

# **SALEM BAPTIST CHURCH**

**LADY LANE, LONGFORD, COVENTRY**



**MESSENGER  
MAY 2010**

Dear Friends

## A STRANGER ON THE SHORE

[Feel a song coming on?]

After the resurrection of Jesus the disciples returned to fishing, somewhat strange and yet in reality this was all they knew. When Jesus called Peter to follow he left his nets in obedience along with the others. Now without him they had to survive, so the logical thing was to go back to what they knew best.

Peter and the some of the other disciples had been out all night long and caught nothing, not a single fish.

As the disillusioned disciples steered the boat towards the shore, frustration was in their hearts, that empty feeling of abandonment, not from the fish but Jesus himself.

As they look towards the shoreline they see a stranger in the distance, as they come closer he shouts out to them, *"Friends haven't you any fish?" "No" they answered.*

This stranger [Jesus] instructs them to cast their nets onto the right side and they will find some fish. Again in obedience they cast their nets out and the result is amazing. The nets full to the brim and over flowing to the point that they begin to break under the strain.

John, the disciple whom Jesus loved, recalls that this had happened once before "it is the Lord" he gasps.

Peter jumps into the water, yes that impetuous Peter in at the 'deep end 'so to speak.

The others follow pulling the boat full of fish onto the shore where breakfast had been prepared by Jesus for His disciples.

What do we see by this action of Jesus? Even though He was the risen Lord, even after all He had been through, He was the servant Lord, caring for all their basic needs.

*Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast"*

As the disciples gather around there appears to be an air of uncertainty, is this Jesus, if not who are you?

Jesus gives them the bread and fish and they realise that it is the Lord.

After breakfast, Jesus gives Peter three chances to reaffirm his love and commitment in contrast to the earlier three time denial.

Jesus does not condemn Peter's betrayal but gives the opportunity to reaffirm his promise made three years earlier.

*"Simon son of John, do you truly love me more than these"*

*"Yes Lord," he said, "you know that I love you."*

*Jesus said, "Feed my lambs."*

So a second and a third time Jesus poses questions to Peter and Peter is somewhat indignant at being asked the same question over and over again.

Peter had forgotten that he was supposed to be a "*fisher of men*" and had returned to his old ways. We too need to be reminded that when we accepted Christ into our lives we made that same promise. Are we fishing for men, women and children or are we seeking the easy way out?

Jesus offers a way back without condemnation. He offers love, affirmation, and a hot breakfast to all those who have come a long way, but have further to go.

May we each get out of the boat and meet the "stranger on the shore" and experience a life changing moment, for the stranger is Christ himself.

In Christ

Your minister and friend

Mike

Rev Michael Edwards

John 21: 1-25

Dear friends

A big, big thank you to all who took part in "The Big Sing" and to all those who helped with music, food and sponsorship. I think we can say it was a great day, with real fellowship and friendship. The monies raised will be divided between Zoe's Place and our own disability access fund. We hope to present the cheque on the 16<sup>th</sup> May during the Sunday school anniversary. Could you please let Sue Tomlinson have any monies due as soon as possible? Over £1,000.00 raised to date.

AGAIN A BIG, BIG THANK YOU

Sandra

## 25<sup>TH</sup> HOUR PEOPLE

'Joshua spoke to God..... and the sun stopped.....still' Joshua 10:12

Joshua was fighting with everything he had but there was an element he couldn't control. So he said to God 'I'll do what I can but I'm calling on You to do what I can't (paraphrase); When you're running out of time and you need a 25<sup>th</sup> hour in your day, there's only one place to go; GOD! He can stop the sun and freeze the circumstances! He can give you 'extra time' to re-group; get a new strategy and win the battle.

The 25<sup>th</sup> hour is when God allows you to redeem the time you wasted fighting others (or feeling sorry for yourself), when you should have been fighting the enemy. Theologically, we'd call it grace. We don't get it because of our merits; we get it because of God's favour. Has God ever done you a favour when you didn't deserve it? That's Grace! Listen: 'There has never been a day like this one before or since.....(Joshua 10:14).

Twenty-fifth hour people are different:

- a) They pray prayers nobody's ever prayed before because they believe 'nothing is too hard for the Lord'.
- b) They remember their wasted years and live with gratitude for the gift of a second chance.
- c) They live with a sense of urgency and mission because, even though the clock has run out, God has given them extra time to win the game.

It's not too late for you. Joshua's God is your God! Talk to Him; He's still in control!

Taken from UCB Booklet 'Overcoming Discouragement'

Submitted by Julie Lantsbery.

## PASTORAL

**Paul Smith:** More investigations are taking place to assess what is the real problem and to decide what treatment can be given.

**Janet Thorneycroft** has been back into hospital. It was not a pulled muscle after all which was causing the pain but a hairline fracture of the hip joint. She is now home, hopefully becoming more mobile and pain free with each day.

