



Contact

MAGAZINE

February 2019



Motto
2019

Acts 1:8
New International Version

**BUT YOU
will receive
power when
the Holy Spirit
comes on you;
and you will
be my witnesses
in Jerusalem, and
in all Judea and
Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.**





FROM THE PASTOR

Our challenge this year is for each member and friend at Central to seek through prayer and witness to lead one person to Christ during 2019. This is not the same as inviting someone to church, although our services could be a tool that you use. I thought it worthwhile laying out the general Gospel message we want to share, of course, each person you speak to will be different and will be facing different problems so you may wish to emphasise different aspects to different people.

Gospel means good news, so what is the good news we have for the world? Good news has to start with the fact that **God Loves You**. Before we share anything else this is the place to start, before we start talking about sin and judgment, your friends and family need to hear that God loves them. We know and rely on the love God has for us.

God is love. 1 John 4:16

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. John 3:16

The next part of the good news is that **He loves us even though we don't deserve it**. Everyone knows that we have done things wrong, we are all sinners but God still loves us.

For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. Romans 3:23

He loves us at great cost. Our sins separate us from a holy God, for us to have a relationship with Him our sins have to be paid for. Since we can't do enough good works to pay for our sin, Jesus died on the cross as a sacrifice to pay for our sins

But your iniquities have separated you from your God; your sins have hidden his face from you, so that he will not hear. Isaiah 59:2

But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: while we were still sinners, Christ died for us Romans 5:8

See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! 1 John 3:1

His love demands a response. We can reject His love and turn our backs on Him, keep living for ourselves and ignore Him. Or we can reciprocate His love, receive forgiveness and be transformed. When we recognise how much God loves us that inspires us to love Him and others. When we recognise how much God loves us want to live in a way that pleases Him.

We love because he first loved us. 1 John 4:19

I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me.

The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. Galatians 2:20

May our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us and by his grace gave us eternal encouragement and good hope, encourage your hearts and strengthen you in every good deed and word. 2 Thessalonians 2:16-17

Andrew

Historic Baptist Messages

Some extracts from C. H Spurgeon preaching on 21st March 1858 from the text, "This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief." 1 Timothy 1:15

And, now, very briefly, the third point: What is meant by saving sinners? "Christ came to save sinners." Brethren, if you want a picture to show you what is meant by being saved, let me give it to you here. There is a poor wretch who has lived many a year in the grossest sin; Drunkenness, and vice, and folly have cast their iron net about him, and he has become loathsome and unable to escape from his loathsomeness. Do you see him? He is tottering onwards to his ruin. From childhood to youth, from youth to manhood, he has sinned right on, and now he is going towards his last days. The pit of hell is flaring across his path, flinging its frightful rays immediately before his face, and yet he sees it not: he still goes on in his wickedness, despising God and hating his own salvation. Leave him there. A few years have and now hear another story. Do you see that spirit yonder-foremost among the ranks most sweetly singing the praises of God? Do you mark it robed in white, an emblem of its purity? Do you see it as it casts its crown before the feet of Jesus, and acknowledges him the Lord of all? Hark! Do you hear it as it sings the sweetest song that ever charmed Paradise itself? Listen to it, its song is this:-

"I, the chief of sinners am,
But Jesus died for me."

"Unto him that loved me, and washed me from my sins in his blood, unto him be glory and honour, and majesty, and power, and dominion, world without end." And who is that whose song thus emulates the seraph's strains The same person who a little while ago was so frightfully depraved, the selfsame man! But he has been washed, he has been sanctified, he has been justified. If you ask me, then, what is meant by salvation, I tell you that it reaches all the way from that poor, desperately fallen piece of humanity, to that high-soaring spirit up yonder, praising God. That is to be saved-to have our old thoughts made into new ones, to have our old habits broken off, and to have new habits given; to have our old sins pardoned, and to have righteousness imputed; to have peace in the conscience, peace to man, and peace with God; to have the spotless robe of imputed righteousness cast about our loins, and ourselves healed and cleansed. To be saved is to be rescued from the gulf of perdition; to be raised to the throne of heaven; to be delivered from the wrath and curse! and the thunders of an angry God, and brought to feel and taste the love, the approval, and applause of Jehovah, our Father and our Friend. And all this Christ gives to sinners. When I preach this simple gospel, I have nothing to do with those who will not call themselves sinners. If you must be canonized, if you claim a saintly perfection of your own, I have nothing to do with you. My gospel is to sinners, and sinners alone; and the whole of this salvation, so broad and brilliant, and unspeakably precious, and everlastingly secure, is addressed this day to the outcast, to the off scouring-in one word, it is addressed to sinners.

