

Keeping you in

CONTACT

with

LUTON

Motto 2018

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



JANUARY 2018

Articles for the FEBRUARY 2018 Contact should be given to Gwyneth Gapp -by Sunday 14TH JANUARY They can be handwritten, placed in the box in the front vestibule or emailed to gwyneth.gapp@ntlworld.com

January 2018

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
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From your Pastor Andrew Gale

**I have hidden your word in my heart
that I might not sin against you. Psalm 119:11**

Our key text for this year empathises three key points.

The Bible is important, it is God's Word, God is speaking to humankind through this book. This is not a book of collected human wisdom but God's voice. If we received a personal letter from the Queen we would be keen to open it and read. When young man receives a love letter from his girlfriend (more likely to be text today) he is keen to open it and dissect its meaning. The Creator of the universe has sent word to us, our Father who loves us has made contact how keen should we be to receive his word?

How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord,
Is laid for your faith in His excellent word!
What more can He say than to you He hath said—
To you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?

We hide it in our heart, not just in our head, we don't learn Bible verses to quote them and seem clever as classic scholars like to quote ancient literature, but we let it penetrate the core of our being. We face many decisions daily and we can't go and look up a Bible verse to help us with each one, but by hiding Scripture in our hearts we imbibe the values it contains. When we face difficulties, we have hidden words of comfort in our hearts. When we feel weak we draw out words of encouragement. When we are witnessing we can show others the way of salvation. We don't always have time to consult our Bible app

Living a holy life is our aim, we do not read and the Bible just to feel good but that we have Bible values. We put the Bible in our hearts so that we can instinctively know how to act and react. As we hide the Bible in our hearts we begin to act in a way that pleases God without be aware of a conscious choice. During this year we are committing to learning Bible verses together, just one verse a week, not to win prizes but to: show respect to our Creator who humbled Himself to speak to us; to have Scripture available to us when we need it and so that we can live a life acceptable to our Lord.

Andrew

From: The Lantern January 1884

The Old and New Year

I mused as the midnight hour drew nigh, and methought the Old Year stood before me; weary and way-worn he seemed, and in his hand was an hourglass, whence the last sands were fleeting. As I looked upon his forehead memories both pleasant and mournful came over me. Fain would I have constrained his longer stay, and spake earnestly to him: "Many blessings hast thou brought me, for which I give thee thanks. New have they been every morning, and fresh every moment. Thou hast indeed from my hearts garden uprooted some hopes that I planted there. With their clustering buds they fell, and were never quickened again." Then he said, "Praise God both for what I gave and what I took away. And lay up treasures in heaven, that thy heart may be there also. What thou callest blighted hopes are oft-times changed into fruits of righteousness."

But I answered, "Thou hast also hidden from my sight the loved and the revered. Clods are strewn upon their faces; they reply to my call no more. To the homes that they made so fair they return not, and the places that once knew them know them no more for ever." Still he said =, "Give praise to God. Trouble not thyself about those that are with Him. Rather make thine own salvation sure, that thou mayest go unto them, and be parted no more." Then in a faint voice, he murmured: "My mission unto man is done. For me, the stone is rolled away from the door of the sepulchre. I will enter in and slumber with the years beyond the flood, till the last trumpet soundeth."

I gazed upon his wan brow, and to me it was beautiful. Fain would I have swept away the snows that gathered round his hoary temples; but he suffered me not, and stretched himself out to die. By his side I knelt and said, "Oh, departing Year! I behold a scroll folded beneath thy mantle. What witness shall it bear of me at judgment?"

Low and solemn were his last tones, "Thou shalt know when the books are opened and the dead great and small stand before God."

The midnight hour struck, and I covered my face and mourned his death who had once been to me as a friend. I remembered with pain how oft I had slighted his warnings, and the opportunities he had given me for doing good, and had cast away the wealth of time, that priceless boon from the Eternal. Methought from dying lips came a feeble sigh, "Farewell, farewell." Then a passion of weeping fell upon me. And again I lifted up my head, lo! The New Year stood in place of the departed.

Smiling he greeted me with good wishes and words of cheer, while around me lay many bright tokens of friendship and of love. But I was afraid, for to me he was a stranger, and when I would have returned his welcome, my lips trembled and were silent. Then said he, "fear not. I have come from the Giver of every good and perfect gift."

