



# Contact

MAGAZINE  
DECEMBER 2018

**Motto 2018**

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



Articles for the JANUARY 2019 Contact should be given to Gwyneth Gapp - by SUNDAY 9TH DECEMBER. They can be handwritten, placed in the box in the front vestibule or emailed to [gwyneth.gapp@ntlworld.com](mailto:gwyneth.gapp@ntlworld.com)

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## Giving The Gift Of Good News

Last month I wrote about ethical evangelism, this month I want to look at why we share the Gospel. This is an appropriate message for this time of year when the Christmas season gives us many opportunities for witness.

As you know, we have asked everyone in the church to make it a target, in prayer and action, to seek to win one person to the Lord in 2019. We challenge you to pray for opportunities to share your testimony or to tell the good news of salvation with friends, family, neighbours and random strangers. Then for courage to take those opportunities. Some people are reluctant to witness because they think they don't want to impose their views on others. There are some parents, even Christian parents, who will say that they want their children to make up their own minds. Of course that is a Baptist position everyone must decide for themselves, however, that is very different to not giving people the tools to make the right decision. *How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? Romans 10:14.*

Unless we share our faith then we are denying people the chance to receive grace, unless we teach our children about Jesus how can they decide to follow Him? How can they call on the Lord if they don't know that they can?

Some fear rejection, some fear ridicule but if we believe the Gospel and love people then we will tell them about it. If we believe that there is an assurance of heaven and the best life here on earth and don't tell the people we love, then we either don't believe those things or we don't love those we claim to care about. If we believe what we say we believe, then we have a moral duty to share the good news at every opportunity.

I want to give a word of balance because statements like bring us into bondage. Salvation is God's work, He saves, He calls and He convinces, our prayer is that He uses us as His instruments. Salvation of the lost does not depend on us, rather God privileges us by using us. So while we are looking for every opportunity to share the good news we are not paranoid that if we don't bring every person we meet to the point of decision then we are failing in our duty. Rather we are looking for opportunities and openings to share. On occasions this will just be a few sentences to help someone to start to think about the things of God, other times we may lead some to confess their sin and receive forgiveness. *The Lord GOD has given me the tongue of the learned, that I should know how to speak a word in season to him that is weary. Isaiah 50:4.* We are asking the Lord to teach us how to share that 'word in season,' the right thing to say at the right time.

We desire that those we care about have the best life on earth, help in times of trouble and make the best use of the gifts they have. We want those we care about to be sure of heaven when they die. Therefore we pray that God will give us opportunities to witness

for Him and we pray that He may use each of us to win one person each into His Kingdom.

Next Month: How to spot an opportunity

Andrew

### **Quotes from the famous Baptist Preacher of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century C H Spurgeon**

Every Christian is either a missionary or an imposter.

Do you want arguments for soul winning? Look up to Heaven, and ask yourself how sinners can ever reach those harps of gold and learn their everlasting song, unless they have someone to tell them of Jesus, who is mighty to save. But the best argument of all is to be found in the wounds of Jesus. You want to honour Him, you desire to put many crowns upon His head, and this you can best do by winning souls for Him. These are the spoils that He covets, these are the trophies for which He fights, these are the jewels that shall be His best adornment.

I would sooner bring one sinner to Jesus Christ than unravel all the mysteries of the divine Word, for salvation is the one thing we are to live for.

To be a soul winner is the happiest thing in the world. And with every soul you bring to Jesus Christ, you seem to get a new heaven here upon earth.

If sinners will be damned, at least let them leap to Hell over our bodies. And if they will perish, let them perish with our arms about their knees, imploring them to stay. If Hell must be filled, at least let it be filled in the teeth of our exertions, and let not one go there unwarned and unprayed for.

If there existed only one man or woman who did not love the Saviour, and if that person lived among the wilds of Siberia, and if it were necessary that all the millions of believers on the face of the earth should journey there, and every one of them plead with him to come to Jesus before he could be converted, it would be well worth all the zeal, labour, and expense. If we had to preach to thousands year after year, and never rescued but one soul, that one soul would be full reward for all our labour, for a soul is of countless price.

We are not called to proclaim philosophy and metaphysics, but the simple gospel.

Man's fall, his need of a new birth, forgiveness through atonement, and salvation as the result of faith, these are our battle-ax and weapons of war.