But you say you are too great a sinner. Why you are not greater than some in heaven already. You say that you are the greatest sinner that ever lived. I say you are mistaken. The greatest sinner died some years ago and went to heaven. My text says so:-"Of whom I am chief" So, you see, the chief one has been saved before you; and if the chief one has been saved, why should you not be? There are the sinners standing in a line, and I see one starting out from the ranks, and he says, "Make way, make way; I stand at the head of you, I am the chief of sinners. give me the lowest place; let me take the lowest room." "No," cries another, "not you; I am a greater sinner than you." "I will have the lowest place. I was a blasphemer, a persecutor, and injurious, but I have obtained mercy, that in me first God might show his long-suffering." Now, if Christ has saved the greatest sinner that ever lived, oh, sinner, great as you may be, you cannot be greater than the greatest, and he is able to save you. Oh, I beseech you by the myriads of witnesses around the throne, and by the thousands of witnesses on earth, by Jesus Christ, the witness on Calvary, by the blood of sprinkling that is a witness even now, by

God himself, and by his Word which is faithful, I beseech you believe this faithful saying, that "Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners."

And, now, dost thou feel anxious? Is thy heart sad? Dost thou say, "I desire to be saved. Can I trust to this gospel? Is it strong enough to bear me? I am an elephantine sinner; will not its pillars crumble like leaves beneath my weight of sin?" "I the chief of sinners am;" will its portals be wide enough to receive me? My spirit is diseased with sin; can this medicine cure it? Yes, it is worthy of you: it is equal to your disease, it is equal to your wants, it is all-sufficient for your demands. If I had a half-gospel to preach, or a defective one, I would not preach it earnestly; but I have one that is worthy of all acceptation. "But, sir I have been a thief, a whoremonger, a drunkard." It is worthy of thee, for he came to save sinners, and thou art one. "But, sir, I have been a blasphemer." It does not exclude even thee; it is worthy of thy acceptation. But, mark, it is worthy of all the acceptation you can give it. You may not only accept it in your head but in your heart; you may press it to your soul and call it all in and, you may feed on it, and live on it. And if you live for it, and suffer for it, and die for it, it is worthy of all.

I must let you go now; but my spirit feels as if it would linger here. Strange it should be that many men should not care for their own souls, when your minister this day cares for you. What matters it to me whether men be lost or saved? Shall I be any the better for your salvation? Assuredly there is little gain there. And yet I feel more for you, many of you, than you feel for yourselves. Oh, strange hardening of the heart, that a man should not care for his men salvation, that he should, without a thought, reject the most precious truth. Stay, sinner stay, ere thou turnest from thine own mercy-stay, once more-perhaps this shall be thy last warning, or worse, it may be the last warning thou shalt ever feel. Thou feelest it now. Oh I beseech thee quench not the Spirit. Go not forth from this place to talk with idle gossip on thy way home. Go not forth to forget what manner of man thou art. But hasten to thy home; seek thy chamber; shut to the door; fall on thy face by thy bedside; confess thy sin; cry unto Jesus, tell him thou art a wretch undone without his sovereign grace, tell him thou has heard this morning that he came to save sinners, and that the thought of such a love as that hath made thee lay down the weapons of thy rebellion, and that thou art desirous to be his. There on thy face plead with him, and say unto him, "Lord save me, or I perish."

BB Autumn Term

What have we been doing this past term? Well, we came back after the summer holidays apparently fully refreshed and raring to go!! If that wasn't 100% the case it was good to get back and see how everyone was and what they'd all been up to. Some of us hadn't done much but some had definitely made the most of their six week holiday. It was good to see the boys catch up, especially those who only see each other through BB, although I know most do keep in contact by phone or social media, or by playing games online together.