New Year whither will you lead me? Art thou appointed to bring me joy or sorrow, life or death?" He replied, "I know not, neither doth the angel nearest the throne know. Only Him who sitteth thereon. Give me thy hand and question not. Enough for thee that I accomplish His will. Make sure that will thine own, and thou shalt taste an angel's happiness, even here below, I promise thee nothing; be content to follow me. Take thy prayer for wisdom, this winged moment. The next may not be thine to give. Yet, if we walk onward together, forget not that thou art a pilgrim for eternity. If I bring thee the cup of joy, be thankful and pitiful to those who mourn; and let all men be unto thee as brethren. If the dregs of bitterness cleave unto thy lips, be not too eager to receive relief lest thou betray the weakness of thy faith. God's perfect discipline giveth wisdom. Therefore count them happy who endure. When morn breaketh in the east, gird thyself in the Holy Spirit's strength for thy duties, with a song of thanksgiving. For God is near to those who trust and rejoice in His ways. And when night putteth on her coronet of stars, kneel and ask that the day's sins may, for Christ's sake, be forgiven thee, so that when I have no longer days or nights to give thee, and must myself die, thou mayest bless me as a friend and helper on the road to heaven."

FELLOWSHIP NEWS AS AT 10TH DECEMBER 2017

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

BETTY GALE who will be 92 on 6th January

SHIRLEY HOBBS who will be 80 on 12th January

BETTY CATO who will be 91 on 19th January

BELATEDLY TO:-

STEWART and LUCY LEARY on the birth of their daughter

CHARLIEANN

Our love and sympathy to HAZEL and TONY BURLEY, Hazel's sister OLIVE died 21st November and to JANET FORSYTH whose nephew died recently.

DEBORAH ANIFOWOSE has been transferred to the L&D ward 16 and is making progress, CYNTHIA BEST is now home.

As is TOM MOWER who is getting on well, and ERIC NORMAN is still having treatment and does show signs of improvement.

Both ALAN DUDLEY and JAMES STEVENS have had hospital treatment, DAVID HOBBS has had a few off days and

STEVE CONYBEARE hurt his shoulder whilst working in the garden,

Several people have had appointments including GWYNETH GAPP.

Our thoughts and prayers are with all these friends and their families in their joys and sorrows. We pray that all may experience renewed health and strength, and the love and support of a Caring Fellowship.

Ann M. Norman

BMS World Mission Globes

Thank you to everyone who has a BMS World Mission Globe or Box, we have been able to send them £186.38 from the recent collection.

Many Thanks

Claire News

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

- 7th Covenant Service
- 14th Teaching Service: Salvation, Whose choice ours or God's?
- 21st Communion Service
- 28th Service led by the elders

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

WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

Preparation Day on Monday 29th January 2018
09:30 am - 3.00 pm at Central Baptist Church

Flowers for the Sanctuary

- 7th Shirley Garbett & Family – In loving memory of a dear brother; In loving memory of Derrick Smith from Edna & the family.
- 14th Shirley, David & Family – In memory of loved ones
- 21st In loving memory of Stan, from Jean Corder & Family;
In loving memory of my dear wife Hazel from Zac Sereaton.
- 28th Mrs. M. Lockwood – In loving memory of Mr. G. Garrett;
In loving memory of a dear Dad, Bill Plummer, from Audrey, Malcolm, Michael & Gillian;
Mr. & Mrs. R. Todd – In loving memory of a dear Mother & Father.

Programme of Events

JUMP (Tuesdays)

(10.00 am - 11.30 am Term Time)

9th

16th

23rd

30th

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

- 9th Tonight we are commencing our programme with an old favourite a 'BAG' Beetle Drive.
- 23rd We welcome our Minister Rev. Andrew Gale who will be talking about 'Being a Foster Carer'.

Thursday Afternoon Fellowship

(At 2.30 pm)

4th T.B.A.

11th Audrey Pratt

18th Rex Andrews - Flitwick

25th Chris Adams - Church of England

Why pink?

Why do some people have little pink envelopes to put in the collection when it comes round? Other people just put in money, and some people don't seem to put anything in.

I think the pink envelopes serve three functions:

1. Perhaps the least important is that they do stop other people seeing how much you are giving.

2. Secondly, if you have completed a gift aid declaration they allow the church to track how much tax we can claim back from the government.

Only the treasurer is able to relate the number back to a name, and only for those for whom we are claiming gift aid. For everyone else the envelopes are allocated randomly so no-one knows who has what number.

In particular, this means that the people who open the envelopes and count the money do not know who has which envelope.