God save us from living in comfort while sinners are sinking into hell!

Reckon then that to acquire soul-winning power, you will have to go through mental torment and soul distress. You must go into the fire if you are going to pull others out of it, and you will have to dive into the floods if you are going to draw others out of the water. You cannot work a fire escape without feeling the scorch of the conflagration, nor man a lifeboat without being covered with the waves.

“It is of no use for any of you to try to be soul-winners if you are not bearing fruit in your own lives. How can you serve the Lord with your lips if you do not serve Him with your lives? How can you preach His gospel with your tongues, when with hands,

feet, and heart you are preaching the devil's gospel, and setting up an antichrist by your practical unholiness?

We must school and train ourselves to deal personally with the unconverted. We must not excuse ourselves, but force ourselves to the irksome task until it becomes easy.

I have no confidence at all in polished speech or brilliant literary effort to bring about a revival, but I have all the confidence in the world in the poor saint who would weep her eyes out because people are living in sin. I would choose, if I might, under God, to be a soulwinner.

On Acts 18:10 – This should be a great encouragement in proclaiming the Gospel, since among the people in our communities—the disinterested, the rebellious, the careless—God has an elect people who must be saved. When you take the Word to them, you do so because God has ordained you to be the messenger of life to their souls, and they must receive it, for so the decree of predestination runs. They are as much redeemed by blood as the saints before the eternal throne. They are Christ's property, and yet perhaps they are lovers of selfish pleasures and haters of holiness; but if Jesus Christ purchased them, He will have them. God is not unfaithful to forget the price that His Son has paid. He will not suffer His substitution to be in any case an ineffectual, dead thing. Tens of thousands of redeemed ones are not regenerated yet, but regenerated they must be; and this is our comfort when we go to them with the quickening Word of God.

I remember, when I have preached at different times in the country, and sometimes here, that my whole soul has agonized over men, every nerve of my body has been strained and I could have wept my very being out of my eyes and carried my whole frame away in a flood of tears, if I could but win souls.

**Former Minister of this church Keith King writes about his trip to Pakistan in September:**

Humanly speaking this was not a good time to go to Pakistan.

A Dutch cartoonist had organised a competition inviting other artists to submit the funniest caricature of the prophet Mohammed and so tensions were very high throughout the country with much anti-western hatred being expressed. Whilst I was in the air I am glad to say this competition was cancelled by a Dutch lawmaker. Also the 6th was to be a day celebrating the military in the country and so I was told extremists would take every opportunity to 'degrade' the security services in any way possible. We changed our intended schedule so that I didn't have to travel on that day. Normally on my trips the Police Commissioner would arrange armed escorts and guards for me. This time they said they could not, in fact, to do so would only draw attention to me and invite brutal retaliation. Actually, unlike other visits, we were not stopped once by border patrols, or police. We were so grateful.

Right from day one I was so aware of God's presence and protection throughout the 3,100 kilometres we travelled and of course I was always flanked by my students and leaders at every moment, which was often, but not always, a great reassurance!

My main meetings were conducted in three locations, our LIM course centres in: Lahore, Khanewal and Bahawalpur. After initial meetings in Lahore, where some LIM students travelled from our centres in Sialkot and Narowal, and a brief stay at one of our oldest centres in Khanewal, we settled into the comfortable surroundings of our new LIM Bible College in Khanewal where I would spend five days delivering my main teaching 'What kind of Church could God use to win Pakistan to Christ?' These ten sessions went very well. I also spent valuable time receiving feedback from students and leaders, teaching into a culture of sex trafficking, domestic violence, corruption as well as looking ahead to the future. I wanted to bare my heart regarding the importance of developing 'self sustaining ministries' in their country hammering home the truth that LIM does not have access to a 'money tree' that we shake occasionally to supply every need in Pakistan. Our Sewing Machine project in Bahawalpur is now earning a small income for 17 ladies we have trained up, many of these are the sole wage earners in their family! One of my deep regrets is that I wasn't able to spend time at my new centres in Faisalabad and the students and leaders have not hidden their disappointment over this; we had factored this into the programme but had to change our plans due to the highly volatile atmosphere on 6th September; we did the right thing.

