her leg heals.

A joint deacons meeting was held on 24th March with Ms Karen Martindale, Association Administrator and Company Secretary and Rev Barrie Smith, Regional Minister.

Subject to meeting a legal framework, we are on track to bring both congregations into one church to be known as **LONGFORD BAPTIST CHURCH**. We can, in the interim, remain on two sites while we undertake our feasibility studies and re-model the leadership of the church. We hope to keep each member up to date via the Messenger and joint Church Meetings.

Having agreed to form one church, Rev Mike, Pastor Paul and the Deacons would be pleased to receive any comments re the development of one or both sites. It would be of real value if you could put your thoughts down in writing and pass them to the relevant church secretaries. The closing date will be Wednesday 4th May to receive your comments. The joint deacons will meet on 5th May to consider the proposals and to offer a way forward for discussion by both churches at a future joint church meeting. Other than the need to value the properties held no financial expenditure will be made without approval.

Please continue to pray for the ongoing work and the need to be guided by God in what we might achieve together.

Mike

BMS BIRTHDAY SCHEME – APRIL

8 th	Betty Cater
10 th	Philip Gadsby
13 th	Vera Lole
17 th	Melanie Lovick

FLOWERS IN CHURCH – APRIL

3 rd	Vera Lole
10 th	Flower fund
17 th	Ann and Philip Sephton
24 th	Easter flowers

DIARY DATES

Every Sunday morning at Salem 10.45 am – Worship in Song

Sunday Worship

3rd Salem 11.00 am Mothering Sunday/Communion – Rev Mike and Sandra followed by tea/coffee

3rd Union Place 6.00 pm Communion – Pastor Paul

10th Salem 11.00 am – Rev Mike

10th Salem 6.00 pm - Rev Mike

17th Salem 11.00 am Palm Sunday – Rev Mike

17th Union Place 6.00 pm – Rev Mike

24TH EASTER SUNDAY – JOINT SERVICES ALL AT SALEM

9.00 am Communion

9.30 am Breakfast

11.00 am Praise and Thanksgiving/Communion – Rev Mike

6.00 pm Praise and Thanksgiving/Communion – Rev Mike

Other dates

5th Union Place AGM 7.30 pm

5th Children's Club 6.30 pm

6th Lent Study 7.30 pm Exhall Methodist Church

7th Joint Church meeting at Union Place 7.30 pm

9th Christian Aid Coffee morning at St Thomas's 10.30 am – 12 noon

9th Induction of the Rev Ronnie Hall at Rugby BC 2.30 pm

12th Children's Club 6.30 pm

13th Lent Study 7.30 pm Exhall Methodist Church

16th Coffee morning at Union Place 10.30 am – 12 noon

19th Ladies group 2.00 pm at Farmcote – Easter Praise

19th Children's Club 6.30 pm

20th Ladies group 7.00 pm – Easter Garden

21st Maundy Thursday at Salem 7.30 pm – Reflection

22nd Good Friday at Salem 10.30 am – Communion followed by refreshments

22nd Good Friday at Exhall Methodist 7.00 pm

29th April to 2nd May Baptist Assembly – Blackpool – **'YOUR KINGDOM COME'**

There will be no Monday Bible Study during April however we invite you all to share in the Wednesday Lent Group meeting at Exhall Methodist Church, Blackhorse Lane at 7.30 pm

There will be no Children's Club on 26th April and 2nd May.

Advance dates

5th May Church Members meeting 7.30 pm

6th May Mike and Sandra's Supper 6.30 pm

22nd May Sunday School Anniversary 2.30 pm followed by tea

10th June Ladies Supper at Union Place 6.30 pm – Guest speaker Mrs Sue Over

MINISTER: REV MICHAEL EDWARDS
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Mr Norman Stringer

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Items for the May Messenger due on or before Sunday 24th April
Would anyone be able to assist in typing the notes for this month?
If so please speak to Sue asap