After an evening or two of social events/games evenings we worked on the church Remembrance display. The Anchors made the memorial and the wreaths, the three other sections made the silhouettes, and then the Company and Seniors made the poppies. We were very fortunate to receive 10 figurines from the There but not There memorial campaign, and I'm sure you will agree they were very evocative sitting in our chairs. Thank you to the boys and leaders for all their hard work, and for the comments we received from a lot of you.

Thank you also to all the congregation who joined in and wrote prayers, comments or verses on peace for the poppy peace field.

Reece was also involved with Wootton BB, learning to march and drum at the same time for their Remembrance Day Parade, an experience he has enjoyed.

Since that the Anchors have been learning about Animal Care. This is a follow on from a badge they did last year when they had visits from a rabbit, various exotic pets and a dog. This finished by them going to a local Cat Sanctuary and taking with them bags they had made up that included cat food, a bowl, a blanket and anything else they thought of to bring. These were gratefully received by the sanctuary and all the Anchors had a brilliant time (and no one smuggled a cat out much to Anita's relief)

The Juniors have been Helping a Charity. They chose to do this by designing and making Christmas Crackers to sell. They created a business plan (!) which mapped out material, timing costs etc. The crackers came in sets of six and each cracker contained a hat, a joke, a top trump of the Christmas story, a gift and a sweet. They also had a popper cracker snap in them for when you pulled them apart. They sold them for £5 for a set and the money raised will go to NOAH.

The Company and Seniors took part in UK Parliament Week. This included learning about our parliament, government, democracy and devolved governing bodies. We had a couple of quizzes and some information of universal suffrage. We then had a parliamentary debate on lowering the voting age to sixteen. We had on one side a Prime Minister, a Minister, a Backbencher, a Backbencher who disagrees with his party and an independent. On the other side we had the Leader of the Opposition, a Shadow Minister, two Backbenchers, and two independents. One of the boys was also the Speaker. After a brief introduction in to parliamentary protocol, we gave them 10 minutes to prepare and then the public gallery convened for the fun...which it was. The debate was good, and to be fair the behaviour was probably better than that you see on TV in the House of Commons. In the end the vote was for but only by one vote.

The Company section since have been building two Gokarts. The basic structures are complete, now they need painting and finishing touches before we race them...

The Seniors have been Cooking, Pizza and Pasta Bake are two of the things they've made, and eaten before they've made it home.

To celebrate Christmas we all went out to eat, the Anchors and Juniors went to Pizza Express and the Company and Seniors went to Hong Buffet. A good time was had by all, and by the time you read this we will have started back for the Spring Term.

FELLOWSHIP NEWS AS AT 13TH JANUARY **2019**

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

VINOLA JOSEPH who will be 90 on 26th February.

ROGER LAKE who will be 80 on 16th February.

Having only been home for a few days after some time in hospital EDNA SMITH died on 17th

December. Our love and sympathy to her son Graham, daughter Beverley and all the family.

GERALD HALE is doing well after his hip operation and is now out and about.

ELIZABETH WRIGHT is due for an operation on 25th January.

DAVID SAXBY has broken his arm in falling at home.

We wish STEVE CONYBEARE every blessing as he goes to New Zealand to spend time with Ruth and family

To those mentioned and others we may not know about, we pray that they will soon be well, strengthened, and comforted and upheld in their time of need.

Ann M Norman

CHURCH DIARY
SUNDAY WORSHIP
Morning 10.45 am

(Services led by Minister unless, otherwise stated)

3rd Family and Parade service

10th Teaching Service. Types of Prayer,

17th Communion Service

24th Elder service led by Ian Benjamin

On Sunday afternoons we meet at our chapel in Perry Green at 3:30pm, if you would like a lift please try to let the pastor know. Lifts leave the Cumberland Street Entrance at 3:10 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

2 nd	Elizabeth Wright
5 th	Samuel Kenner
15 th	Frank Smith
16 th	Roger Lake
21 st	Pat Slough

Contacts are posted to
you each month by

Andrew Tomblin

8 Winslow Close

Luton, LU3 1QA

Donations for postage for Contact from:

Miss. J. Summerlin

Thank You

Programme of Events

JUMP (Tuesdays)

(10.00 am - 11.30 am Term Time)

5th

12th

19th

26th

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

12th A big welcome to you all for the 2019 Programme. We shall commence our meetings with an old favourite - a "Bag Beetle Drive" followed by a Fellowship Supper.

