



Union Street Baptist Church



**THE MESSENGER**

**Easter 2016**

## **Deacon's Diary**

Dear Friends,

I can't believe that we have come round to another spring, it seems only a few weeks since I last wrote the Deacons diary for the Messenger, but my snow drops have arrived again, more than ever this year but still the only flowers in my garden and this year they haven't had to cope with much snow and frost.

We recently lost a long standing member of Union Street when Betty Grenfell passed away. Her mother and sister, Hazel, had also been here many years and Hazel's husband Brian Dodd was organist here for a long time. We have several very good organists now, which makes us very fortunate as a church and we are also blessed with people who are willing to preach and lead services during the inter-regnum.

I have recently had a walk in shower fitted and, due to the poor state of the walls etc. as my house is over 100 years old, it has taken weeks rather than days. This has taught me that even when we plan things sometimes we need a lot of patience, like waiting to choose a new leader for Union Street.

I am often asked if we are any nearer to finding a new minister and people are surprised when I say not yet. (We are getting closer though). The Lord will know when the time is right and as in all things we wait on his decision, as if we try anything on our own it will not work out properly so patience is needed.

God Bless

**Iris Skelton**

# **Thanksgiving Service for BETTY GRENFELL**

## **on 18<sup>th</sup> February**

Betty's family would like to thank friends at USBC for their kind messages of support following Betty's death. It was good to meet up with those able to attend, and we appreciate those who helped in any way on the day of the Service, as well as the donations given in Betty's memory for the church she loved and served in.

We were grateful that Revd Andrew Taylor was able to conduct the Committal and Thanksgiving Services, and that David Greatbanks was able to play. Betty appreciated their ministries.

Many thanks to those who visited or kept in touch with Betty and who prayed for her when she was no longer able to attend church, especially after Hazel's death. We are especially grateful to Helen Birtles, who has been a tower of strength , and to Pam Burton for her visits & green-fingered skills.

Betty always took an active interest in what was happening at USBC and we pray for guidance and blessings from God on the way ahead for you.

**Anne Mansfield & Marjorie White**

### **HOME MISSION COFFEE MORNING**

The next Home Mission Coffee morning takes place on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> April 2016 at Nantwich Parish Rooms. I am looking for a few more good as new items for the Bric a Brac and Tombola stalls and I'm sure Annette would appreciate home made cakes for her stall. If you could spare some time to help serve the customers with teas and coffees that would be great too.

Caroline Greatbanks

# Music @ USBC

## LET'S RAISE THE ROOF

The Kipling Singers will be holding a concert on 16<sup>th</sup> April to try and raise the first £1000 towards the renovations to the schoolroom roof. If we can sell 140 tickets that will almost raise the money so if you could sell a few tickets each that would help. Also, donations of cakes would be welcomed for the interval refreshments, please add your name to the list on the notice board. For tickets please see Annette Elliott any member of the Kipling Singers or myself. I am sure that you will be able to help us, you always do.

## **Caroline Greatbanks**

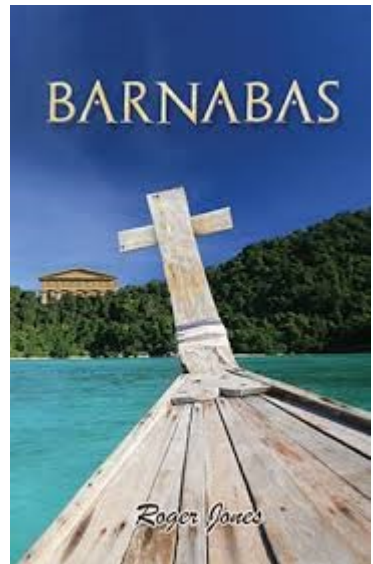
## USBC Augmented Choir

After presenting 'Jail Break' recently the Choir are now preparing the newest of Roger Jones' Musicals 'Barnabas' ready to take on tour over the Summer.

It tells the story of Saul & Barnabas in Cyprus as told in Acts 13. The first presentation will be here at USBC on 25th June followed by performances at;

Minshull URC 26th June  
Mow Cop 10th July  
Winsford 4th September

Please come and join us an one,  
or more, of these occasions



## Ministry of Flowers

### APRIL

3RD—IN MEMORY OF REG AND DORIS MARSHALL

10TH—IN MEMORY OF MR AND MRS EG WILLIAMS AND MEGAN

17TH—MR AND MRS S LATHAM

24TH—VACANT



### MAY

1ST—IN MEMORY OF MR AND MRS K OLLIER AND ANNE PRICE

8TH—IN MEMORY OF MR AND MRS GRENFELL

15TH—IN MEMORY OF WILLIAM AND NANCY THORNHILL

22ND—MRS I HART

29TH—IN MEMORY OF BILL ADCOCK (POPS)



