

SALEM BAPTIST CHURCH

LADY LANE LONGFORD COVENTRY



**MESSENGER
DECEMBER 2009
JANUARY 2010**

Dear Friends

I wonder if you have come across this?

I dreamt death came to me at night
and Heaven's gate flew wide;
With kindly grace, St Peter came
and ushered me inside.
There to my astonishment
were folk I'd known on Earth;
Some I had labelled as unfit,
and some of little worth
Indignant words flew to my lips
- words I could not set free!
For every face showed stunned surprise;
- no-one expected me.

I'm amazed how often I hear people speak about Heaven. The most unbelieving people speak of their loved ones as being "up there" with other people they had known, as if they were painting the town [or the clouds] red, together again now.

People have this belief that, having ignored God for all of their human lives, there is a place in Heaven for them. An odd idea; If I were an atheist, or even if I didn't like God very much, I would find it hard to think that on dying I would be sent to a place where I would have to worship him for ever and ever. It might be like a dead vegetarian being sent to an eternal pig farm, or a teetotaler being sent to a 24x7 public house in the sky. [For some that might seem like heaven!]

Scripture teaches that JESUS set up the Kingdom of Heaven on Earth, and that Christians who choose to become part of that Kingdom naturally continue at death into the heavenly part of that Kingdom – their love for God and their worship continue, even better.

It says [John 3:16 for example] that those who "put their trust in him" in this life, will be given the gift of everlasting life. It teaches that it is quite irrelevant how good or bad you might have been on Earth, but very relevant whether you have followed and trusted Jesus, and through him acclaimed God as your Father.

As we look forward to this Advent season may we be mindful of the gift we have been given in JESUS.

Christmas is not about "turkey and tinsel" but a reminder, that God sent his Son into the world to "save it not condemn it". He sent his Son so that you and I might have everlasting life; to do so means placing our trust in Him each and every day, so on the day of judgment we might find ourselves worshipping with the Heavenly hosts.

I wish you all a Blessed Christmas and a Healthy and Peaceful New Year.

In Christ

Mike. Minister and Friend

Baptist Union of Great Britain

Prayer Diary

DECEMBER

CHRISTMAS

Let the eyes sparkle, the children lose sleep,
the excitement build, the shopping stress us out!!!
Let the church be filled with carols, glitter, tinsel, expectation.
Then, Lord, fill us with peace and joy and hope as
you are once more born into our Christmas.

We pray in the name of the Christmas baby who is
our Lord and Saviour.
Amen

06 – 12 December 2009

The Baptist Times

The *Baptist Times* is the denomination's weekly newspaper. It contains local, national and international Baptist and Christian news, feature articles, reviews, and opinion pieces from Baptist ministers and others. Pray for imagination and vision on the part of the editorial team. Pray that the team will continue to work well together to deliver a high-quality publication and that more will subscribe to the paper.

13 – 19 December 2009

Lode Chapel, Cambridgeshire (Eastern)

Lode Chapel serves five villages located midway between Cambridge and Newmarket. Its minister, Simon Goddard, was ordained in August 2008 and is BUGB Mission Grant-aided. In 2006 Lode Chapel initiated a monthly fresh expression of church called 'Sunday Club'. In partnership with the local Anglicans, this event, now renamed 'RE:NEW', is taking place fortnightly and is growing into a new congregation. As the church plant develops, the existing congregation at Lode Chapel (which has just over twenty members) is seeking a distinct vision for its own future ministry and mission. Please pray for this, and for the future of 'RE:NEW' – that there will continue to be church unity, and for resources and personnel to help both expressions of church grow and flourish.

20 – 26 December 2009

Christmas

Christmas is an excellent time to connect with our communities. Many Baptist churches in Leicestershire do this through Sing Christmas an interactive carol service organised by the Leicestershire Churches Media Trust and broadcast live by BBC Radio Leicester. Churches invite and help community venues to join in with the broadcast. Pubs, clubs, community centres, care homes, etc tune in, play it out and people sing along. Pray for Sing Christmas and other similar BBC carol services (Real Christmas Carol, Big Christmas Carol Services etc) across the country, that they will attract many non-Christians. Pray for those organising the services and deciding on the content. Pray for all those involved in carol services and other Christmas festivities: that they will be inspired and refreshed by God.

27 December 2009 – 02 January 2010

Worship

Pray for worship in its various forms across the Union. Pray for churches in the Union who struggle to get able and willing people to lead worship and for those whose leaders are feeling burnt out that they will be supported and refreshed. Pray that God will lead those preparing worship for next year's Baptist Assembly and Leading Edge. Cambrensis Choir is a choir from South Wales with Baptist links. Pray that they will be able to spread the good news of Jesus Christ through song and testimony at their concerts. Phil Williams from Baptist church, the Millmead Centre in Guildford, has launched a social network site for worship leaders called He Must Increase. Pray that this website will be an encouragement and inspiration to worship groups around the country.