26th Please welcome our friend and member Miss Pam Greener who will introduce us to Mary Queen of Scots.

Thursday Afternoon Fellowship

(At 2.30 pm)

7th Mrs. Joy Browning - Hebrew Scripture Soc.

14th Will and Lyn Andrews - 2 Counties Evangelist.

21st Mrs. Diane Maple.

28th Rev. Chris Adams - Church of England

BOB SIMPSON

It was with sadness that we learned of the death of Bob Simpson one of the first ministers of Luton Central Baptist Church, on 29th October 2018. Bob served in Luton from 1977 to 1988, during which time our present premises were built and opened. For the last fifteen years Bob, with his wife Doreen, were living in ‘retirement’ in a Leicestershire village called Newbold Verdon. – After attending the local Baptist church for a short time, Bob was invited to become their minister, with Doreen as church secretary. The Lord guided them to encourage and lead the fellowship, building it up into an active witness in the village, and baptisms were held in the little church for the first time in 22 years! The building has been modernised and refurbished, too. He served in this capacity until his death. Several of us were able to attend the thanksgiving service for Bob’s life, when family and friends gathered from near and far. Loving sympathy and happy memories were expressed and tributes were paid to Bob’s fifty years service in the Baptist Ministry. ‘Well done good and faithful servant’.

Shirley Hobbs

Poem of the Month

The poem below should have appeared in January, for Epiphany, but illness got in the way. It is by T.S.Eliot, and the December poem was by Oscar Romero, a Roman Catholic Archbishop in El Salvador. This will be the last "Poem of the Month", for a while at least, as the muse is tired.

'A cold coming we had of it,
 Just the worst time of the year
 For a journey, and such a long journey:
 The ways deep and the weather sharp,
 The very dead of winter.'
 And the camels galled, sore-footed, refractory,
 Lying down in the melting snow.
 There were times we regretted
 The summer palaces on slopes, the terraces,
 And the silken girls bringing sherbet.
 Then the camel men cursing and grumbling
 And running away, and wanting their liquor and women,
 And the night-fires going out, and the lack of shelters,
 And the cities hostile and the towns unfriendly
 And the villages dirty and charging high prices:
 A hard time we had of it.
 At the end we preferred to travel all night,
 Sleeping in snatches,
 With the voices singing in our ears, saying
 That this was all folly.

Then at dawn we came down to a temperate valley,
 Wet, below the snow line, smelling of vegetation;
 With a running stream and a water-mill beating the darkness,
 And three trees on the low sky,
 And an old white horse galloped away in the meadow.
 Then we came to a tavern with vine-leaves over the lintel,
 Six hands at an open door dicing for pieces of silver,
 And feet kicking the empty wine-skins,
 But there was no information, and so we continued
 And arrived at evening, not a moment too soon
 Finding the place; it was (you may say) satisfactory.

All this was a long time ago, I remember,
 And I would do it again, but set down
 This set down
 This: were we led all that way for
 Birth or Death? There was a Birth, certainly,
 We had evidence and no doubt. I had seen birth and death,
 But had thought they were different; this Birth was
 Hard and bitter agony for us, like Death, our death.
 We returned to our places, these Kingdoms,
 But no longer at ease here, in the old dispensation,
 With an alien people clutching their gods.
 I should be glad of another death.

Spurgeon's Children's Charity

This Christmas we gave our offering to Spurgeon's Children's Charity and the following are the projects that Spurgeon's will use the money on..

Family Support

With around 400,000 children in the UK classed by the child protection service as being in need, Spurgeons' services ensure vulnerable children and their families can access the support they need for a better future. Spurgeon's offer family support through their children's centres and prison visitor centres, with both one-to-one and group activities.

They provide local support for families who need help and aim to equip them to cope better with their difficulties and provide resources and support to find long lasting solutions to challenging problems. One of the most effective ways of doing this is by working directly with vulnerable young people and their families within their own community, through the children's centres and local projects.

Young Carers

Spurgeon's offers a wide range of services to support young carers, from mentoring and educational support to activities and trips away to give them much needed time out from their caring duties.