My stay in Bahawalpur was like coming home, Sajid, who drove me everywhere (in the minibus we purchased for 1st Floor Ministries four years previously), his wife Saleeta and children Henry (named after me), Saibel and a huge group of brothers and sisters, aunts, uncles, all wrapped their arms around me greeting me in customary fashion with rose petals and much affection. I cannot possibly forget that this is where it all began, after leading Sajid Sadiq to Christ via Skype, his whole family (many third generation Roman Catholics with no personal relationship to Jesus) came to Christ. As a result of my first visit in November 2014, we built the Academy, church and leadership centre, on his roof, which we registered with the Pakistan Government as '1st Floor Ministries, Pakistan'. During this latest visit I was able to reconnect with the church, school and leaders and develop a more coherent LIM strategy for the future. It was so good to meet dozens of people who were healed during my first and second visits – Khuram had a brain tumour but after a touch from God went back to university and has now graduated, I was able to hold in my arms a number of children of parents who could not conceive and I had prayed over, one of them I named Simon after my own son! And there was the 'miracle' made possible because a church in the UK gave me £200 to enable a young man handicapped by a severe scalding accident to have reconstructing surgery, he can now straighten his arm and wants to bowl for Pakistan! So many more, we give praise to Him; I am constantly baffled by the mystery and majesty of God,

## **FELLOWSHIP NEWS AS AT 11TH NOVEMBER 2018**

### **NEW MEMBER**

The Right Hand of Fellowship was extended to RAYCENT TALBERT at the Morning Communion Service on Sunday 21st October.

Our love and sympathy to all who have been bereaved recently:-

SAMSON AKINOLA had only just returned from Nigeria to hear the news that his older brother had suddenly died on 22nd October. They had only been together the night before. LESLEY LEE'S husband died peacefully at home on 28th October after a long illness, we would remember LESLEY, SANDRA, JACQUI, ANDY, KATIE and other members of the family.

It was sad to hear that one of our former ministers BOB SIMPSON died peacefully with his family around him on 29th October. We would remember DOREEN, HEATHER, ANDREW, WENDY and their families. EDNA SMITH has been very poorly and in hospital for a few weeks, but is expected home this week. Several people have been unwell recently including INA BAILEY, OLIVE BROOKS, RON LEE, JAMES STEVENS, whilst MALCOLM O'DELL has had a carpel tunnel operation.

It was good having WILSON sharing fellowship with us for a few weeks while he was over here from India.

It is good that we can share with one another in all the joys as well as the sorrows and anxieties that illness and old age bring. We uphold these people and pray that the Lord will meet their needs in a wonderful way.

*Ann M. Norman*

### **Note From Andrew**

On the 1st December we will be hosting our annual older persons Christmas dinner. Many of you will have volunteered to help on the day, in the kitchen, as drivers or in many other ways. If the weather is very cold the winter night shelter will open overnight. We learnt last year that this creates extra work preparing the hall. This year if the night shelter is opening we will be calling church members and asking you to come to the church in the morning to help prepare the hall.

## GIFTS

Many gifts I have received over the years,  
Many blessings too among a few tears,  
I've had many brooches, watches and rings,  
So much variety, oh so many things,

Things to wear, preserves fruit, biscuits and chocolate bars,  
Sometimes little gifts from countries afar,  
Little things that give to me much pleasure,  
Family know that these I will always treasure,

A plant for the garden, a flower in a pot,  
Friends and Family know I like these a lot,  
Its got to December, its the time of the year,  
When we start to think of Christmas and all that cheer,

We think of Family and Friends, what gifts shall I get,  
Better not leave it too late or I shall then fret,  
Time to write cards to Family and faraway friends,  
A busy time, there's lots to do, the list never ends!

There's pudding and cake and brandy butter to make,  
Then many mince pies to prepare and to bake,  
Times getting on there's no time to lose,  
Lots of Gifts for family and friends to chose,

The best ever Christmas Gift was a baby born,  
On a cold winters day in a manger so forlorn,  
He was sent to us all from heaven above,  
From God the Father with very much love.

Lynda



## **CHRISTMAS IS COMING THE RACKS ARE COMING BACK**

The Christmas card racks will come out for their annual appearance from next Saturday (1<sup>st</sup> December).

**Please be reminded that they are intended for cards to people who regularly attend our services or weekly meetings.**

**If you don't think that the person is liable to collect it, please send it another way.**

This ensures that they receive your card and know that you are thinking of them.