3. Finally, the most important reason for having the envelopes is to remind you to give regularly. The church costs money to run whether you are around that week or not. The offering varies tremendously from week to week; it would be easier to plan if it didn't go up and down so much!!

If you did not receive a set of envelopes, and would like some, please just ask Jam to give you a set.

Perry Green Services
At 6.00 pm

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

- 7th. Mr. Adam Benjamin
- 14th. Mr. Roger Barton (c)
- 21st. Rev. Andrew Gale
- 28th. Mrs. Gill Short

Tuesday Fellowship at 2.30 pm

No Meetings in January

TRIBUTE TO PEARL SYLVIA ANN LEE, nee IMPEY

21st August 1935 – 24th October 2017

On the 17th November 2017, a crisp, bright and sunny day, family and friends gathered at Luton Crematorium for the Committal Service of dear Pearl, and after this short service we made our way to Central Baptist Church in Park Street for a wonderful Thanksgiving Service which had been arranged by Pearl. She had chosen all her favourite hymns for this service and also a very well loved Bible Reading. 2 Corinthians 5, 1-10, read by Graham Slough. Both of the above services were conducted by our minister, Rev. Andrew Gale, assisted by Ruth Tiso, our Minister in Training.

Pearl was born in Luton on the 21st August 1935 to two very dear parents Stan and Dorothy Impey.

She had a younger sister, Heather Lake, who was very close to her and supported Pearl over many years and was among the close family who joined in both the services.

Pearl's formative years were spent growing up during World War 2, and she was introduced to Park Street Baptist Church at a very early age and attended all her life until illness prevented her from doing so. She attended Hart Lane Infant and Junior Schools and then from 11-15 transferred to Hitchin Road Secondary Modern Girls' School. She made many friends at these schools, keeping in touch with some of them over many years.

Pearl was my life-long friend. The most kindest and gentlest friend you could ever have. Nothing was ever too much trouble for her and she was always thinking about others and showing her Christian Love for so many folk in different ways. Our childhood and teenage years were spent attending all the youth organisations at the Church. We were in the same Sunday School Class together, and one of our favourite Sunday School Teachers in the Senior Department was Ian Sutherland (who later became the Leader of the Church Youth Club). Later Pearl became a Sunday School teacher herself, and we will never know how many young lives she influenced for good while being in the Primary Department of the Sunday School under the loving eye of Mrs. Kitty Angel, the Leader. Pearl had a fine soprano voice and was a member of the Choir at Park Street. The Choir Master often used to ask us to sing duets together and the one that I will always remember was: O Lovely Peace with Plenty Crowned from 'Judas Maccabaeus' by Handel. In 1950 Pearl started

employment with Vauxhall Motors and joined the Ladies Choir and spent many happy occasions singing in this choir. On the 7th January 1951 Pearl was Baptised at Park Street Baptist Church. I was also Baptised on the same day along with three others: Margaret Turnbull, Doreen Bugg and Evelyn Hawkes and this started a life-long devotion to her Lord and His Church. So Pearl was a member of the combined Park Street/Central Baptist Church for a total of 66 years.

As we moved into our teenage years we joined the Church Youth Club. It was such a happy period in our lives and we made so many wonderful friends there. It was held in the 'Wootton Hall' which was situated over the top of classrooms fronting onto Park Street. Each Saturday we looked forward to a different type of evening – and we were never disappointed. We also went on outings to local beauty spots and coach outings to London Shows.

Around this time many choirs in Luton were invited to join in an 'Extravaganza' to be performed at Luton Hoo called 'Merrie England' in honour of Queen Elizabeth the Second's Coronation. We were thrilled to take part in this and rehearsals were at various venues around Luton. We then joined with a great crowd of songsters for the BIG DAY. It was a very grand affair, all staged on the banks of the lake at Luton Hoo, and well-known soloists took the important parts. I well remember Queen Elizabeth the Second arriving very grandly in her launch to meet her subjects, as we sung with great gusto to welcome her.

Pearl suffered two major illnesses when she was young. Tuberculosis when she was 19, with a reoccurrence of the illness two years later, and in 1963 she contracted Typhoid at the age of 27. Praise the Lord she was healed from both these dreadful illnesses.

Pearl met Ron while holidaying on the Isle of Wight. They were married at Park Street Baptist Church on the 10th September 1966 and their daughter, Janice, was born on 11th November 1968, followed by a son, Graham, on the 4th June 1974. Eventually three lovely grandchildren joined the family: Isabel, Jasmine and Samuel.

