



# Contact

MAGAZINE

**JUNE 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.**

A stylized black and white illustration of a dove, symbolizing the Holy Spirit, facing left. The dove is composed of bold, curved lines.

Articles for the JULY 2019 Contact should be given to Gwyneth Gapp - by SUNDAY 16TH JUNE. 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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### **God is Interested in You!**

*Are not five sparrows sold for two pennies? Yet not one of them is forgotten by God. Indeed, the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Don't be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows. Luke 12:6-7*

This month I want to answer the question, "Should I pray for my own needs?" Of course, if you only ever bring your own needs to the Lord then you should examine your heart and ask, where is your love for your brothers and sisters? If we are praying for others then it is right and proper we bring our own needs before the Lord.

Here are some reasons people don't cast their burden upon the Lord:

Some people think that if they bring their worries to God they will distract Him from the big problems of the world. I want to reassure you that God has capacity to care and work in the biggest issues of our world while also being interested in you.

Some think their problems are too small. See the answer above, God has capacity for the smallest worry you have. Knock down the molehill before it becomes a mountain, give your smallest problems to the Lord in prayer.

Some people think that God is only interested in their eternal soul. I want you to know that God is concerned with every part of your life, your job, your family, your health, every part of your life is of interest to Him. In the model prayer Jesus gave His disciples, "Give us this day our daily bread," comes before, "Forgive us our trespasses."

Some people think that God is more interested in others than them. God loves all His children equally, the world may take no interest in you, your friend may fail to check up on you but God loves you.

Some people think they are not worthy of God's attention. They are right, we are not worthy of his attention but our Creator is nonetheless interested in us and in our lives

Some wish God was not interested in them. Like Adam and Eve, they wish to hide from Him, knowing that they have failed. God sees us at our best and worst and still He loves us.

Conviction of sin is horrible but it leads to repentance and forgiveness, which is beautiful.

Some don't believe that He will answer. While it is true that prayer is a way to command God to do things we want. If someone says that if you use a certain formula of words then "God must..." they have misunderstood the relationship between God and people. He is God we are not. That said, God always answers prayer, sometimes His answer is to do what we asked, sometimes it is to change our perception of the situation, sometimes to give us strength to bear up under the difficulty but He always answers.

O what peace we often forfeit,  
O what needless pain we bear,  
All because we do not carry  
Everything to God in prayer!

Pray for the Church, pray for the big issues of our day, pray for the needs of others and don't be afraid to make your own needs and requests known to God.

# Facing Outward at Chew Magna

One of the first churches to engage with *re:imagine* - WEBA's missional learning community

Becoming more outward-facing and offering events for those people previously unchurched  
Encouraging a sense of belonging and ownership by families

Chew Magna Baptist Church (CMBC) is one of our churches which currently receives a Home Mission grant. CMBC was also one of the first churches to engage with Re-imagine, the West of England Baptist Association's (WEBA) missional learning community, and it has been interesting to see the church community transitioning and becoming more outward-facing during recent years.

This is currently expressed in a variety of ways: through Open the Book assemblies; the monthly Big Get Together (a Messy Church-type event); Who let the Dads out (a monthly breakfast for dads and their children); and a weekly Sparklers group for parents and carers with young children. At one level these are simply events – the kind of things that many churches do - but what they show is that CMBC is becoming a more outward-facing church. This is why we award Home Mission grants – and this is what your generous giving to Home Mission is enabling.

CMBC, like many churches, recognise that most people who are unchurched (ie previously have not regularly attended church) won't connect with what they currently offer on Sunday mornings. For this reason they developed and began the monthly Big Get Together (a Messy Church-type event). The families who now attend this are beginning to regard this as being 'their church', they have a sense of belonging and ownership, and freely share matters for prayer. Please pray that these families will continue on their spiritual journey and grow ever-closer to Jesus.

Please pray too for John Miles, minister of CMBC, and for Chew Magna, Winford and Blagdon Baptist Churches as they explore a closer sense of partnership, which by God's grace will help them to become more effective in mission in the Chew and Yeo valleys. We in WEBA are increasingly learning that working in partnership is one of the privileges and benefits that God has granted to us and is so central to the interdependence that we Baptists speak of (but don't always fully enter into in practice).

Thank you for your support for Home Mission – for giving and for praying. Please continue to do so and in particular for John Miles and our friends at CMBC.

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## **CHRISTINE BY TOM MOWER**

Pastor Andrew invited me to write this true story, to include in 'Contact'. I hope you will enjoy reading it, and it may prompt you to review your own relationship with God.

