

SALEM BAPTIST CHURCH

LADY LANE, LONGFORD, COVENTRY



**MESSENGER
MARCH 2010**

Dear Friends

My letter to you this month is somewhat different as I ask you to consider, the work God might be calling you too.

As a church we are in need of strengthening the leadership team by appointing additional deacons to assist in the future development of the church, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

John Smyth, leader of the first English Baptist church in Amsterdam, noted in his *last 'Confession of Faith'* as having two kinds of 'ministers'.

"Christ hath set his outward church two sets of ministers: viz some who are called pastors, teachers, or elders who administer the word and sacraments, and others, who are called deacons, men and women: whose ministry is to serve tables and wash the saint's feet".

Quoted from Radical Believers

Historically the church operated with several elders, but over time this became a one person ministry. Hence today within the majority of Baptist churches we have minister and deacons.

The larger churches have reverted back to the model of elders and deacons, with the elders taking a leadership role alongside the minister.

When we turn to Scripture we read that Paul in, 1 Timothy 3: 1-10 makes distinctions between elders and deacons.

Verses 1-7 relate to elders and 8-10 deacons.

"8Deacons, likewise, are to be men and women worthy of respect, sincere, not indulging in much wine, and not pursuing dishonest gain. 9They must keep hold of the deep truths of the faith with a clear conscience.10They must first be tested; and then if there is nothing against them, let them serve as deacons".

Women added

As a small congregation and membership we are not afforded the distinction between elder and deacon, the role being interwoven, becoming the guiding wisdom of the church.

What do we look for in a prospective deacon?

- Baptized member in good standing, not less than six months.
- Able to help/support the minister in leading worship/Bible study.
- Confident in praying with and for those in special need.
- Able to use and discern God's gifts for the benefit of all.
- Regular in worship and Bible study.
- Not the spouse of another deacon.

Can I encourage you during this time of Lent to pray through the above and to seek; is God calling me to serve as a deacon?

We have need to appoint a treasurer to take responsibility for the church finances. Geoff has served in this role for the past 18 years and we thank him for his service and dedication.

We seek a person or persons who would be willing to take up the mantle and see the church through a time of challenge and change.

IS GOD CALLING YOU? Are you sitting back waiting for someone else to step forward? Be bold; step out in faith for the Lord.

Please speak with me as soon as possible if you can contribute in this way.

As each of us journey through Lent, may we find a renewed relationship with Christ, and protection from the evil one.

"Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power.

Put on the full armour of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms".

Ephesians 6: 10-12

For all those who are on a personal journey, keep on going, God is with you.

If you would like to discuss Baptism and or Church Membership please make contact with me.

Your minister and friend

Mike

Revd Michael Edwards

KEEP PRAISING

'Then He touched her, and instantly she could stand straight. How she praised and thanked God! Luke 13:13

As long as she needed their help, the people around this woman had no problem with her. But when Jesus set her free, and she started praising Him, they couldn't handle it. Actually, they wanted to throw her out of their church! How would you have acted if you'd been chronically ill for 18 years and suddenly Jesus made you whole? People fall over themselves about getting a prize on a TV show. They scream and hug strangers when their team wins and the world says it's OK. But show a little emotion because of what God's done for you and they'll call you a fanatic. No problem; it's easier to cool down a fanatic than heat up a corpse! So, what are you going to do? Do what she did! She carried on and let Jesus deal with her critics. While she was glorifying Him, He was dealing with them. That's how it works. While you're praising God, He's fighting for you. While you're exalting His name, His angels are coming into your hospital room or surrounding your loved one who's in danger or going before you to open doors. If people are upset because you praise the Lord, that's their problem! There'll always be a critic. There may even be one in your house, criticising you for praising Him in the shower or at work; mocking you for just giving thanks before you eat lunch. Pay no attention. Just keep praising God, regardless of the background noise!

Taken from UCB's Booklet 'Overcoming Discouragement'
Submitted by Julie Lantsbery.

PASTORAL

Paul Smith - things haven't turned out as hoped. He is now having treatment for an infection.

Mike's sister-in-law is due for a cancer operation in March.

Norman Stringer - good to see him looking and feeling well again.

Dulcie Sephton - now home from hospital and doing well but no bananas!

Brian Fox is suffering from a broken bone in the knee and is fairly immobile at the moment.

Janet Thorneycroft who is prescribed a period of warmth and rest to deal with a pulled leg muscle.

Please pray for these friends with their differing needs that they may experience the comforting and healing touch of the Lord.

'ROCK' MUSICAL

A performance of the Roger Jones musical was presented by the choir from Aldermans Green on Saturday 30th January and was much appreciated by all who were present.

There was no charge for this but gifts and proceeds from refreshments were added to the Haiti Appeal.

HAITI APPEAL

£100 was given from church funds to this appeal and retiring offerings and gifts at Sunday services were £200. This £300, together with the contributions from the 'Rock' evening was sent for the Appeal to the Baptist Union.

