

# **SALEM BAPTIST CHURCH**

**LADY LANE, LONGFORD, COVENTRY**



**MESSENGER  
FEBRUARY 2010**

Dear friends

If you could ask God for one miracle in your life, knowing that it would be answered, what would you ask him?

Bill Hybels in his book 'Too Busy Not to Pray- Slowing down to be with God' suggests the following:-

- 1 *To put your marriage back together?*
- 2 *To change something about your job?*
- 3 *To bring home a straying daughter or son?*
- 4 *To heal your body?*
- 5 *To straighten out your finances?*
- 6 *To bring a loved one to Christ?"*

Or would it be the prayer according to the world?

- 1 A bigger house?
- 2 A win on the lottery?
- 3 A bigger faster car?
- 4 Retirement at 50?
- 5 Golf or similar three /four times a week?
- 6 The latest fashions with a never ending credit card?

When we pray what do or who do we pray for?

Prayer can be purposeful, deep in meaning, or it can be shallow and self seeking.

Jesus gave that wonderful example for us in Matthew 6: 9-14 on how and why we should pray.

I'm convinced from my own experience of visiting on a regular basis, that many find it difficult to seek prayer for the most pressing need within their lives. The skirting round the situation for fear of being seen as selfish or self seeking. God encourages us to ask for the things we need within our personal lives that will better enable us to carry out his work.

God is not interested in the second list, only in as much that he seeks that all should find rest and relaxation and enjoy a measure of our time and income.

We should not be embarrassed to reach out to God with our deep innermost needs. God holds out his hands waiting to gather us to him and to gently deal with our personal needs.

Our prayers should not become so self-seeking as to dismiss the needs of others, but be balanced in proportion.

*"One morning, watching the waves lapping at the shore, I realized what the problem was in my prayer life. In my heart, I did not believe that God could do anything about the messes all around me. Admitting this to God was very embarrassing, but it was cleansing." Hybels*

He continues to seek to address his own lack of conviction and is drawn to Scripture both from the Old and New Testament.

He looked at God's "power over nature"

See Ex: 14; Josh: 3; Ex 16, Jn6:1-13, Mark 4: 35-41.

He looked at God's "power over circumstance"

God has the ability to change the impossible circumstances

Acts 2: 1-end; Acts 12:

He looked at God's "power over lives"

Ex 3-4; Ex 11: 1-8; Acts 9: 1-31

God is waiting with anticipation to pour out his gifts upon you.

So why are you hesitating? Are you asking for the wrong things and finding change difficult?

Trust in the Lord always and he will meet your needs.

Forget the selfish prayer and "get right on down with God and pray the real prayer"

Lord, come into my life,  
broken and disjointed.  
Lord, come into my life,  
battered and scared.  
From the troubles of the past;  
bring light and healing.  
From this moment on  
be the centre of my life.  
Lord, from this moment on;  
listen to my humble prayers.  
And answer according to your will.

AMEN

God Bless You All

Your Minister and Friend

Mike

## **ALPHA**

If you are interested in helping to lead the  
above, please meet with Mike  
on  
Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> February 2010  
7.30pm at the Manse.

If you can help provide and serve meals  
please see Mike.

## **CHILDREN'S CLUB**

The first planning meeting for the proposed  
"Tuesday Club" will take place  
on  
Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2010  
7.30pm at Salem Baptist Church.

## **Become an 'In Everything' Prayer!**

'.....in everything, by prayer.....present your requests to God' Philippians 4:6

One Christian author writes: 'Often when I pray, I don't talk to God about things that I'm really thinking about because they just don't sound very spiritual. So I'll pray about world peace, or the missionaries, or something like that. But my mind keeps wandering back to what's really on my heart. The solution to this wandering-mind problem is contained in this phrase: 'In Everything'. I must pray what is in me, not what I wish was in me. Praying what's really in my heart is an 'In Everything' kind of prayer. I don't wait to clean up my motives or try to sound more spiritual than I am. I pray what's really in me. If you're going to grow in prayer and overcome worry, you must begin by becoming an 'In Everything' pray-er. Whether your request is large or small, whether your motives are mixed or pure, whether what you ask is wise or foolish, God can sort it all out. You can trust Him to respond wisely. He's not going to give you something foolishly. But you've got to learn to hold your prayer loosely and trust that if God doesn't answer it the way you want it to be answered, He knows what He's doing; He has very good reasons. It's such a simple thing to go through your day asking God, 'What's the one thing needed that you have for me in this moment?' and when He reveals it to you, you need to do it! Don't debate, don't rationalise, don't postpone. Whoever you are, whatever your background, starting this moment you can do it. You can become an 'In Everything' pray-er.

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

Remember in your prayers those for whom December 2009 was a very sad month:

The family of Mrs Hazel Lloyd who died unexpectedly and whose funeral service was held at Salem on 16<sup>th</sup> December.

Sandra, whose 89 year old Aunt, a very close relative, fell and broke her hip and died two weeks later.

David Mills, who was a lay pastor when the Hawkesbury/Longford Fellowship was originally formed, lost his mother on 23<sup>rd</sup> December.