All cards left by Christmas Day are disposed of. (There are still quite a number every year!)

**Please remember to check the racks regularly and collect your own cards.**

# **GET AN EXTRA BIRTHDAY CARD AND GIVE A GIFT TO HELP OTHERS!**

**BMS World Mission** supports medical work in countries across the world; Your Birthday is an ideal opportunity to help that work.

By making a donation on your Birthday through the **BMS Birthday Scheme**, you will be helping families and changing the lives of communities. The money you give goes to essential medical work around the world, bringing health and well being to thousands.

If you are interested in receiving an extra Birthday card whilst making a difference to others, just come and speak to me.

Thanks, Claire Newns

## **CHRISTMAS GREETINGS**

### **Mathew 1 verses 20 – 21**

But while he thought on these things, behold the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream saying Joseph the son of David fear not to take unto thee Mary, thy wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost. And she shall bring forth a son, and thee shall call His Name Jesus for He shall save his people from their sins. With these verses I want to wish all my brothers and sisters a very blessed Christmas at Central and beyond, and a very prosperous New Year.

From Eileen and Ester Emanuel.

## Poem of the Month

Last month's poet was the seventeenth century Puritan minister Richard Baxter. This month's poem is on an Advent theme, and is by someone famous. You have probably heard of him, but I did not know that he had written poetry.

No one can celebrate  
a genuine Christmas  
without being truly poor.  
The self-sufficient, the proud,  
those who, because they have  
everything, look down on others,  
those who have no need  
even of God – for them there  
will be no Christmas.  
Only the poor, the hungry,  
those who need someone  
to come on their behalf,  
will have that someone.  
That someone is God.  
Emmanuel. God-with-us.  
Without poverty of spirit  
there can be no abundance of God.

**Perry Green Services**

**At 6.00 pm**

2nd. Rev. Andrew Gale. 6.00 pm.

9th. Mr. Samson Akinola (c) 6.00 pm.

16th. All Age Christingle & Carols.

Miss Pam Greener 3.30 pm

23rd. Christmas Carols and Readings

Mr. Roger Barton 3.30 pm.

30th. Miss Pam Greener 3.30 pm

**TUESDAY FELLOWSHIP**

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

4th Gill Short

# **Programme of Events**

## **JUMP (Tuesdays)**

(10.00 am - 11.30 am Term Time)

4th

11th

18th

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

11th Christmas Meal

25th No Meeting.

Christmas Blessings to you all

## **Thursday Afternoon Fellowship**

**(At 2.30 pm)**

6th Jenny Flanningan

13th Small group from Luton Gospel Choir.

**START 2. PM** Everyone welcome -  
refreshments following

20th Carols

27th No Meeting

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL

# *Flowers for the Sanctuary*

- 2nd Mr. and Mrs. Roger Souster and family –  
In loving memory of a dear Mother and  
Father;  
In loving memory of my dear husband  
Renford, from Ita Evans and family.
- 9th In loving memory of Elsie and Rose  
Archer from Maggy and Phil Archer and  
family;  
Treasured memories of Clive, a very dear  
husband, dad and grandad, from Rita and  
family.
- 16th Mrs. Lesley Lee and family – In loving  
memory of Grace Bodsworth.
- 23rd Treasured memories of dear relatives, from  
Ingrid Khan and family;  
Mr. and Mrs. Roger Souster and families –  
Lovely memories of two very dear parents.
- 25th CHRISTMAS DAY – in loving memory of  
Grandma, from Dawn, Jane and Emma Adams;  
From Zac Sereaton – In loving memory of his  
wife Hazel.
- 30th Kind donations from various friends given  
throughout the year.