### **The Dilemma!**

Doubtless in your Christian experience you have known times when you have earnestly prayed for someone or something apparently without success. You turned to Scripture for guidance, only to face a dilemma, especially when confronted with the words of Jesus: "If you ask anything in my name, it shall be given to you". John 15. This problem is frequent when dealing with healing. Each of us will have our own view on the subject and there will be many versions.

So, I write about a situation happening in Luton. Not a biblical revamp, it actually happened. I have true evidence available in the person of Nadia who is a lifelong member of our church, still worshipping with us. Nadia was a patient at the Alexandra Hospital at the time these events took place.

Soon after the war ended there was an epidemic of poliomyelitis in our area. The mansion at Stockwood Park (now a golf course) became the Alexandra Hospital for children with orthopaedic conditions and tuberculosis. It had been designed to get patients out of London away from air raids.

My wife, Betty, was the Sister on the ward which admitted Christine, a little girl aged 12 in an iron lung. She had contracted polio and was paralysed from the neck down. She could only use her voice, her mouth and eyes. An iron lung resembled a coffin with her head protruding at one end.

The doctor's prognosis was that if she had any infection, even a common cold, she would live no longer than three months!

Christine was completely helpless and depended entirely on the hospital staff to keep her alive.

A catastrophe is not too strong a word to describe her situation. In the event of a power-cut, the iron lung would have to be manually maintained until the power was restored, however long that might take.

Christine's view of the world was the ward ceiling, until someone very kindly and thoughtfully attached a mirror to the contraption, which enabled her to see through the windows beautiful grounds, lawns, trees, flowers and birds.

With all these delights available to her, on Sundays she taught little children around her, stories of Jesus.

On one occasion, with her new-found joy, she composed a hymn and told it to my wife, and I wrote a tune so we could sing it. These were her words:

Thank you for the lovely flowers,  
Thank you for the cooling showers,  
Thank you for the tall green tree,  
Thank you God for making me.

Thank you for the lambs at play,  
And for birds that sing all day,  
Thank you for the moon so bright,  
Thank you God for stars at night.

Thank you for the dark, dark night,  
Thank you for the morning bright,  
Thank you for Thy kindly love,  
Thank you God in heaven above.

When Christine was diagnosed she was afraid and frightened, not surprising!

Her mother was distraught, and made known her bitterness and anger at God for allowing it to happen. As the months passed, she began to appreciate all the love and skilful care given to her daughter.

At one point Christine asked if she could have a service of healing at the hospital. The Hospital Chaplain, the Rev. Hugh Warwick, was contacted and the service took place. It may have been approached by some with some reserve – would she rise up from the iron lung? Could she be made better? Would she ever walk again? Would the words of Jesus prevail?

They all realised that would not happen – her circumstances were not changed. She was unable to stand or walk, but a change definitely took place! She found and received God's wonderful peace ("which the world cannot give"). She was no longer afraid. She went on to gain a scholarship in Mouth and Foot Painting, and many of the Christmas cards which she painted with the brush in her mouth, were manufactured and sold retail for many Christmases. All achieved by Christine Perrot.

As time passed, portable respirators became available, which enabled her to use a wheelchair, with head and neck supported by a frame, and to be taken around the beautiful surroundings at Stockwood. This allowed her Mum to have personal contact, not obstructed by a wooden box. I have a lovely photograph of Christine and Nadia enjoying themselves in the gardens.

Seeing all the love and care given to Christine, her Mum found Christian Joy and became a Christian.

In 1959 the Alexandra Hospital which was an extension of Barts in London, closed and Christine was transferred to a hospital at Enfield.

But the story does not end there. Christine was now nearer to her home, so she could spend Monday to Friday in hospital and go home at weekends.

Several years passed, and for a while Betty and I lost contact. One Sunday afternoon, about 4 o'clock, an ambulance arrived at our home. My immediate comment to the driver was "Have you got the wrong address? I have not called an ambulance." He replied, "No, you are Mr. Mower?" "Yes", "We have brought someone to see you!" To our great delight it was Christine.

The hospital at Enfield had reconstructed a special ambulance with all the necessary equipment, so that they could take her on such a journey.

They brought her in the ambulance in a wheelchair attached to a respirator. We could get her wheelchair into the sun-porch, with the machine staying in the garden. She stayed with her Mum and Dad and had tea before returning home.

Despite her grave situation, Christine never blamed God. She accepted His grace and enjoyed His presence.

Christine was not 'cured' but she was healed. I have a photograph of her in the iron lung. Considering her plight, I could easily have expected a picture of gloom and sadness – Not at all. It depicted the face of a child radiantly happy and at peace.

