

Central BAPTIST CHURCH
LUTCH

Contact

MAGAZINE
APRIL 2018



Motto 2018

I have
hidden
your word
in my heart
that I might
not sin against you.

Central BAPTIST CHURCH
LUTCH

Articles for the MAY 2018 Contact should be given to Gwyneth Gapp -by Sunday 15TH APRIL They can be handwritten, placed in the box in the front vestibule or emailed to gwyneth.gapp@ntlworld.com

April 2018

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From your Pastor Andrew Gale

For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. (1 Corinthians 1:18)

Easter Day falls on April Fools' Day this year, some would say that this is appropriate, after all isn't it foolish to believe that the death of a man 2000 years ago could save us from it today. Isn't foolish to think of a dead man rising? One atheist meme which is seen on social media mocks the gospel by calling Easter as the day Christians celebrate their zombie saviour.

Of course, Christians were mocked from the beginning, Paul records that the message of the cross is foolishness to those outside.

When he preached to the sophisticated people of Athens, they listened respectfully until, *they heard about the resurrection of the dead, then some of them sneered.* (Acts 17:32)

We should not be surprised when the people of this world think us fools to follow Christ it has ever been so. I would rather be a fool in the eyes of the entire world than a fool in God's sight:

The fool says in his heart, 'There is no God.' (Psalm 14:1)

Andrew

This Month's historic article is not from The Lantern but from Mr Spurgeon printed in his magazine 'Sword and Trowel:'

Cold Wax

Quick must be the hand if an impression is to be made upon the wax. Once let the wax cool and you will press the seal in vain. Cold and hard it will be in a few moments, therefore let the work be quickly done. When men's hearts are melted under the preaching of the Word, or by sickness, or the loss of friends, believers should be very eager to stamp the truth upon the prepared mind. Such opportunities are to be seized with holy eagerness. Reader, do you know of such? If you be a lover of the Lord Jesus hasten with the seal before the wax is cold. Perhaps, dear reader, you are yourself unsaved; then look at the woodcut, and remember that such is your life. It is like the flame upon the stick of wax, and your soul is like the wax which drops upon the envelope, capable of receiving an impression while you are alive, but soon hardened and made unalterable by the cold breath of death. If the stamp of eternal life is to be set upon your soul it must be now, for When once this life is over change is impossible.

TO-DAY—THERE IS HOPE.

The divine hand can even now set the seal of sacred love upon your heart; but your breath is in your nostrils,

and to-morrow may find you where the stamp of grace can never be impressed.

TO-MORROW—YOU MAY BE IN HELL.

No acts of pardon are ever passed on the other side of the grave, but pardons are plentiful on earth. Jesus suffered for the sins of all who trust him; so suffered that they can never be condemned, since Jesus was punished in their stead. He that believeth on Jesus hath set to his seal that God is true, and he shall receive God's seal, setting him apart as a choice and chosen spirit. Oh that the seal would fall upon you now, and impress the image of Jesus upon your heart for ever!

No. 25.—From C. H. Spurgeon's "Sword and Trowel," published monthly, price 3d.; post free, 4d
Tracts, 6d. per 100, Post free, 8 stamps.—Passmore & Alabaster, 23, Paternoster Row.

You may be wondering...

Well, you probably weren't wondering, and you may not even be in the least bit interested, but I am going to tell you anyway.

Pretty much all the way through 2017, Jam was saying that the average offering was a bit less than it had been in 2016, but at the end of the year he said that the average was almost the same as the previous year, and when the church accounts are finalised they will (I think) show that offerings in 2017 were actually a little more than in 2016.

Why the change?

Well I think there are three reasons. The first is simply that I made some mistakes in my calculations, so the 2016 average I was working with was wrong: a lot higher than the correct figure that appears in the accounts.

So all the way through 2017 I was mistakenly comparing our average offering to a figure that was too high.

Second, there were a few things included in the final offering figures that originally I had classified differently.

But the final reason is the best of all: there was a big boost in the offering just before Christmas with several people putting in large sums.

So it looks like the final offering figure for 2017 is not just close to that for 2016 (as I was saying in January) but actually higher, and the average for the year was actually about £15 higher per week than it had been in 2016.

So far in 2018, offerings have been a bit low; I hope we don't have to wait until December to see them catch up with last year.