**CHURCH DIARY**  
**SUNDAY WORSHIP**  
**Morning 10.45 am**

(Services led by Minister unless, otherwise stated)

- 1st Service led by our children and their leaders
- 8th Teaching Service
- 15th Communion Service
- 23rd Morning Carol Service
- 30th End of year celebration

Special Services for Christmas

23rd at 7 pm Carols By Candlelight  
Christmas Eve 11:30pm Carols by Candlelight at Midnight  
Christmas Day 10:45 Christmas Celebration

New Year's Eve 11:30pm Watch in the New Year in prayer

***On Sunday evenings we meet at our chapel in Perry Green at 6 pm, if you would like a lift please try to let the pastor know but the lifts leave Cumberland Street Entrance at 5:45 pm sharp.***

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



## **BMS World Mission Birthday Scheme**

6th John Evans

10th Gwyneth Gapp

15th Dawn Adams

16th Patrice Evans

20th Shirley Garbett

21st Angela Knight

22nd Ruth Bell

30th Ann Stewart

# The Notice Board

Contacts are posted to  
you each month by

*Andrew Tomblin*

**8 Winslow Close**

**Luton, LU3 1QA**

**Donations for postage for Contact from:**

**Mrs. M . Rebecca**

**Thank You**

## **CUTTING CORNERS TO HELP OTHERS**

Used stamps don't seem very useful, however, BMS World Mission can use your used stamps to make a difference and improve the lives of others. All you need to do when all those letters and cards hit your mat, is cut the corner of the envelope, leaving about 2cms around the stamp, put them in a small bag or old envelope and place them in the bag that hangs in the Church hall. Alternatively hand them to Claire or Tim Newns.

## ***DECEMBER 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**

- Sat 1** Pray for the Messy Christmas event happening at Perry Green chapel today, for Anita and her helpers, and for the families who come to it. Pray for Tom Mower and for Connie Archer.
- Sun 2** Pray for John and Patrice. Pray for the Sunday School children and their leaders as they lead today's morning service. Pray that any visitors might feel welcomed. This first Sunday of Advent is traditionally known as Stir Sunday. May the Lord give us a vision of how he wants us to serve Him and then stir us into action.
- Mon 3** Pray for Ruth, Amos and their family, and ask for God's guidance for their future. Pray for Ruth's prayer meeting which takes place on Monday evenings.
- Tue 4** Pray for the deacons meeting this evening, that they may have God given wisdom to use the church's resources effectively.
- Wed 5** Pray for Hazel Tomblin, and for Marsh DSouza and Lavita Lobo, and for the bible study groups which meet in their homes. Pray for Andrew, Jo and their family.
- Thu 6** Pray for Graham Slough and the Christians in Sport Table Tennis group. Pray for Eric and Ann Norman.
- Fri 7** Pray for our Boys' Brigade. Pray for Mel and for all the other leaders and helpers. Pray that the boys would enjoy it so much that they'd invite others along.
- Sat 8** Give thanks for the ministry of Level Trust to the poorest families of our town, for the uniform exchange project providing for those unable to afford new uniforms, and for all those who have supported the charity over the last year.
- Sun 9** It is the second Sunday of Advent; pray for Andrew teaching at today's service. Pray for the musicians, for PA and computer operators, for the Sunday school teachers, for the door stewards, for whoever serves tea and coffee afterwards.

- Mon 10** Pray for our art club. Pray for Jean Wright, for June Radford, for Pat Ridyard and for Ina Bailey.
- Tue 11** Pray for all the children at JUMP. Pray for Judy Baker.
- Wed 12** Pray for the work of open air witness in the town centre. Pray for Andrew and Bill as they join them.
- Thu 13** Pray for Thursday Afternoon Fellowship. Pray for Steve Conybeare. Pray for Ian and Vickie.
- Fri 14** Pray for the ministry of our Perry Green branch church. Give thanks for (and pray for) Pam as she leads and those who come to speak week by week; pray also for Andrew and Christine looking after practical and financial matters.
- Sat 15** Pray for our youth group. Pray for Anita and Mike Jones and their family.
- Sun 16** Pray for the church lunch today. Pray for Roland and Hilary. Pray for the Romanian church, the EPdL (Francophone African church) and Chinese church meeting in our building.
- Mon 17** Pray for our Girls' Brigade company.
- Tue 18** Pray for the people who pay to use our car park during the week. Pray for the men's prayer meeting this morning and the short mat bowls group this afternoon.
- Wed 19** Pray for the SHIELD youth discussion group.
- Thu 20** Pray for people whose children and/or grandchildren have moved away from Luton, potentially leaving them vulnerable and lonely.
- Fri 21** Give thanks for the numerous (mostly volunteer) chaplains around the town: for those serving passengers and employees at the airport, for chaplains in the law courts, town hall, Mall, shops, streets, University and council offices, and for the many chaplain volunteers serving patients, families and staff at the hospital. Pray that they may serve with grace and compassion. Give thanks for thousands of conversations with people in their moment

