



# Contact

MAGAZINE  
MARCH 2018



Motto 2018  
I have  
hidden  
your word  
**in my heart**  
that I might  
not sin against you.



Articles for the APRIL 2018 Contact should be given to Gwyneth Gapp -by Sunday 11TH MARCH  
 They can be handwritten, placed in the box in the front vestibule or emailed to [gwyneth.gapp@ntlworld.com](mailto:gwyneth.gapp@ntlworld.com)

March 2018

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# From your Pastor Andrew Gale

As the financial year is drawing to an end and many will be preparing for the new tax year at the beginning of next month. I thought this would be an opportune time to publish a message I preached recently at Perry Chapel on the subject of taxes

Matthew 22:15-22

‘So give back to Caesar what is Caesar’s, and to God what is God’s.’

Normally when we preach on this verse we pay little attention to the first part but focus on giving to God what is His. Tonight, however, I want to think a little about taxes, this is a subject I don’t think I have ever preached on before.

"In this world nothing can be said to be certain, except death and taxes." Benjamin Franklin

What should the Christian attitude be towards tax? Clearly, we should not defraud the taxman, we are told to be honest in our business dealings and paying tax is part of that. It is part of being subject to legitimate authorities God has placed in the world.

*Romans 13:1-7 Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God. <sup>2</sup> Consequently, whoever rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on*

*themselves. <sup>3</sup> For rulers hold no terror for those who do right, but for those who do wrong. Do you want to be free from fear of the one in authority? Then do what is right and you will be commended. <sup>4</sup> For the one in authority is God’s servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for rulers do not bear the sword for no reason. They are*

*God’s servants, agents of wrath to bring punishment on the wrongdoer. <sup>5</sup> Therefore, it is necessary to submit to the authorities, not only because of possible punishment but also as a matter of conscience.*

*<sup>6</sup> This is also why you pay taxes, for the authorities are God’s servants, who give their full time to governing. <sup>7</sup> Give to everyone what you owe them: if you owe taxes, pay taxes; if revenue, then revenue; if respect, then respect; if honour, then honour.*

I remember feeling very uncomfortable when I was being given a lift by a church member around 1990, who began to speak about ways that he could avoid paying the community charge, one of which sounded crazy, becoming a freeman of Cornwall. Others chose not to pay until the threatened by the courts. Now, I was then a young leftie, and we were protesting the Poll Tax, we thought it unfair and unjust and campaigned against it. However, as a Christian I couldn’t join with the schemes to dodge it, it didn’t

sit well with me to do that. I protested and campaigned, because we live in a democratic country but simply not to pay was not an option.

I once had a member of a church I was in, repeat a saying that the owner of Ryanair was using at the time, he said, “Gordon Brown (then chancellor) grabs money and trousers it.” I have rarely been more angry, I pointed out that the chancellor does not trouser the money collected in tax but used it to run the health service, schools, provide benefits to the poor, repair the roads, provide social care and so on. If he wanted to pay no tax he was free to try and live without any of these things and vote for a party that would provide none of these things but the chancellor does not trouser our money.

Tax was God’s idea, in the Law He set a range of taxes, tithes were one, not reaping every corner of the field was another. Not going back over the fruit tree to gather every last piece of fruit. Why were those taxes in place? To feed the priest who did so much of the administration of the state, to provide for the hungry and to supply the needy.

That said, Christians are right to point out to governments the reason they collect taxes, to provide protection and administration as it says in Romans but also to care for the poor and needy as it says in Psalm 82

*God presides in the great assembly;  
he renders judgment among the ‘gods’:*

*<sup>2</sup> ‘How long will you<sup>[a]</sup> defend the unjust  
and show partiality to the wicked?’<sup>[b]</sup>*

*<sup>3</sup> Defend the weak and the fatherless;  
uphold the cause of the poor and the oppressed.*

*<sup>4</sup> Rescue the weak and the needy;  
deliver them from the hand of the wicked.*

*<sup>5</sup> ‘The “gods” know nothing, they understand nothing.  
They walk about in darkness;  
all the foundations of the earth are shaken.*

*<sup>6</sup> ‘I said, “You are ‘gods’;  
you are all sons of the Most High.”*

*<sup>7</sup> But you will die like mere mortals;  
you will fall like every other ruler.’*

*<sup>8</sup> Rise up, O God, judge the earth,  
for all the nations are your inheritance.*

The psalmist imagines an assembly where all the leaders of the world gather and God stands in the council of world leaders and reminds them of their duties. To defend the weak, uphold the cause of the poor, rescue the weak and needy and protect them from the wicked. The psalmist recognised that the leaders, though mighty and powerful were failing in this duty and in his imagined scene God judges them reminding them that they are mortal and their reigns and dynasties will be judged and come to an end.