Pearl enjoyed many lovely holidays with Ron, family and friends, and I must just recall here all the wonderful times we had on the Church Holidays. Both Ron and Pearl were founder members and were on the Organising Committee for the whole of the time we had them – over 30 years.

As time went by Pearl's health slowly deteriorated and after being lovingly looked after by Ron and close family members for some years at home, arrangements were made in 2012 for her to receive Full-Time care in Mulberry Court Care Home.

Her life was lived to the full and many will remember her for all the loving things she did. She was called Home to be with her Lord on the 24th October 2017.

I was looking recently at a book Pearl gave to me in April 1987. (She always liked to 'date' gifts so I know the date is correct!!). It was called 'The Gift of Your Friendship' and I was drawn to one piece included in this book.

'Everyone needs at least one good, close friend,
One with whom you can share secrets and feelings.
Everyone needs someone who cares – and doesn't hide it,
Thank you for being this one for me,
Because friends as special as you are hard to find.' – (by Barbara

Gladys).

Thank you, dear Pearl, for being a special friend to me and for all the happy and sad times we've shared over so many years. I will never forget you.

RITA M. GIBBS

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:
Thank You**

Mr. & Mrs. R. Cowle

Mrs. P. Wiseman

Mr. R. Hawkins

Mrs. F Chapman

Mrs. M. Rebecca

BMS Birthday Scheme

- 2nd Nadia Deadman
7th Tony Burley
Malcolm O'Dell
8th Pauline Todd
9th Ben Newns
14th Beryl Francisque
Shirley Hobbs
23rd John Whitehorn
Paul Knight
26th Ina Bailey

JANUARY 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

Monday 1st	New Year Opportunities
Tuesday 2nd	Pray for revival
Wednesday 3rd	Pray that Church members zeal will be renewed
Thursday 4th	Pray for conversions this year
Friday 5th	Pray that those who come to faith will be baptised
Saturday 6th	Pray for a change in the spiritual climate of our nation
Sunday 7th	Covenant Service, pray that the Spirit will move as we renew our membership covenant
Monday 8th	Pray for our Queen and Royal family
Tuesday 9th	Pray for MP's, local councillors and all who serve in politics
Wednesday 10th	Pray for world leaders
Thursday 11th	Watch and listen to the news and pray for the first item
Friday 12th	Remember the oppressed church
Saturday 13th	Pray for church leaders
Sunday 14th	Pray for our musicians
Monday 15th	Remember our police
Tuesday 16th	Pray for teachers and all that work in schools
Wednesday 17th	Pray for all that work in the NHS
Thursday 18th	Pray for social workers
Friday 19th	Pray for others who work in public service
Saturday 20th	Pray for the work of Noah
Sunday 21st	As we break bread together, pray that the Lord will unite our hearts
Monday 22nd	Pray for church members at work today
Tuesday 23rd	Pray for church members who have retired
Wednesday 24th	Pray for those looking for work, ask for the Lord to show you any way for help
Thursday 25th	Pray for church members who will be actively witnessing today
Friday 26th	Pray for the children of the church
Saturday 27th	Pray for the church nearest to your home
Sunday 28th	Pray for our elders
Monday 29th	Pray for your local school
Tuesday 30th	Pray for the owner of the local shop you use
Wednesday 31st	Pray God for the best thing that has happened this month

Poem of the Month

Like last month's poem, this month's poem is also on the theme of peace.

*Look into the water
And reflect
The external need not reflect the internal
The internal need not reflect the external
Rather, a balance
Of both
A unity
Of both,
A droplet of water
That returns to the ocean
Only to evaporate and become
A droplet of water
Once more,
It's a cycle
Watering the soil that is faith*

*For what is holy ground
Except for what we deem holy?
And what do we deem holy?
Any ground can be holy ground
When the right mind passes over it
You can be anywhere in the world
In a garden of tranquillity
Or a city of chaos
And stumble across holy ground
Be it physical
A fountain you can visit
Be it spiritual*

*An ocean deep within you
And in it, you'll make a friend
Called Peace
And from then on
Peace will accompany you*

*But
Bear in mind
Wherever you are
She is hard to find
Hidden
In the centre of a labyrinth
Traced only by a long
Winding path
Covered in footprints
Made by Reflection, Faith and Knowledge*