PASTORAL

We're still supporting the hospital and using their services.

Sandra is home and is going through the recuperating process following her gallstone operation.

Dulcie is in hospital at the time of writing having blood checks and drips for various disorders.

Marie is waiting to go into hospital for cataract operation and her phlebitis is giving her some pain.

Bob Batchelor has been in hospital and is now being nursed at home.

Collette has seen the consultant and now has to wait to see if the 'team' think it wise to perform an operation of her back.

Glenys is looking forward to February to the end of her Herceptin treatment. May be having some treatment to her other eye.

Please remember all these people in your prayers not forgetting **Sheila** who had another fall which has meant increased immobility again.

The funeral service for Mavis Black took place at Salem on Monday 9th November. Mavis, then named Swift, attended Salem in her youth and we extend to her children and families our sympathy on their loss.

Our sympathy and prayers are sent to John's sister Linda in Australia whose husband, Malcolm, passed away on 2nd November. Linda nursed Malcolm for a number of years following his brain injury and we think of her as she adjusts to life without him.

Vera Lole has now moved to No. 3 Farmcote and we hope you will be comfortable and happy there Vera.

BMS Birthday Scheme for December

3 rd	Sue Smith
9 th	John Grimley
20 th	Jill Benn

BMS Birthday Scheme for January

7 th	Neil Worwood
8 th	Sue Bucknall
19 th	Janet Thorneycroft

20th Margaret Roue
24th Sandra Edwards
28th John Tomlinson

60 YEARS

JUST A STEPPING STONE - IT'S THE YOUTH OF OLD AGE

CONGRATULATIONS AND BEST WISHES

TO

CAROL CORDEN

as she celebrates this day

on 4th January

We would like to thank everyone who so generously donated gifts and money for the Shoebox Appeal. We have filled twenty seven boxes and they are being sent to Libya this year.

We could have sent more but we did not have enough boxes so next year keep all your boxes for us.

Any left over items we have stored away for next year and some that were too big we have donated to the Autumn Fayre and the Toy Service.

Once again thank you.

From the Sunday School Pupils and Teachers.

Flower Rota for December

6th Sandra and Mike
13th Vera Lole and Sue Bucknall
20th Christmas flowers
27th Christmas flowers

Flower Rota for January

3 rd	Christmas flowers
10 th	Vacant
17 th	Vacant
24 th	Vacant
31 st	Sue for John's birthday

Dear Friends

Can I say a '**BIG THANK YOU**' to both churches for your prayers, cards, gifts, meals, phone calls and visits during my stay in hospital and on returning home.

All of the above has been much appreciated not only by myself but Mike also.
It's good to know we are part of a caring and loving church.

God bless you all.

Sandra

We would like to thank our family and friends for cards, gifts, prayers and best wishes received on the occasion of Lucy's 1st birthday and her Dedication on Sunday 1st November. We had a lovely day and would thank Mike for a lovely dedication service which was enjoyed by all the family.

Laura and Mark

Many thanks to all my friends at Salem for the beautiful cards for my birthday, the words in them were so overwhelming, I had a lovely day.

God bless you all.

Sheila

Our thanks to all who supported the Autumn Fayre and Auction which encouraged those who worked so hard in preparing for, and clearing up after, the occasion.

Once again we topped the £1,500 mark and the money will go towards the necessary alterations taking place on the premises.

Christmas Post Box

There will be a post box in the vestibule for people sending Christmas cards to people who attend church and a box for donations in lieu of postage.

There will also be a list for those members of church and congregation who wish to make a donation to the church instead of sending Christmas cards to individuals.

Growing old gracefully

Keep me from the fatal habit of thinking that I must say something on every subject and on every occasion. Release me from craving to straighten out everybody's affairs. Keep my mind free from the recital of endless details; give me wings to get to the point. Seal my lips on my aches and pains. Keep me reasonably sweet. I do not want to be a saint, some of them are so hard to live with, but a sour old person is one of the crowing works of the devil. Give me the ability to see good things in unexpected places, and the talents in unexpected people. And give me, Lord, the grace to tell them so.

Eternal Truth

Isn't it strange that princes and kings
and clowns that perform in circus rings
and ordinary people like you and me
are the makers of eternity?
To each is given a bag of tools
An hourglass and a book of rules
Each one will make –'ere his time has flown
A stumbling block or a stepping stone.

Submitted by Alan Thorneycroft

Special Poem for Older Folks

A row of bottles on my shelf caused me to analyse myself.
One yellow pill I have to pop goes to my heart so it won't stop.
A little white one that I take goes to my hands so they won't shake.
The blue ones that I use a lot tell me I'm happy when I'm not.
The purple pill goes to my brain and tells me that I have no brain.
The capsules tell me not to wheeze or cough or even sneeze.
The red ones, smallest of them all go to my blood so I won't fall.
The orange ones, very big and bright prevent my legs having cramp at night.
Such an array of brilliant pills helping to cure all kinds of ills.
But what I'd really like to know is who tells each one where to go!