It seems right to me that the Church in its prophetic role should be speaking to those that collect tax and rule and remind them of their roles and responsibilities.

When we hear of tax cuts we need to ask who is benefiting most and who is suffering most, is this sharing the wealth God has provided? In this world there is a tendency to greed, we all suffer from it, but it is destructive. It destroys us and ruins our world. We can only speak in this way if we are paying all the tax that is asked of us, if we are being careful that we only claim tax relief on that which the law intended us to receive relief on, otherwise we, rightly, will face the charge of hypocrisy.

I don't believe that Jesus was just giving a smart answer when he said, "So give back to Caesar what is Caesar's." I think He was serious that rendering to Caesar is part of God's order, but speaking prophetically to kings and rulers is also part of our calling.

Andrew

From The Lantern March 1887

### Chosen

Have you chosen Jesus? That is well; but think again:-  
Ere you chose Him, Jesus chose you, else you choosing had been vain.  
Jesus in His boundless pity, stooped your lost estate to view,  
Chose you for His own, ere ever you the bliss of choosing knew.

Have you given your heart to Jesus? Jesus gave His heart to you  
Ere were laid earth's deep foundations, ere the seas their bound'ries knew!  
Looking down the unborn ages, all your ruined state in view,  
Jesus saw you sinning, dying- saw, and gave His heart to you.

And with high, unfalt'ring purpose, hasted with swift feet and true  
Toward the cross on which a Victim, afterwards He died for you.  
Gave His heart to you though knowing well what price He had to pay,  
What a load of deathful anguish He for you must bear that day

Have you given yourself to Jesus? Think how poor the gift has been  
Measured by that gift unmeasured, Jesus gave your gift to win.  
He the sinless, you the sinning, He the Holy, Just and True  
Son of God and King of glory, Satan's willing bondsman you!

Then, oh, think of what you owe Him! What the service, what the praise,  
What the honour you should show Him in your thoughts, words and ways  
All you are and all you ever have, or hope for, are His due  
All and more, could more be given, equals not His gift for you!

And, though on His scared altar, talents, time and worldly store:  
Love and service, and obedience, and whatever you have more  
Each in lowliest consecration, deeply loving you should lay  
Yet, "unprofitable servant," love would prompt you still to say.

Oh the boundless love of Jesus, in its breadth, and depth and height!  
Every way we look it stretches measureless and infinite!  
He in choosing you, how gracious! You in choosing Him how blest  
Yours on earth the dawn of heaven, He in heaven, will show the rest

Thank You, to all those with Collection Boxes for the Leprosy Mission and Action for Children. I was able to bank the for last year 2017;  
The Leprosy Mission £114.58  
Action for Children £54.49

Jean Corder

Thank You,  
Please accept my sincere thanks for all the greetings, gifts and donations that I received for my 80th birthday. I am continually blessed by being part of a loving fellowship, to quote the opening lines of an old hymn; -

“Blest be the tie that binds  
Our hearts in Christian love  
The fellowship of kindred minds  
Is like that above.”

Shirley Hobbs,

10<sup>th</sup> February 2018

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)

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

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

- 4<sup>th</sup> March: Parade Service
- 11<sup>th</sup> March Teaching Service: Understanding the Cross
- 18<sup>th</sup> Breaking of bread
- 25<sup>th</sup> Palm Sunday: Serving The Lord in Truth Ministries, Thanksgiving and Reunion

**Also on 25<sup>th</sup> Palm Sunday Tea and Hymns 3:30pm**

# *Flowers for the Sanctuary*

- 4<sup>th</sup> Mrs. Hazel Tomblin – Lovely memories;  
Mrs. Jean Corder and family – In loving memory of a dear  
Mother;  
In loving memory of a dear wife from Mr. Thomas Allen
- 11<sup>th</sup> Mary and Bill Quinn – In loving memory of dear parents;  
J.U.M.P, (Mothering Sunday)
- 18<sup>th</sup> In loving memory of Thelma and Arthur Morley and Mrs.  
Tiplady from Ingrid Khan and family.
- 25<sup>th</sup> Connie Archer and family – In loving memory of Bert;  
In loving memory of Greta Holdstock from Roland  
Holdstock and family.