**of need, for opportunities to love people and pray for them, and for many lives touched by their words of hope.**

**Sat 22 Give thanks for the staff and volunteers of Azalea who help many troubled women: for every word of compassion or act of kindness, and for the women who have put their trust in Jesus.**

**Sun 23 Pray for our special Christmas events: the morning carol service and this evening's Carols by Candlelight. Pray for a good attendance and many visitors.**

**Mon 24 Pray for calm and a spiritual focus amidst last minute preparations. Pray for Rita Gibbs and for Zac Sereaton.**

**Tue 25 On this Christmas Day, pray that the world will know peace. Give thanks for peacemakers, especially for Peter Adams and the St Mary's Centre for Peace and Reconciliation.**

**Wed 26 Pray for Erwin in his responsibilities as Church Secretary, and for Sue in her work for the church.**

**Thu 27 Give thanks for the many activities of NOAH, particularly for the cold weather night shelter running in our hall again this winter. Pray for their volunteers.**

**Fri 28 Pray for children who do not seem to be following in their parents' footsteps of faith. Pray for Jam, that he will be able to prepare adequately for his successor as Church Treasurer.**

**Sat 29 Give thanks for the work of Luton's Foodbank and for the generosity of people giving to it. Give thanks for the many ordinary ways in which followers of Jesus daily bless the people of Luton.**

**Sun 30 Pray for our end of year celebration today. Pray for Tim and Claire. Pray for Elizabeth Oyedemi.**

**Mon 31 Pray that our church may begin the new year with a renewed vision and a commitment to prayer. Pray for Samson and Racheal.**

## Weekly Church Activities

### *Sunday*

10.45 am Morning Service  
Communion

### *Monday*

1.00 - 3.00 pm 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 (L.I.F.T.)  
(2nd & 4th week)  
10.00 - 12.00 pm Men's Prayer Meeting

### *Wednesday*

7.30 pm Shield for those aged 14+

### *Thursday*

2.30 pm Thursday Afternoon Fellowship

### *Friday*

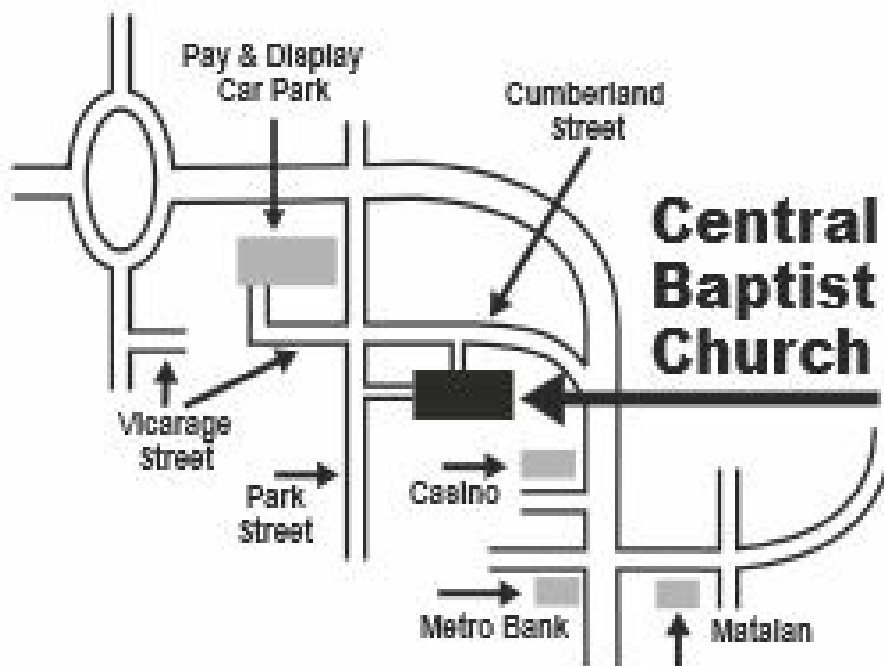
6.45 - 9.30 pm Boys Brigade

### *Saturday*

7.00 - 9.00 pm Youth Group - Year 7+

MINISTER  
Rev. Andrew Gale  
Mobile 07914 853395

SECRETARY  
Erwin Tadiar



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