BIBLE STUDY 1ST FEBRUARY

'That was good tonight, it made me think'. This was the comment of one of those in the group and the reply from another participant was, 'I agree with you. Just before I left home I prayed we would be made to think and we were'.

We need to search the scriptures and be more confident in them. Meetings such as this help us on our way. Why don't you join us?



16TH MARCH 2010

'60' TODAY

A VERY HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO REV MIKE

**CONGRATULATIONS AND BEST WISHES
FOR MANY MORE TO COME**

BMS BIRTHDAY SCHEME – MARCH

3 rd	Fred Dillam
11 th	Jack Griffin
16 th	Mike Edwards
22 nd	Linda Batchelor
24 th	Veronica Brittain
26 th	Debbie Mullan
28 th	Dulcie Sephton
29 th	Caroline Bentley-Brittain

FLOWER ROTA – MARCH

7 th	Dulcie Sephton
14 th	Mothering Sunday
21 st	Jill and Steve Benn
28 th	Barbara and Fred Dillam

More points to ponder:

People do not see, they only recognise. What they do not recognise remains invisible to them. **Simon Leys.**

Our greatest glory is not in never failing but in rising each time we fall. **Confucius.**

Believe nothing, no matter where you read it or who said it, not even if I have said it, unless it agrees with your own reason and your own common sense. **Buddha.**

Never run away from anything. Never! **Winston Churchill.**

Please God protect me from my friends and I will take care of my enemies. **Iman Ali.**

Change is the law of life and those who look only to the past or present are certain to miss the future. **John F Kennedy.**

Many of us are now at the bridge we were going to cross when we came to it. **Anon.**

A man never stands as tall as when he kneels to help a child. **Knights of Pythagoras.**

Adult Tap Dance Classes at Union Place possibly 7.00 pm – 8.00 pm to commence mid March on a Thursday. For further details contact Sarah on 07873 156 152 or visit the website: www.dance-zone-academy.co.uk

DIARY DATES FOR MARCH

Every Sunday at Salem 10.45 am – Worship in Song

Sunday Worship

- 7th Salem 11.00 am Communion – Rev Mike
7th Union Place 6.00 pm Communion – Pastor Paul
- 14th Salem 11.00 am **Mothering Sunday** – Rev Mike
14th Salem 6.00 pm – Rev Mike
- 21st Salem 11.00 am – Rev Mike
21st Salem 6.00 pm Communion – Rev Mike
- 28th Salem 11.00 am **Palm Sunday** – Rev Mike
28th Union Place 4.00 pm including tea

Other Events

- 1st Bible Study 7.15 pm
3rd Lent Bible Studies 7.30 pm at Salem
10th Lent Bible Studies 7.30 pm at Union Place
13th Christian Aid Coffee Morning at St Thomas's 10.30 am – 12 noon
15th Bible Study 7.15 pm
16th Ladies Group 2.00 pm
17th Lent Bible Studies 7.30 pm at St Thomas C of E
24th Ladies Group 7.00 pm – Preparation for Easter Garden
24th Lent Bible Studies 7.30 pm at Exhall Methodist
31st Lent Bible Studies 7.30 pm at Exhall Methodist

Future Events – April

- 1st **Maundy Thursday:** 'Reflection' service at Salem 7.00 pm
2nd **Good Friday:** Service at Salem 10.30 am and at Exhall 7.00 pm
- 4th **Easter Day:** All services at Union Place:
08.30 am Communion
09.00 am Breakfast
10.45 am Communion service to include Baptism of Sheila Whitehead
6.00 pm Communion service
- 8th Church Members meeting 7.30 pm
- 17th Sponsored '**BIG SING**' at Salem – 8.00 am to 8.00 pm

ITEMS FOR APRIL MESSENGER MUST BE RECEIVED NO LATER THAN 21ST MARCH

FOLESHILL BAPTIST CHURCH

HOMELESS PROJECT

The following items are required, can you help?
If so, please place items in the box provided in the entrance to church.

Pot Noodles
Boxes of Cereals
Tinned produce (soup etc)
Long Life milk
Tea, coffee, sugar
Soap
Flannels
Ladies hair brushes
Shampoo
Razors
Clean sleeping bags

Thanks for your donation. Mike

MINISTER: REV MICHAEL EDWARDS
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Church Secretary:

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Phone: 024 7649 1103
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Deacons:

Mr Steve Benn
Mrs Susan Smith
Mr Norman Stringer
Mr John Tomlinson

Postal address: Lady Lane Longford Coventry CV6 6AZ

Website site: www.salem-baptist-church.org.uk

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CHURCHES IN LONGFORD
Lent Bible Studies 2010
The Letter of James



Wednesday 3rd March Salem Baptist Church
Wednesday 10th March Union Place Baptist Church
Wednesday 17th March St Thomas CE
Wednesday 24th March Exhall Methodist
Wednesday 31st March Exhall Methodist

Meeting time 7.30pm
Refreshments served

Please join with us and experience
God's love for all.