CHURCH DIARY
SUNDAY WORSHIP
Morning 10.45 am

(Services led by Minister unless, otherwise stated)

A prayer meeting is held every Sunday before the morning service from 10 am in the Prayer Room

- 1st Easter Day Celebration
- 8th Teaching Service: The Call of God
- 15th Breaking of Bread
- 22nd Service led by associate minister Ruth Tiso
- 29th Fifth Sunday Special

The Sunday evening group will meet at 6 pm each Sunday evening to discuss, prayer, share and sing together

Flowers for the Sanctuary

- 1st EASTER DAY – Thanks for donations and –
In loving memory of Jane from Alan Dudley
and family;
In memory of loved ones from Wyn Prodger
and family;
In loving memory of Mother and Father from
Geoff and Simon Brandon and families.
- 8th Mrs. Jean Corder and family – In loving
memory of a dear Dad and Grandad.
- 15th Remembering Renford on his birthday from his
loving wife Ita;
Shirley, David and family – In loving memory
of Nellie Thompson and Peter.
- 22nd Mr. and Mrs. Keith Wright;
In loving memory of Clive from Rita;
In loving memory of Val, Joan and Gilbert
Conybeare from Steve and family;
Mr. and Mrs. Eric Norman and family –
“Remembering Family Members”.
- 29th Miss Nadia Deadman – In loving memory of
a dear Mother and father.

Programme of Events

JUMP (Tuesdays)

(10.00 am - 11.30 am Term Time)

17th

24th

Ladies in Fellowship Together(L.I.F.T.)

10th Members Evening and Fellowship Supper. Please bring along your table games and jig-saws to share with friends

29th Please welcome a representative from 'Hands of |Mercy' with an up-date of the work going on in the Philippines

Thursday Afternoon Fellowship

(At 2.30 pm)

5th Matt Summerfield - Urban Saints

12th Bob Wilkinson - LCS

19th Mr. Reader - Harpenden

26th Pam Greener - Luton Central.

Poem of the Month

Here is our Easter poem, which has links back to both the February and March poems. It is rather an old poem: the word “imp” in the second-last line means that a hawk with an injured wing can be helped to fly by adding feathers from another bird. I have also modernised some of the spelling.

If you turn the page sideways it looks like two butterflies, side by side.

Lord, who created man in wealth and store,
Though foolishly he lost the same,
Decaying more and more,
Till he became
Most poor:
With thee
O let me rise
As larks, harmoniously,
And sing this day thy victories:
Then shall the fall further the flight in me.

My tender age in sorrow did beginne
And still with sicknesses and shame.
Thou didst so punish sin,
That I became
Most thin.
With thee
Let me combine,
And feel thy victory:
For, if I imp my wing on thine,
Affliction shall advance the flight in me.

FELLOWSHIP NEWS AS AT 11TH MARCH 2018

CONGRATULATIONS TO-

ITA EVANS who will be 80 on 3rd April

JOAN PLANT who will be 80 on 27th April

KATIE McATEER on her engagement to SCOTT DEVINE

Our love and sympathy to those who have lost loved ones recently:

TONY BURLEY his cousin VELDA.

GWYNETH GAPP her sister – in -law LORRAINE.

JILL REDDING her brother TONY.

PETER ETTERIDGE his mother.

We have also heard of the death of SHEILA BROOKES who for many years came on the Church Holidays with Muriel Williams, also two

ladies known by the members of Ceylon Baptist: - FRANCIS

CHAPMAN died on 23rd February age 89 and JILL DENTON (nee COLES) died 4th March. Age 81

We have heard from STEVE CONYBEARE who had to have an ‘op’ on his foot whilst in New Zealand.

Several people have been unwell or have had appointments in the last few weeks including HEATHER LAKE, MARY QUINN, LISA SAXBY, FRANK and HAZEL SMITH.

We wish DEBORAH and family, and KEMI and family all the best as they have recently moved within Luton.

The wedding of Piyada and Matthew (Auriel and Nella’s grandson) took place on 3rd March in Canberra, Australia. We pray for God’s Richest Blessing on their future together.

It is good to be able to share in the joys and sorrows of the Fellowship.

We particularly remember those who are going through difficult times or who are anxious about work, their future or their loved ones. May all these friends and others not mentioned know the Lord’s strengthening and guidance and the care and encouragement of the fellowship.

Ann M. Norman

Perry Green Services

At 6.00 pm

* On the first Sunday of the Month there will be a Prayer meeting at 5.15 pm.