**Linda Batchelor** has had an ECG and we hope nothing too serious has been revealed.

Keep these friends in your prayers.

## HOMELESS PROJECT

Don't forget the box in the church – this is an on-going appeal.

Thank you for your support.

Rev Mike, Pastor Paul and all our friends at Salem and Union Place,

We wish to thank you all very sincerely for your kind thoughts, messages of sympathy, but most of all for your prayers at this very sad time.

We have all been devastated at the sudden death of our much loved Grandson, Spencer, at the age of 38 years.

The vicar at Bedworth Parish Church said at the funeral 'there are 460 people seated here today and more outside. This proves he was a very popular young man'.

We will all miss him greatly.

Thank you all again and God bless you all.

Eileen, Jack and family.

### **BMS BIRTHDAY SCHEME – MAY**

7 <sup>th</sup>	Eileen Griffin
13 <sup>th</sup>	Stephanie Lovick
16 <sup>th</sup>	Paul Smith
19 <sup>th</sup>	Sue Tomlinson
21 <sup>st</sup>	Marie Tallis
23 <sup>rd</sup>	Olga Lucas

### **FLOWER ROTA – MAY**

2 <sup>nd</sup>	Ann Kaye
9 <sup>th</sup>	Betty Willshee
16 <sup>th</sup>	Sunday School Anniversary
23 <sup>rd</sup>	Marie Tallis
30 <sup>th</sup>	Sue and John Tomlinson

### **EASTER SUNDAY**

What a joyful day this was with the early communion service and the celebration of believer's baptism in the morning service topped up with the excellent catering for breakfast and lunch done by our friends at Union Place.

A quieter evening service brought the day to a fitting close.

### **VISIT TO FARMCOTE LODGE**

Instead of their usual meeting the Ladies who meet monthly on a Tuesday afternoon went, on 20<sup>th</sup> April, to Farmcote Lodge. It was good to have this opportunity of having a chat with Vera Lole, Margaret Roue and Freda Hibberd. As usual, we had Fred and Jack keeping their eye on us and Mike was there too.

We shared readings, prayers and favourite hymns which was appreciated by all present – an event which we may repeat in the future.

# **SALEM SUNDAY SCHOOL ANNIVERSARY**

**SUNDAY 16<sup>TH</sup> MAY**

**SERVICE AT 4.30 PM**

**FOLLOWED BY TEA**

**Encourage the children by your presence and enjoy fellowship at tea afterwards**

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## **DIARY DATES FOR MAY**

Every Sunday at Salem 10.45 am – Worship in Song

### **Sunday Worship**

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Salem 11.00 am - Gideons  
2<sup>nd</sup> Union Place – Communion 6.00 pm – Gideons
- 9<sup>th</sup> Salem – Communion 11.00 am - Rev Mike  
9<sup>th</sup> Salem – 6.00 pm - Rev Mike
- 16<sup>th</sup> Salem – 11.00 am - Rev Mike  
16<sup>th</sup> Salem – Sunday School Anniversary 4.30 pm
- 23<sup>rd</sup> Salem – 11.00 am – Rev Mike  
23<sup>rd</sup> Churches Together in Longford – 2.30 pm at Sutton Stop (Bring a picnic)  
(No evening service)
- 30<sup>th</sup> Partnership service at Salem – 11.00 am - Rev Mike  
30<sup>th</sup> Partnership service at Salem – Communion 6.00 pm – Rev Mike

### **Other events**

- 4<sup>th</sup> Children's Club 6.30 pm – 7.30 pm  
5<sup>th</sup> ALPHA 6.45 pm  
6<sup>th</sup> Church members meeting 7.30 pm  
11<sup>th</sup> Children's Club 6.30 pm – 7.30 pm  
12<sup>th</sup> ALPHA 6.45 pm  
18<sup>th</sup> Ladies Group 2.00 pm – Bible text afternoon (Bring and Buy)  
18<sup>th</sup> Children's Club 6.30 pm – 7.30 pm  
18<sup>th</sup> Ladies Group 8.00 pm – Meal  
19<sup>th</sup> ALPHA 6.45 pm  
25<sup>th</sup> Children's Club 6.30 pm – 7.30 pm  
26<sup>th</sup> ALPHA 6.45 pm

## **CHRISTIAN AID WEEK**

**9<sup>TH</sup> – 15<sup>TH</sup> MAY**

**8<sup>TH</sup> MAY – 'SOUP AND PUD' AT UNION PLACE 12 NOON**

### **Future events – June**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Children's Club 6.30 pm – 7.30 pm  
2<sup>nd</sup> Alpha – 6.45 pm  
3<sup>rd</sup> Church members meeting 7.30 pm

Items for June Messenger must be received no later than 23<sup>rd</sup> May – Thank you