## EASTER FLOWERS

Easter Day will soon be with us and we shall be decorating the Church with extra flowers to make it beautiful for Easter Sunday on the 1<sup>st</sup> April. If you would like to give a donation toward this special day, please see Mrs. Rita Gibbs.

Thank You.

## **Programme of Events**

### **JUMP (Tuesdays)**

(10.00 am - 11.30 am Term Time)

6th

13th

20th

27th

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

13<sup>th</sup> Please welcome Canon Liz Hughes tonight. She is the Chaplain of London Luton Airport.

27<sup>th</sup> Tonight our Minister Andrew Gale will bring us an Easter Message

### **Thursday Afternoon Fellowship**

(At 2.30 pm)

1st Mark Reader

8th Mrs. Jolly

15th Richard Cherry from Flitwick

22nd Dr. Les Ebden

29th Keith Berry

## Poem of the Month

Last month's poem was by Katrina Quinn from Brighton. It was the winner of a competition held by Tearfund last year in honour of National Poetry Day. The challenge was to write a short poem on the subject of freedom. This month's poem was written less recently, and is on the subject of love.

LOVE bade me welcome; yet my soul drew back,  
    Guilty of dust and sin.  
But quick-eyed Love, observing me grow slack  
    From my first entrance in,  
Drew nearer to me, sweetly questioning  
    If I lack'd anything.

'A guest,' I answer'd, 'worthy to be here:'  
    Love said, 'You shall be he.'  
'I, the unkind, ungrateful? Ah, my dear,  
    I cannot look on Thee.'  
Love took my hand and smiling did reply,  
    'Who made the eyes but I?'

'Truth, Lord; but I have marr'd them: let my shame  
    Go where it doth deserve.'  
'And know you not,' says Love, 'Who bore the blame?'  
    'My dear, then I will serve.'  
'You must sit down,' says Love, 'and taste my meat.'  
    So I did sit and eat.

## FELLOWSHIP NEWS AS AT 11TH FEBRUARY 2018

CONGRATULATIONS TO: -

JEAN WRIGHT who will be 94 on 29th March.

JEAN CORDER who will be 90 on 19th March

BILL and MARY QUINN who will celebrate their Golden Wedding on 2nd March.

JAM and HELEN MALCOLM on becoming grandparents to FABIAN JAMES born to ANDREW and JANE on 27th January.

BELATED TO:

BOB and PAM BROWN for their DIAMOND WEDDING on 22nd February

WILF PARSONS known by members of Ceylon Baptist died on 14th January aged 89. We would remember his wife Barbara and other family members including Eunice and Gerald Hale as he was uncle to Eunice.

VINOLA JOSEPH was in hospital for a couple of days with chest problems. TIM NEWNS has badly injured his heel (broken bone) after an accident at work.

Several have had coughs and colds others have appointments including FRANK SMITH. DEBORAH ANIFOWOSE continues to improve, and ERIC NORMAN has been discharged and continues treatment less frequently and it was good to see him back in fellowship with us on 28th January.

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*

## **Perry Green Services**

**At 6.00 pm**

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

- 4th. Mr. Mark Buckley
- 11th. Mr. Andy Morton
- 18th. Mr. John Evans
- 25th. Mr. Roland Ogberigbe (c)
- 30th. 9.00 am Raising the Cross  
Mr. Ian Benjamin

## **TUESDAY FELLOWSHIP**

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

- 6th. Miss. Pam Greener.

## **BMS World Mission Birthday Scheme**

1st	Pam Greener
5th	Hayley Newns
7th	Hazel Tomblin
9th	Christine Barton Heather Lake
11th	Eunice Hale
12th	Nitish Uthayaseelan
15th	Helen Malcolm
19th	Jean Corder Gary Archer
24th	Matt Wright
29th	Jean Wright

Church Work Day – Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> April 2018

This year's work day is on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> April.