There are more than 244,000 young carers in the UK; young people who are caring for or supporting a family member with an illness or disability, in the way an adult normally would. Young carers can experience immense emotional pressure and many feel they're missing out on fully enjoying their childhood. Young carers often have to assume a level of responsibility that would normally only be asked of an adult. The stress and anxiety that this can cause can leave them feeling isolated and unsupported. Many miss out on their childhood and youth as time constraints make it impossible for them to attend school or take part in leisure activities with their peers.

The average age of a young carer is 12 years, and over 13,000 young carers care for up to 50 hours a week. Young adult carers aged between 16 and 18 years are twice as likely to be not in education, employment, or training (NEET).

Children's Centres

Spurgeon's Children's Centres support parents with young children to access the help they need, to make sure poverty and deprivation doesn't become a barrier to a better future.

Over 3.9 million children are living in poverty in the UK today, with around 400,000 classed by the child protection service as being in need. Poverty places a huge burden on parents, as well as restricting childhood development and, in extreme cases, shortens lives.

Spurgeons works with local partners to run over 20 Children's Centres across the UK, focusing on communities with high levels of deprivation. They offer support for parents and their children from pre-natal stage, through birth and up to the age of five.

Families affected by imprisonment

160,000 children each year have a parent in prison.

At Spurgeons, the aim is to improve the lives of those children and their families who are affected by a parent being in prison. The prisoner and family support services across England allows children to visit their loved ones in a friendly environment and the mentoring and support programmes give young people the chance to reduce negative behaviours and build a better future.

The Phoenix Project

The Phoenix Project is a confidential service to support children, young people and their families who are at risk of or affected by Childhood Sexual Exploitation (CSE).

The project supports children and young people aged 8 -17 to make positive choices about healthy relationships and personal safety; it also provides a package of support for parents and carers to help them understand childhood sexual exploitation and to safeguard the children and young people in their care.

The Family Intervention for Self-Harm (FISH) Project

The Family Intervention for Self-Harm project (FISH) works with 10-19 year olds and their families to reduce the frequency and severity of self-harm incidents.

Running in Birmingham and funded by the Big Lottery, it is the only project of its type to provide a family-focused self-harm intervention service, without them requiring a referral to specialist mental health support service. Parental support is crucial in recognising and aiding a young person's recovery from self-harming behaviour.

Teenage Parents

Spurgeons aims helps teenagers to become excellent parents by working alongside their families and providing support through their Children's Centres.

Being a teenage parent can be very difficult. Not only might a young mum or dad feel too young to be a parent but they might also find themselves separated from their child's other parent. They might even face difficulties from their own family at a time when they really need them. Any new parent's support network of family and friends is vital, and this is even more so the case for teenage parents, who can be vulnerable and socially isolated, as well as experience mental health challenges and social and financial pressures.

To help teenage mums and dads, Spurgeons encourages their parents, grandparents and other family members to get involved at their Children's Centres.

Saturdads

Spurgeons recognises the important role that fathers play in children's lives. They created Saturdads to help fathers develop stronger, positive relationships, build their parenting capacity and be more involved in their child's learning.

At the weekly Saturday morning sessions, fathers can watch their children play, be more involved with them and develop their confidence as a dad. The scheme also helps fathers to create peer support networks and enables them to socialise with other parents.

Spurgeons has been running Saturdads in Peterborough since 2009, thanks to funding from Peterborough City Council.

Girls in gangs, the BeLeave project

The project is part of an international learning project, Girls in Gangs, pioneered and funded by Comic Relief, and supports girls aged 11-18 years across all of Birmingham who are at risk of, or involved in Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE), through a third party, family member or friend. Spurgeons supports girls by providing ...

Direct One-to-One Support: targeted sessions between the girl and family support worker with the aim of developing self-esteem, encourage assertiveness and aspiration; providing a space to be acknowledged and listened to. Sessions will also focus on the risks and consequences of CCE and gang related harm.

Family Sessions: creating a space for open discussion aimed at raising families' awareness of CCE and gang related harm and identify potential warning signs. Support positive communication and facilitate the reparation of family breakdown.

Community Awareness: raising community awareness of gang-related issues and facilitate support for girls by providing opportunities to access positive activities for young people; such as sports, arts and leisure.