### JUNE

5TH—IN MEMORY OF WILLIAM JAMES KELLETT

12TH—IN MEMORY OF ALBERT MOLLOY

19TH—IN MEMORY OF MR H AND MR A CORNES

26TH—VACANT



## BMS Birthdays

Remembering your birthday with a gift to the BMS medical missions:

### MARCH

31<sup>st</sup> Sheila Allcock

### APRIL

10<sup>th</sup> Jane Kellett

11<sup>th</sup> Malcolm Riley

14<sup>th</sup> David Kellett

15<sup>th</sup> Louise Latham

16<sup>th</sup> Helen Birtles



MAY—None

JUNE—None

## Interesting & Fun Facts About Easter

- Easter has been named after Eastre, an Anglo-Saxon goddess. The symbols of the goddess were the hare and the egg.
- Apart from English and German, the name of 'Easter' has been derived from Pesach, the Hebrew name of Passover festival.
- Right from ancient times, egg has been regarded as a symbol of rebirth in most of the cultures.
- The customary act of painting eggs is known as Pysanka. Just like Passover which is dependent on the phases of the moon and has different dates each year, Easter is also a movable feast.
- Easter always falls between March 22nd and April 25th.
- The first Easter basket was given the appearance of a bird's nest.
- Chocolate eggs were made for the first time in Europe, in the 19th century. Till date, they remain one of the favourite Easter treats.
- On Easter, 76% people bite off the chocolate bunny ears first, while 5% bite the feet first and 4% eat the tail first.
- The custom of giving eggs at Easter dates back to the time of the Egyptians, Persians, Gauls, Greeks and Romans.
- As per the Guinness Book of World Records, the largest Easter egg made till date, was just over 25-ft high and was made of chocolate and marshmallow. Weighing at 8,968 lbs., the egg was supported by an internal steel frame.
- Every year on Easter, Pope gives his "Urbi et Orbi" (papal address) to the world.
- Easter is known by different names across the world. Some of them are: English - Easter, French - Paques, Spanish - Pascua, Italian - Pasqua, Albanian - Pashke, German - Ostern, Greek - Pascha, Norway - Paaske, Holland - Pasen and Swedish - Pask.
- Egg, bonfires & candles, lily, cross, palm, bunny and lamb are the most popular symbols of Easter.
- Egyptians were initially the ones who exchanged eggs to symbolize the resurrection of Christ. It was later that the tradition was passed down to early Christians.
- For Americans, Easter is the second most important candy-eating occasion of the year, after Halloween.
- Hot cross buns, made by European monks, are counted amongst the earliest Easter treats. They were given to the poor people, during the month of Lent.

## **Secretary's Notes**

The winter is almost over and Spring will be with us – we can see the spring flowers and blossom around us and the days are lengthening.

Our Easter services are as follows:

24 March Maundy Thursday Communion service 7.30 pm led by Rev Jennie Wakefield

25 March Good Friday service 9.30 am led by Anne Mann, 10.45 am Churches Together in Crewe Passion Play will begin from St Mary's Catholic Church and proceed to the town centre.

27 March Easter Sunday service 10.30 am led by Anne Mann

We hope to see you at the Easter services.

We were sorry to hear of the death of our friend and member Betty Grenfell and send our condolences to all her family.

We are looking forward to the Kipling Singers concert on Saturday 16 April. Tickets are available and all proceeds will go towards the cost of roof repairs to the schoolrooms. Thanks to the Kipling Singers for offering to give the concert.

I wish you all a Happy Easter.

**Helen Birtles**

## **BMS WORLD MISSION**

**Bleak, bleak, bleak. When BMS workers Alex and Huw Anderson arrived to lead Matera Baptist Church in southern Italy in 2010, they encountered a demoralised, dejected congregation. "They were very pessimistic about their own future," says Alex. "They were saying, 'the young people are going, nobody stays here, we've got high unemployment and the church is doomed.'" Ever felt like this at your church?**

It has not been easy, but Alex and Huw have slowly but surely helped this congregation to overcome many of the issues they have struggled with, enabling them to look to the future with hope. Here are just some of the people whose lives Alex and Huw have helped to transform – are there lessons here for all of our churches?

1. Ariana has been in the church youth group ever since Alex started it in 2006. She went on a youth trip to London that Alex organised in 2012 – a big deal as Ariana and most who went, had never left their region of Italy before. Since then, Ariana's English has come on tremendously and she is looking to study medicine in the UK. On Pentecost Sunday she will be baptised at Matera. "I think Ariana is going to do amazing things," says Alex. "I'm very, very proud of her."