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

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

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

Tim and Claire Newns

# ***MARCH 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

- Thursday 1st Pray for the housebound.
- Friday 2nd Pray for those in Care Homes.
- Saturday 3rd Pray for peace.
- Sunday 4th Pray for Girls Brigade and Boys Brigade including past members.
- Monday 5th Pray for those who work for charitable organisations.
- Tuesday 6th Be thankful for having running water.
- Wednesday 7th Pray for those who have turned away from God.
- Thursday 8th Pray we have compassion for those in need.
- Friday 9th Pray for those who are homeless here and abroad.
- Saturday 10th Pray for persecuted Christians.
- Sunday 11th Pray for our mothers and for those who no longer have their mothers.
- Monday 12th Pray for encouragement for those who have given something up for Lent.
- Tuesday 13th Pray for our emergency services.
- Wednesday 14th Be thankful we have food on our tables.
- Thursday 15th Pray for ourselves that we grow in faith during this time of Lent.
- Friday 16th Pray for those who are suffering.
- Saturday 17th Pray for those who are hungry.

- Sunday 18th Pray for our Communion Service today.
- Monday 19th Pray for refuges.
- Tuesday 20th Pray for our Church Meeting tonight.
- Wednesday 21st Pray for those preparing Messy Easter.
- Thursday 22nd Be thankful for our family.
- Friday 23rd Pray for those who have moved away that they find and settle in a new Church.
- Saturday 24th Pray for those attending Messy Easter and those helping.
- Sunday 25th Pray for the Church around the world as we enter Holy Week.
- Monday 26th Pray for those who need encouragement to help their faith grow.
- Tuesday 27th Pray for JUMP leaders as they share the Easter Story.
- Wednesday 28th Be thankful God is with us especially during difficult times.
- Thursday 29th Pray for those who serve us.
- Friday 20th Pray for Raising the Cross at Perry and those doing Walk of Witness in the town centre.
- Saturday 31st Pray we are filled with the hope of Resurrection brings.

## Weekly Church Activities

### **Sunday**

10.45 am Morning Service  
Communic8 and Crèche  
6.00 pm Evening Service

### **Monday**

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

### **Tuesday**

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

### **Wednesday**

9.30 am (1st Week) Open Prayer Meeting

### **Thursday**

2.30 pm Thursday Afternoon Fellowship

### **Friday**

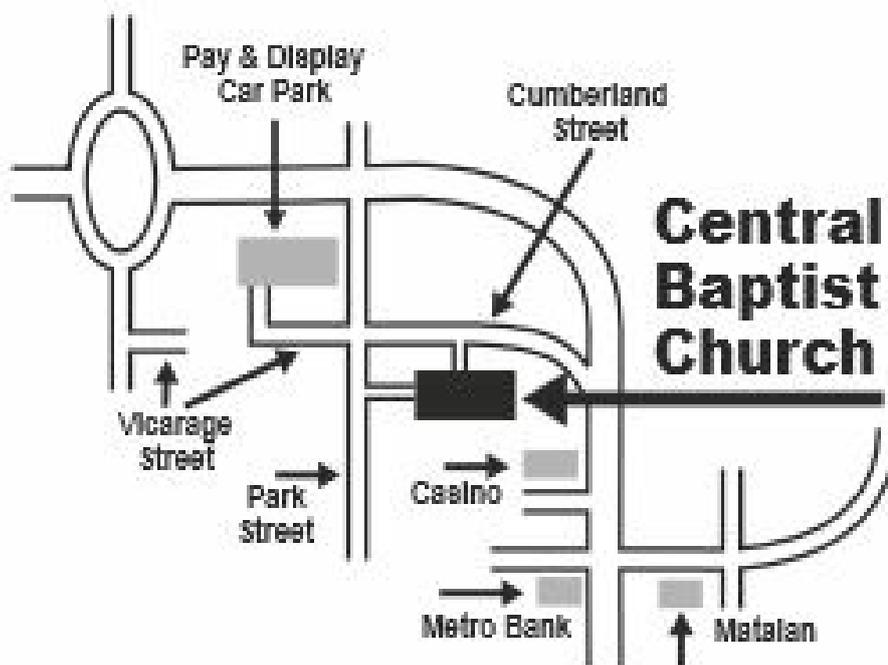
6.45 -9.30 pm Boys Brigade

### **Saturday**

7.00 - 9.00 pm Youth Group -11 years plus

MINISTER  
Rev. Andrew Gale  
Mobile 07914 853395

SECRETARY  
Erwin Tadiar



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