Taken from The Ring and Ride Newsletter and submitted by Sheila Grant

GOD IS PROTECTING YOU

'He permitted no man to do them wrong.....' 1 Chronicles 16:21

What would you be willing to do to protect your child from harm? Multiply that by infinity and you'll understand how much God cares for you.

Nebuchadnezzar took sacred vessels from the temple in Jerusalem and put them in a pagan temple (Daniel 1:1-2). Later, his son Belshazzar, now king, during a drunken feast, took these goblets and drank from them

(Daniel 5:3). Now, if they'd mishandled some worthless old cup it might not have mattered, but God had too much invested in these sacred vessels to allow them to be mistreated. That night, Nebuchadnezzar and his entire kingdom were destroyed because of this unchanging bible principle: 'He permitted no man to do them wrong; yes, He rebuked kings for their sakes, saying, ".....Do not touch My anointed ones....." (1 Chronicles 16:21-22).

As God's redeemed child you are loved, valued and protected. So stand on that truth. You may have to fight in a foreign land, or live and work in a difficult situation. You may have to endure great hardship for your faith. But understand; God's got too much invested in you to let you be destroyed. Any time Satan tries that, God will interrupt his party and say, 'This vessel is off limits; it took me too long to teach this woman to pray. I've devoted too many hours to training this man how to overcome. They've learned how to stand amidst trials. They've suffered too much for My name's sake for Me to let you harm them. Take your hand off them, they're Mine!' Rejoice, today God is protecting you!

Taken from UCB's free daily devotional 'The Word for Today'.
Submitted by Julie Lantsbery

Ladies Group 8th December 12 noon

Christmas lunch £5.00

Names to Barbara Dillam please by 29th November

There are places available

We invite you to join us

HAPPY CHRISTMAS TO MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

No meeting in January 2010

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

If anyone is interested in attending The Baptist Assembly: 30th April to 3rd May 2010 in Plymouth would you please let John know before end January 2010 so that he can register as early as possible. Thank you.

The Assembly theme is 'One World, One Mission'.



Diary dates for December

Every Sunday morning at Salem 10.45 am – Worship in Song

Sunday Worship

6th Salem 11.00 am Toy service and Communion – Rev Mike
6th Union Place 6.00 pm Communion and Thanksgiving Service for the life of
Barbara Patch followed by refreshments – Pastor Paul

13th Salem 11.00 am – Rev Mike
13th Salem 6.00 pm Communion – Rev Mike

20th Salem 11.00 am All Age Nativity (followed by refreshments)
20th Salem 6.00 pm Carols and Christingle (followed by refreshments)
(Offering to The Children's Society)

25th CHRISTMAS DAY at Salem 10.30 am – Bring a present!

27th Salem 11.00 am
27th St Thomas's 4.00 pm Nine Lessons and Carols

Other events – December

3rd Prayer time 6.45 pm followed by Church Members meeting 7.30 pm
6th Toy service – New toys and gifts suitable for children which will be forwarded to Coventry City
Mission
7th Bible study 7.15 pm at Paul and Sheila's
8th Ladies group – see separate notice
12th Christian Aid coffee morning at St Thomas's 10.30 am – 12 noon (Salem)
17th Carol Singing – Starting from St Thomas's at 7.00 pm and ending at Exhall Methodist for
refreshments
21st 'Wednesday Ladies' meal

Diary dates for January

Every Sunday morning at Salem 10.45 am – Worship in Song

Sunday Worship

3rd Salem 11.00 am Communion – Rev Mike
3rd Union Place 6.00 pm Communion – Pastor Paul
10th Salem 11.00 am Re-Dedication Service – Rev Mike (followed by refreshments)

- 10th Salem 6.00 pm – Rev Mike
- 17th Salem 11.00 am – Rev Mike
17th Union Place 6.00 pm – Rev Mike
- 24th Salem 11.00 am All Age Worship – Rev Mike
24th Salem 6.00 pm Communion – Rev Mike
- 31st Union Place 10.45 am – Rev Mike
31st Union Place 6.00 pm – Rev Mike

Other events – January

- 9th Christian Aid coffee morning at St Thomas's 10.30 am – 12 noon (Exhall)
- 15th Longford on Stage present CINEMA-TASTIC
- 16th Longford on Stage present CINEMA-TASTIC
- 24th Last day for notes for February 2010 messenger
- 27th Wednesday Ladies group 7.00 pm DVD night
- 28th Joint Church Members meeting 7.00 pm at Salem
Followed by Salem Deacons meeting

Future events – February

- 4th Church Members Annual General Meeting at 7.30 pm
- 16th Pancake evening at 6.00 pm – Tickets available end January

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