- | | |
|-------|-----------------------------------|
| 1st. | Easter Sunday
Mr. Ian Benjamin |
| 8th. | Mrs. Diane Maple |
| 15th. | Mrs. Gill Short |
| 22nd. | Mr. Samson Akinola(c) |
| 29th. | Mr. Ian Benjamin |

TUESDAY FELLOWSHIP

We meet at 2.30 pm. On the first Tuesday of each month at Perry Green Baptist Chapel.

3rd T.B.A.

BMS World Mission Birthday Scheme

April

- 1st Jonathan Barton
- 4th Andrew Tomblin
- 5th Cynthia Best
- 23rd Heather Chandler
- 28th Niresh Uthayaseelan
- 30th Audrey O'Dell

Church Work Day – Saturday 28th April 2018

This year's work day is on Saturday 28th April.

An opportunity to come along and help give the building and grounds a good Spring clean!

You'll be able to join in with: cleaning, tidying, fixing, tea making etc.

So, bring your lunch with you and join us from 10 'til 4, please come along for as long as you are able.

Tim and Claire News

Thank You Page

We would like to say “Thank you” for all the beautiful cards and flowers received on the occasion of our Golden Wedding. May God Bless you all
Mary and Bill Quinn.

We would like to say thank you for the lovely basket of sweets Marianne Jones gave to all the Ladies in Church for Mothering Sunday.

Contacts are posted to
you each month by

Andrew Tomblin

8 Winslow Close

Luton, LU3 1QA

Donations for postage for Contact from:

Thank You

APRIL 2018

**In everything by prayer and petition
let your requests be known to God.**

**A monthly prayer calendar to help
us remember different aspects of
our Church life and beyond.**



TOPICS FOR PRAYER

This month we give thanks for the many Christian ministries in our town.

Sunday 1 Easter Day!

Monday 2 On this bank holiday, pray for those who have to work today. Give thanks for the 15 airport chaplains serving thousands of people who use or work at Luton Airport, and for the benefits that are being experienced by people from the building improvements.

Tuesday 3 Give thanks for the Make Lunch provision at St John's in Farley Hill, providing lunch in school holidays for children who would otherwise go hungry. Pray for the deacons meeting tonight.

Wednesday 4 Give thanks for Azalea, for their new premises in Upper George Street, for the staff and volunteers who befriended and helped many women last year, for every word of compassion or act of kindness, and for the women who have put their trust in Jesus.

Thursday 5 Pray for Ian and Vickie.

Friday 6 Give thanks for peacemakers, especially for Peter Adams and the Centre for Peace and Reconciliation operating out of St Mary's. Give thanks for their passion for peace in our town and pray that they, and we, will have the strength to stand against those who seek to divide.

Saturday 7 Give thanks for the team of street pastors and angels who serve on the streets of Luton and Dunstable in the middle of the night: for every life touched, for every word of hope, and for every act of kindness and protection.

Sunday 8 Pray for Andrew teaching at today's service.

Monday 9 Give thanks for the ministry of Level Trust to the poorest children and families of our town, for the uniform exchange project providing for those unable to afford new uniforms, for over 400 gift cards given to provide school shoes and winter coats, and for 1200 home school packs distributed to primary and senior school children.

Tuesday 10 Pray for Ruth, Amos and their family.

Wednesday 11 Give thanks for NOAH, for its Academy, health clinics and shops, for its day centre supplying 40,000 meals last year, and especially for the cold weather night shelter that has run in our hall again this winter. Give thanks too for all the gifts given by the people of Luton to help the disadvantaged in our town and for national recognition in being awarded the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service.

Thursday 12 Give thanks for the many chaplain volunteers serving patients, families and staff at the Luton and Dunstable Hospital and for many lives touched by the chaplains through their compassion and words of hope. Pray that chaplains may serve with grace and compassion.

Friday 13 Pray for our Boys' Brigade. Pray for the 'Fresh' weekend of mission and social action happening in Luton next month.

Saturday 14 Pray for Samson and Racheal.