While we give thanks that Bob Batchelor is out of his pain and suffering, we remember Irene and the family as they cope with the sense of loss they feel at his death which was on 7<sup>th</sup> January.

## **PASTORAL**

**Glenys** has been given the 'all clear' by the Oncologist who was checking on any ill effects of her Herceptin treatment – the last one of the course is the beginning of February.

**Collette Poole** has seen the Consultant and there is to be no operation on her back. There is arthritis present which is to be treated with medication followed by a course of physiotherapy.

**Sheila** is still coping with mobility problems from her fall.

**Paul Smith** - Third time lucky for Paul! We hope all goes well for you now that you have finally got the 'repair job' done on your knee.

Various friends have had spells of being not well and we wish all of them, and those with ongoing problems, improvement and comfort in the coming days.

**WE MISSED IT!!**

**22<sup>ND</sup> DECEMBER**

**when Les Bartholemew reached his**

**90<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY**

**Belated Congratulations**

**And here's wishing you a good year ahead**

To those of you who remember Lorenzo Barrett, he sends his good wishes to you for 2010. We thank him for his gift towards flowers for church and coffee and hope that the year 2010 will be a good one for him and his family.

The festive season has gone and we are one twelfth of the way through the New Year. What can you remember about the end of 1999 and the beginning of 2010? We remember the snow and icy pavements, the telephone ringing when we were housebound, friends enquiring if we wanted any shopping.

One evening before Christmas the door bell rang and we had a lovely surprise. Carol singers had braved the cold to sing to us. Thank you to those who presented the Nativity play and who spent hours making the Christingles.

We hope 2010 will be a Happy New Year.

Norman and Jean Stringer.

The afternoon Ladies Group had an enjoyable Christmas lunch on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> December. Thanks to all who made the arrangements and served it on the day – with special thanks to the Tea and Coffee Man!

Longford of Stage really excelled themselves with their show CINEMA-TASTIC.

Well done to the organisers, the cast, property folk, refreshment staff and those responsible for preparation and cleaning/clearing up operations. The smooth co-operation of all involved which made the show the success it was.

I would like to thank all who gave their good wishes and sent cards to make my 90<sup>th</sup> birthday so special.

Les Bartholemew.

Many thanks to all my friends at Salem for cards, gifts and best wishes received on the occasion of my 60<sup>th</sup> birthday. I had a great day.

Carol Corden

### **BMS BIRTHDAY SCHEME – FEBRUARY**

7<sup>th</sup> Kate Fessi  
11<sup>th</sup> Sophie Benn

### **FLOWER ROTA – FEBRUARY**

7<sup>th</sup> Vacant  
14<sup>th</sup> Barbara and Fred in memory of Barbara's mother  
21<sup>st</sup> Anne Kaye in memory of her mother  
28<sup>th</sup> Betty Cater in memory of her mother

### **DANCE ZONE ACADEMY**

Are pleased to announce the start of an ADULT TAP DANCE CLASS starting February – dates to be announced.

To express an interest in 'tapping the Christmas pounds away' – call Sarah on 07873 156 152 or visit the website: [www.dance-zone-academy.co.uk](http://www.dance-zone-academy.co.uk)

Beginners Welcome!!!

### **ITEMS FOR MARCH MESSENGER MUST BE RECEIVED NO LATER THAN 21<sup>ST</sup> FEBRUARY**

### **DIARY DATES FOR FEBRUARY**

Every Sunday morning at Salem 10.45 am – Worship in Song

### **Sunday Worship**

7<sup>th</sup> Salem 11.00 am Communion – Rev Mike  
7<sup>th</sup> Union Place 6.00 pm Communion – Pastor Paul  
14<sup>th</sup> Salem 11.00 am – Rev Mike  
14<sup>th</sup> Salem 6.00 pm – Rev Mike  
21<sup>st</sup> Salem 11.00 am – Rev Mike  
21<sup>st</sup> Union Place – 6.00 pm – Rev Mike  
28<sup>th</sup> Salem 11.00 am – Rev Mike  
28<sup>th</sup> Salem 6.00 pm Communion – Rev Mike

## **Other Events**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Bible Study 7.15 pm at Norman and Jean's
- 4<sup>th</sup> Church Members AGM at 7.30 pm
- 13<sup>th</sup> Christian Aid Coffee morning at St Thomas's 10.30 am – 12 noon
- 15<sup>th</sup> Bible Study 7.15 pm at Sue and John's
- 16<sup>th</sup> Ladies Group 2.00 pm – Rev Mike
- 16<sup>th</sup> Pancake Evening 6.00 pm
- 17<sup>th</sup> Alpha meeting 7.30 pm at the Manse
- 23<sup>rd</sup> Children's Club meeting 7.30 pm at Salem
- 25<sup>th</sup> Deacons meeting 7.30 pm

**MINISTER: REV MICHAEL EDWARDS**  
**TELEPHONE: 024 7636 3227**

### **Church Secretary:**

John Tomlinson  
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### **Deacons:**

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