She received God's grace and presence and so lived a useful and contented life.

When she was 12 years old, her life expectancy was a few months. She passed away at 46 years old, having travelled those years with God and dispensed so much joy, love and courage to others on the way.

## **Open The book 2012 – 2019 (and beyond)**

What is Open The Book?

Open the book is a Bible Society programme that began in 1999. The Programme is a three-year rolling one, of themed and dramatised bible story telling at no charge to the primary schools. A team of volunteers use drama, mime, props, costumes, the children and even sometimes staff to present the Bible stories in a lively and informative way.

Park Town Open The Book Team

After I was initially contacted about Open the book, I decided that to get Open the book of the ground and properly running in Park town, we needed to get support from other local churches. In the beginning, Rev Sellers from St.Paul's, lent us some of his allotted assembly time and became a founder member of the team as did Carolyn Gommersall from the Salvation Army and Clive Latter and myself from Central.

Gillian (Strathmore Methodists) and Nikki (St.Paul's) later joined us. As it stands now

By 4<sup>th</sup> July 2019 we will have been running open the book for 7 academic years and delivered 119 assemblies. 119 times we have been able to share the bible with primary school children.

**WE NEED YOU:**

Unfortunately, our team has been rapidly depleted, due to retirement and team members moving out of Luton. The team as it currently stands, is myself, Gillian (Strathmore Methodists) and Ruth (who is also part of the Wenlock OTB team). We would love to have at least one other full time team member, to help keep this amazing witness continuing.

Time commitment is an hour on the Monday before the assembly and approximately an hour (or less!) on the assembly days.

Please speak to Anita if you feel that Open the Book maybe something that you would like to know more about/consider volunteering for.

We also value your continued prayer support.

# **Programme of Events**

## **JUMP (Tuesdays)**

(10.00 am - 11.30 am Term Time)

4th

11th

18th

25th

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

- 11th Members' Evening - Tonight we will have an evening of Table Games. Please bring along any games YOU may have.
- 25th Tonight we welcome Mr. Rob Cox who will tell us about the 'Happy Days Charity'

## **Thursday Afternoon Fellowship**

**(At 2.30 pm)**

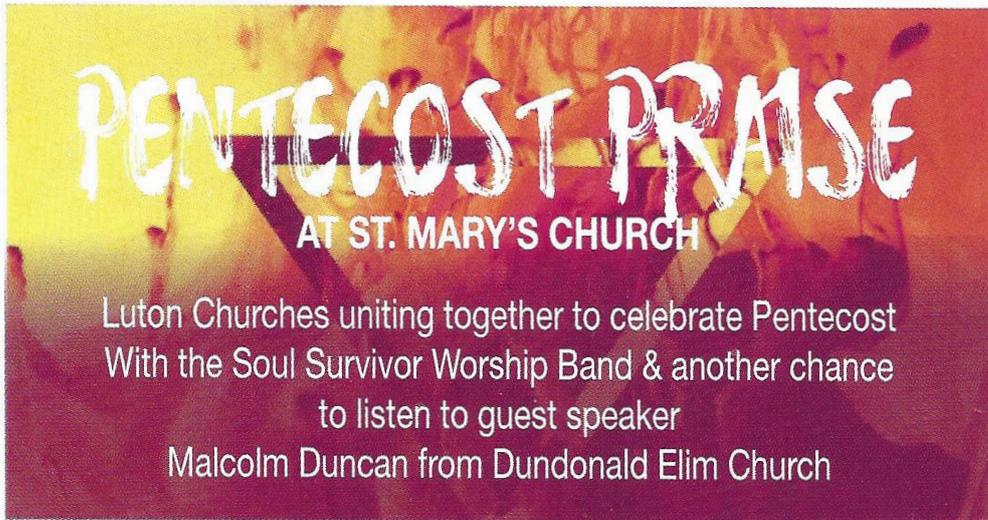
6th T.B.A.

13th T.B.A.

20th T.B.A.

27th T.B.A.

SUNDAY JUNE 9TH - 6:30PM



## Church Work Day

A very big Thank You to all those who gave up their Saturday and came along to help on the recent work day. Everybody worked very hard and a great deal was achieved.

Well done.

Claire and Tim Newns

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( **Don Browne, 40 years of Boys' Brigade service.**

We as parents would like to say a very big Thank You to Don for all his hard work week after week and for all his help and encouragement over the years. We know that Ben has benefited from it and now enjoys working along side him.