Norwich Connect

Over the next three years, SafeLives are working with partners from the Norfolk County Community Safety Partnership to pilot a beacon site of best practice in Norfolk for victims of domestic abuse. Norwich Connect, which is led by Spurgeons, is one element of this and aims to improve the response for whole families experiencing domestic abuse. The Norwich Connect service provides support to people regardless of gender, sexuality, age, or disability.

As you can see, Spurgeons Children's Charity covers a wide range of activities and a large area of the country. All their work is guided by the Christian faith and core values, and all their volunteers have the same beliefs and values. The money we gave will be used to support children, young people and their families through the work of Spurgeons Children's Charity.

Thank You Page

Many thanks for all the messages, cards and gifts that I received on the occasion of my 60th birthday. A special thank you to those of you who were there to help me celebrate at my surprise birthday party. Thank you to Louise and all who helped her, especially for keeping it so quiet! Feeling very blessed.
Much love to you all.

Shirley Garbett

Gerald and Eunice Hale would like to thank the Church Fellowship for their cards, telephone calls and Church Flowers during Gerald's time in Hospital.

Flowers for the Sanctuary

- 3rd Mr. and Mrs. M, Page;
Hazel and Frank Smith – In memory of
loving parents.
- 10th Mrs. Jean Wright – In memory of Ron and
our loved ones;
In loving memory of Mrs Maria Akinola
from the Akinola family.
- 17th Mr. Ron Lee and family;
Birthday memories of Clive, a loving
husband, dad and grandad, From Rita and
family.
- 24th In loving memory of Violet Plummer, a
very dear Mother, from Audrey, Malcolm,
Michael and Gillian;
In loving memory of Peter, from Margaret
Lockwood and family.

Perry Green Services

At 6.00 pm

3rd. Mr. Samson Akinola (c) 3.30 pm.

10th. Mr. Roger Barton 3.30 pm

17th. Rev. Andrew Gale 3.30 pm.

24th. Mr. Andy Morton 3.30 pm

TUESDAY FELLOWSHIP

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

T.B.A.

Weekly Church Activities

Sunday

10.45 am Morning Service
Communic8

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
7.30 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

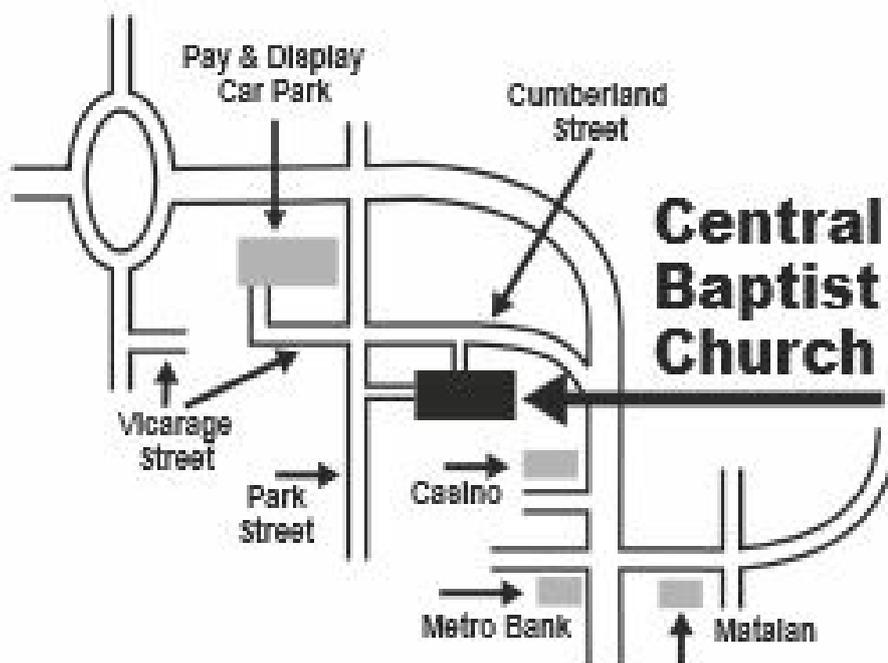
6.45 - 9.30 pm Boys Brigade

Saturday

7.00 - 9.00 pm Youth Group - Year 7+

MINISTER
Rev. Andrew Gale
Mobile 07914 853395

SECRETARY
Erwin Tadiar



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