- Sunday 15** Pray for the church lunch today.
- Monday 16** Pray for our Girls' Brigade company. Give thanks for the many ordinary ways in which followers of Jesus daily bless the people of Luton.
- Tuesday 17** Give thanks for Michael Campbell and the Luton Community Chaplaincy, for chaplains in the law courts, town hall, Mall, shops, streets, University and council offices, for thousands of conversations with people in their moment of need and for opportunities to love people and pray for them.
- Wednesday 18** Pray for families.
- Thursday 19** Pray for Erwin in his responsibilities as Church Secretary, and for Sue in her work for the church.
- Friday 20** Give thanks for the many adults and children fed and nourished through Luton's Foodbank and for the generosity of people giving to the Foodbank.
- Saturday 21** Give thanks for the Salvation Army distributing food on three mornings every week and providing clothing vouchers and sleeping bags to those in need.
- Sunday 22** One of the elders will be leading today's service. Pray for their leadership and ministry amongst us.
- Monday 23** St. George's Day. Pray for a right attitude to English culture and values; pray for Christian leaders; pray for the fire and rescue service.
- Tuesday 24** Give thanks for the Stepping Stones team and volunteers at its 10 year anniversary, for vulnerable women recovering from addictions, being reunited with their children, and being empowered to live their lives.
- Wednesday 25** Give thanks for the Oasis drop in centre in Bury Park serving people from overseas, for many new contacts made through the English classes, for many friendships deepening, trust growing and opportunities to share Jesus and for many people being open to being prayed for.
- Thursday 26** Give thanks for the Youthscape team serving the young people of our town and nation, for the many young people who have benefited from the Bute Mills.
- Friday 27** Pray for Jam, that he will be able to prepare adequately for his successor as Church Treasurer.
- Saturday 28** Give thanks for the Healing on the Streets team who faithfully pray for people on Market Hill every Saturday, for their dedication and sacrifice in all kinds of weather, for all the people being prayed for and encountering God's love and healing through the prayers of the team.
- Sunday 29** Pray for the ministry of our Perry Green branch church. Give thanks for those who come to speak week by week.
- Monday 30** Give thanks for the many expressions of Jesus' Body in Luton. Pray for the work of Churches Together in Luton bringing the churches together and for still more people to come together to pray and serve our town.

Weekly Church Activities

Sunday

10.45 am Morning Service
Communic8 and Crèche
6.00 pm Evening Service

Monday

1.00 - 3.00 pm Watercolour Art Club
6.30 - 9.15 pm Girls Brigade (5-18 years)

Tuesday

10.00 -11.30 am **JUMP** (Join Us Mums & Pre-schoolers). During term time
2.00 - 4.00 pm Short mat bowls
8.00 pm Ladies in Fellowship Together (LIFT)
(2nd & 4th week)
10.00 - 12.00 pm Men's Prayer Meeting

Wednesday

9.30 am (1st Week) Open Prayer Meeting

Thursday

2.30 pm Thursday Afternoon Fellowship

Friday

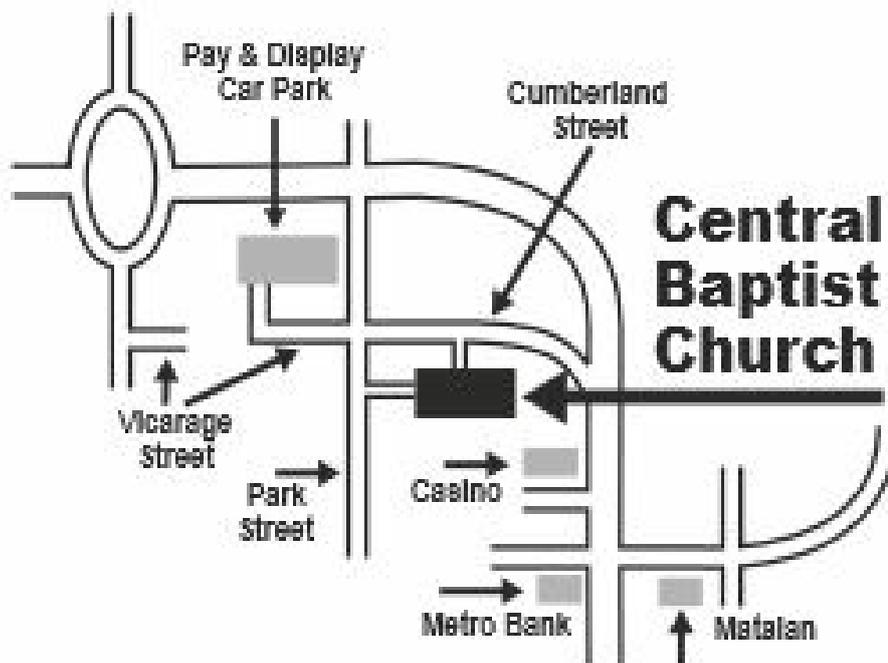
6.45 -9.30 pm Boys Brigade

Saturday

7.00 - 9.00 pm Youth Group -11 years plus

MINISTER
Rev. Andrew Gale
Mobile 07914 853395

SECRETARY
Erwin Tadiar



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