Claire and Tim Newns

## **FELLOWSHIP NEWS AS AT 12TH MAY 2019**

Congratulations to JUNE RADFORD who celebrates her 80th Birthday on 20th June.

Our love and sympathy to DEBORAH ANIFOWSE whose father died in Nigeria recently.

Whilst away MALCOLM O'DELL was taken ill and was admitted to Yeovil Hospital and after test seems to be making progress.

ROGER BARTON is recovering at home after his operation, and we hear that MARGARET WOODCRAFT is in hospital.

Several people haven't been too well including TOM MOWER (cold) and FRANK SMITH (chesty cough).

It is good to have STEVE CONYBEARE and PAM GREENER back safely after their travels across the other side of the world.

We pray for renewed health and strength for those not well, help and encouragement for all who are anxious. May we do all we can to support each other as we hear about different situations.

*ANN NORMAN*

**BMS World Mission Birthday Scheme**  
**JUNE**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Dennis Cousins  
3<sup>rd</sup> Marianne Jones  
12<sup>th</sup> Hazel Smith  
16<sup>th</sup> Louise Garbett  
20<sup>th</sup> June Radford  
22<sup>nd</sup> Roger Barton  
26<sup>th</sup> Margaret Archer  
30<sup>th</sup> Jane Adams

Contacts are posted to  
you each month by

*Andrew Tomblin*

**8 Winslow Close**

**Luton, LU3 1QA**

**Donations for postage for Contact from:**

**Thank You**

**CHURCH DIARY**  
**SUNDAY WORSHIP**  
**Morning 10:45 am**

(Services led by Minister unless, otherwise stated)

2nd Parade Service

9th Day of Pentecost: The Work of the  
Spirit in the life of a believer

16th Communion

23rd Service led by an elder, this month  
Pam Greener

30th Fifth Sunday Special: Praying for the  
Persecuted Church

*On Sunday evenings we meet at our chapel in Perry  
Green at 6:00 pm, if you would like a lift please try to let  
the pastor know. Lifts leave the Cumberland Street  
Entrance at 5:40 pm sharp.*

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

# *Flowers for the Sanctuary*

- 2nd In loving memory of Margaret Goodman (nee Holdstock) and Percy, Vera and Greta Holdstock, from Reg and Shirley Goodman and family;  
In loving memory of Bert on his Birthday from Connie and family.
- 9th Mr. and Mrs. Bill Quinn and family;  
In loving memory of my wife Alma from James Stevens;  
Happy memories of Robin Roe, much loved and missed, from Brenda and family.
- 16th Loving Birthday memories of Stan a very dear husband, dad and grandad, from Mrs. Jean Corder and family;  
J.U.M.P. (Fathers' Day)
- 23rd Lovingly remembering a beautiful Mum and Grandmother, from Shirley and Louise Garbett;  
Lovely family memories from Roger and Heather Lake and family.
- 30th Mr. and Mrs. Jam Malcolm;  
In loving memory of Marjorie and Alfred Bryan, very dear parents, from Lynda and Maurice Hill and family.

## **FLOWER BASKETS**

Have you received a flower arrangement in a basket recently from the church? We are looking for small baskets for our Flower Arrangers to use in the future. So could you look in your shed, garage to see if you have any and return them for re-use.

Very many thanks,

Rita Gibbs

**Perry Green Services**

**At 6.00 pm**

**JUNE**

2nd Miss Pam Greener

9th Mr. Erwin Tadiar

16th Rev. Andrew Gale

23rd Mr. Ian Benjamin

30th Open Air Service on the Green led  
by Roots

**TUESDAY FELLOWSHIP**

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

4th Mrs. Gill Short

## ***JUNE 2019***

**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** As we draw towards the end of the Muslim month of fasting, pray for your Muslim friends, colleagues and neighbours: that God would bless them, and that Jesus would reveal Himself to them.
- Sun 2** Pray for those who (whatever the reason) only come to our church once a month.
- Mon 3** Pray for your MP, and for the work of parliament.
- Tue 4** Pray for our pastor and elders.
- Wed 5** Pray for Mike Thomas as he adjusts to retirement.
- Thu 6** Pray for Nigeria: its economy is the largest in Africa, but with a population approaching 200 million, about half of them live in extreme poverty.
- Fri 7** Pray for those who feel weary and discouraged.
- Sat 8** Pray for the Queen and for our royal family.
- Sun 9** Pray for our services today, and for Pentecost Praise at St Mary's: this year led by Youthscape as it is their silver jubilee.
- Mon 10** Pray for our GB company holding a non uniform evening tonight.
- Tue 11** Pray for those who care for a sick friend or relative.
- Wed 12** In Bangladesh, about 80% of the land is prone to flooding. Pray for Christians working there to reduce the impact of floods.
- Thu 13** Pray for the staff of our Central Baptist Association who encourage and equip Baptist churches in this part of England to pursue their vision and calling.
- Fri 14** Pray for the work of Toilet Twinning.
- Sat 15** Pray for the GB outing to the zoo and for the circus events in St George's Square and the launch of celebrations to commemorate the 1919 Peace Day Riots.
- Sun 16** Pray for fathers, especially for those separated from their children.
- Mon 17** Pray for the House of Lords.