2. Michele has a passion for God's word. He works in a bus maintenance unit in Matera and reads his Bible in moments when he has nothing to do. Huw has been encouraging Michele to lead Bible studies at the church, something that Michele has taken to. "He has found it quite liberating," says Huw. Michele is just one of the church members whose leadership skills have been nurtured by Alex and Huw. Their approach goes against the prevailing culture in Italy where the priest is usually expected to do everything.

3. Imperia grew up in the Roman Catholic Church but began to have doubts about her religion when she was still a teenager and ended up joining a Jehovah's Witness congregation for two years before she began to feel uneasy and left. One day she passed by Matera Baptist Church, saw a Bible study advertised and decided to give it a go. She felt so welcome at the church she stayed, got baptised and has been there for 26 years.



When Alex and Huw arrived, Alex says that “Imperia was on the periphery of the church.” They have encouraged her in her faith and her service to the church, which includes being a Sunday school teacher and visiting the very sick and old.

“She has grown in confidence and spiritual maturity, says Alex.

4. Victor is Romanian and Antonia is Italian. After getting married in London, they moved to Matera last autumn and have been part of the church since then. Matera Baptist is having an impact on both of their lives. Victor has a background in IT but has struggled to find work. Alex has helped him get into teaching English – it is early days, but it could be a new career path for him. Meanwhile Antonia was a lapsed Catholic when she started attending the church, but has been hungry to find out more about the Christian faith. She is also due to be baptised on Pentecost Sunday.

5. The Pentecost baptismal service on 15 May will be Alex and Huw’s final Sunday at Matera Baptist Church. They will be moving back to the UK to be closer to family and also to allow Alex to begin ministerial training at South Wales Baptist College in Cardiff.

Despite being sad to leave, Huw and Alex are excited about the church’s new pastor who begins on 1 June. Luca Reina has been studying at ministerial college and Matera will be his first church. Alex and Huw believe he will bring a new vitality to the church.

“We’ve done the hard work, the tilling of the land, taking out the stones, the rocks and the boulders and breaking up the hard soil,” says Alex. “Luca’s full of enthusiasm and vision. He’s going to come in and be ready to sow and to plant.

“I am really looking forward to the next two years as I think this church is really going to expand and start reaching out.

Pray for Alex and Hew as they prepare to leave Italy in the summer. Pray for Matera Baptist Church, that lives will continue to be transformed when their new pastor arrives.

**Annette Elliott**

# Thanks

Dear Church members and friends,

It has been a privilege to serve you as a deacon over the last 39 years, and in particular latterly as Property Steward, and I wanted to thank everyone via this 'Messenger' edition for their kind gift presented to me on Sunday 21 February.

Thirty-nine years sounds a long time, but the diaconate high points, the challenges and the hopes have shortened those years, and as I have wished my fellow deacons every blessing in their continuing service to yourselves as Church, I also trust that we, as USBC, will continue to support them as they serve.

## **Thanks Malcolm Riley**

We would welcome contributions of items; old or new, funny, serious or thought provoking for future editions of the Messenger.

**NEXT MESSENGER DEADLINE** will be Mid May.

All contributions for the next edition please, to Annette Elliott.

Annette and Dena

# Regular activities at USBC

## Sunday

**Morning Worship & J-Club for young people 10.30**

## Monday

**T-Club 13.30 (on 2nd and 4th Mondays)**  
**Rainbows, Brownies from 17.00**

## Tuesday

**Prayer Group at Ellie's 14.00**  
**Choir 19.00**

## Wednesday

**Contact Club 19.30 (last Wed of each month)**

## Thursday

**Coffee and Refreshments 10.30 - 12 noon**

## Friday

**Beavers, Cubs, Scouts from 17.00**

## Saturday

**Social/Other Events as announced**

**Secretary: Mrs. Helen Birtles**  
**Tel: 01270 589075**

**Find us on the internet: <http://www.crewebaptist.co.uk>**

# Union Street Baptist Church

Union Street, Crewe, CW2 7DJ

**Minister:** (We are in interregnum at the moment)

**Secretary:** Helen Birtles .....01270 589075  
helen@birtles6000.freemove.co.uk

**Treasurer:** Anne Hynes.....01270 651882  
a\_khynes@yahoo.co.uk

**Website:** ..... www.crewebaptist.co.uk

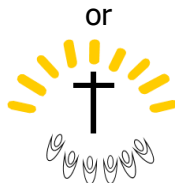
The Messenger is published on behalf of Union Street Baptist Church.

Please forward all editorial material to the name given in this issue,

either:

Annette Elliott    annette.elliott@btinternet.com

Dena Goodrich



goodrich\_16@hotmail.com