*I dare you to take a step forward
Place your feet in these prints
For Peace demands bravery
She requires determination
So let your heart take a step
In the right direction
And feel
All else follow
And feel
How each step will become a compulsion
Drawing you closer to the centre
Moving your mind forward
Deserting Thoughtlessness, Laziness and Ignorance
Bringing you closer
To Peace.*

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

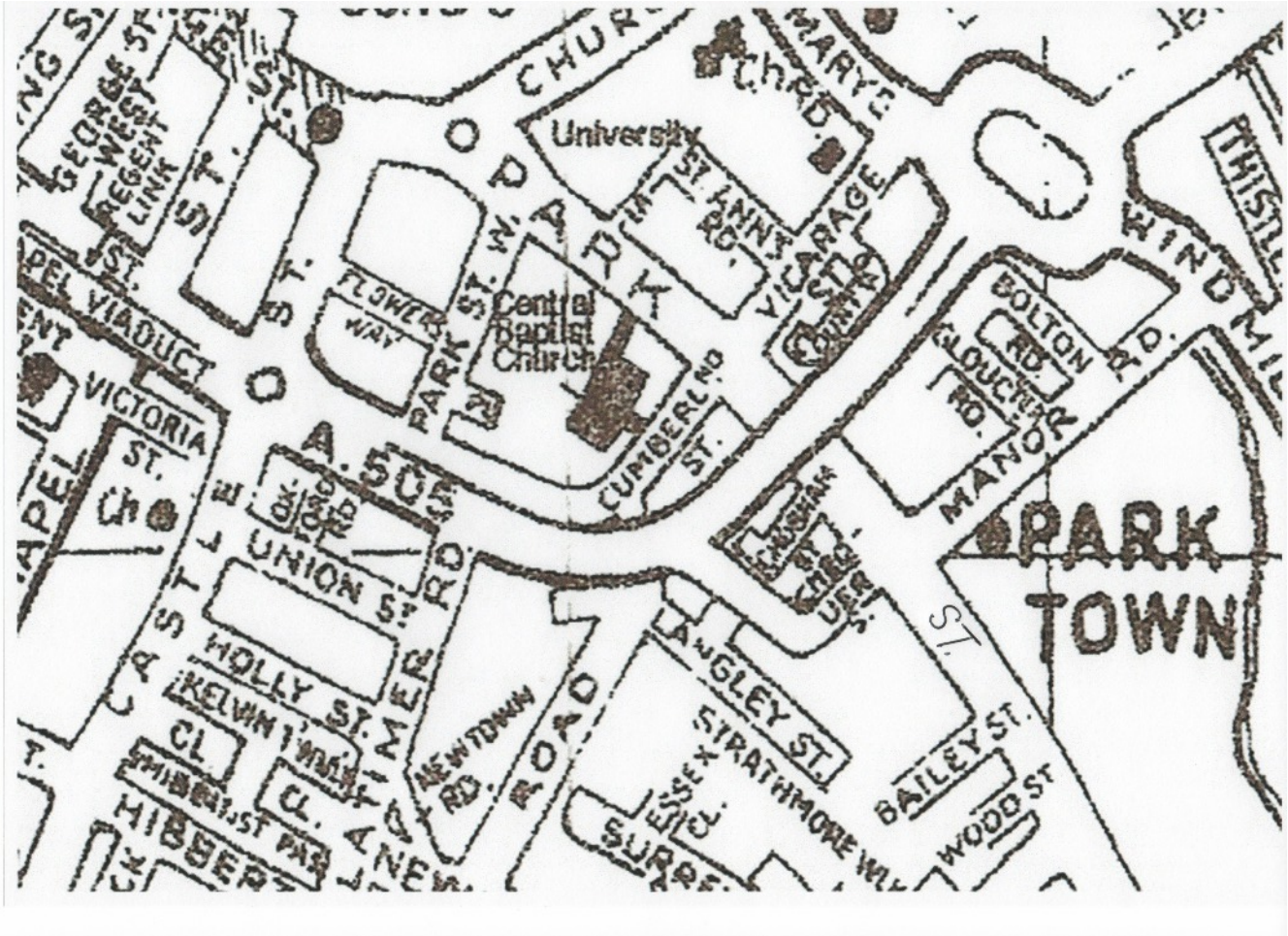
Saturday

7.00 - 9.00 pm Youth Group -11 years plus

MINISTER

Rev. Andrew Gale

Telephone mob. 07914853395



Secretary
Erwin Tadiar

Church Office 01582 422635

Visit the Church web site at

www.centralbaptist.org.uk

E-mail: admin@centralbaptist.org.uk