- Tue 18** Pray for Azalea. This week they have a special week of prayer, with an open meeting for prayer tonight in the old LCET premises at 3a Upper George Street.
- Wed 19** Pray for the work of our Perry Green branch church.
- Thu 20** Pray for the international conference of the “Rise Up Now” prayer movement which this year is being held in Luton. It brings European nationals and immigrants to Europe together to pray.
- Fri 21** Pray for the work of our BB company.
- Sat 22** On Windrush Day, pray for the many from overseas who make their homes here; pray that we may be welcoming and supportive of new people.
- Sun 23** Pray for those who are no longer able to get out to church services. Pray for ROOTS this evening: for the young people, the speaker, and the whole team.
- Mon 24** Pray for Ken Benjamin from Chichester, the new president of the Baptist Union.
- Tue 25** Pray for the work of BMS in Afghanistan, that more people would feel the impact of their humanitarian activities.
- Wed 26** Pray for children with difficult family situations and families facing financial hardships.
- Thu 27** Pray for discernment for the National Settlement Team which helps churches in filling pastoral vacancies, and for Blenheim Crescent Baptist Church still seeking a new minister.
- Fri 28** Thomas Merton said that people may “spend their whole lives climbing the ladder of success, only to find, once they reach the top, that the ladder is leaning against the wrong wall” so pray for those who are successful in this world’s eyes, and for all of us, that we learn to live with less material wealth.
- Sat 29** Today is Armed Forces Day; pray for all who serve our country in Army, Navy or Air Force.
- Sun 30** Pray for more people to be prompted to use their skills and experience by serving with BMS, also for young people to be inspired to apply for the BMS Action Team gap year programme.

## 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**

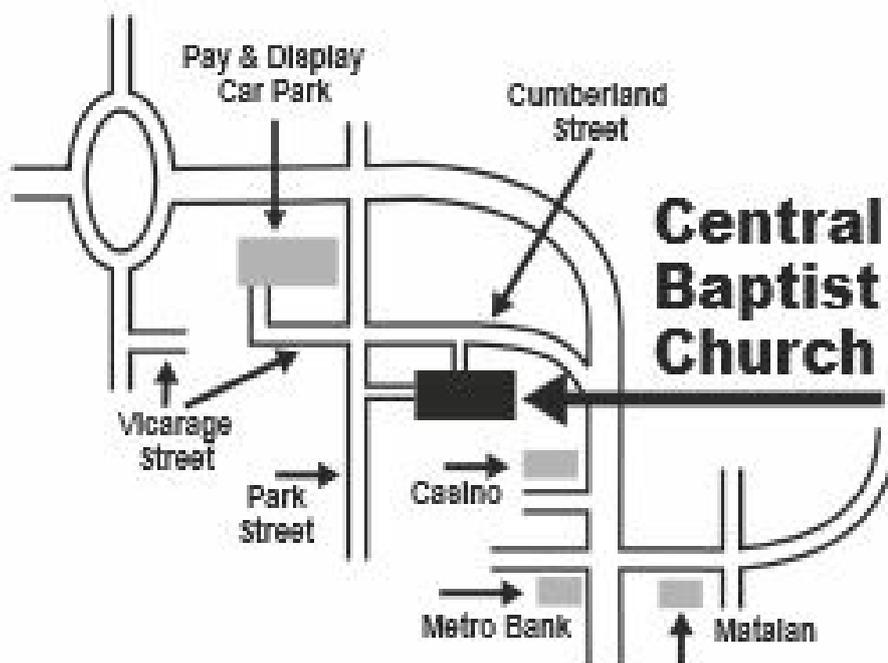
6.45 - 9.30 pm Boys Brigade

### **Saturday**

7.00 - 9.00 pm Youth Group - Year 7+

MINISTER  
Rev. Andrew Gale  
Mobile 07914 853395

SECRETARY  
Erwin Tadiar



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