

Union Street Baptist Church



Union Street, Crewe, CW2 7DJ

Minister: (We are in interregnum at the moment)

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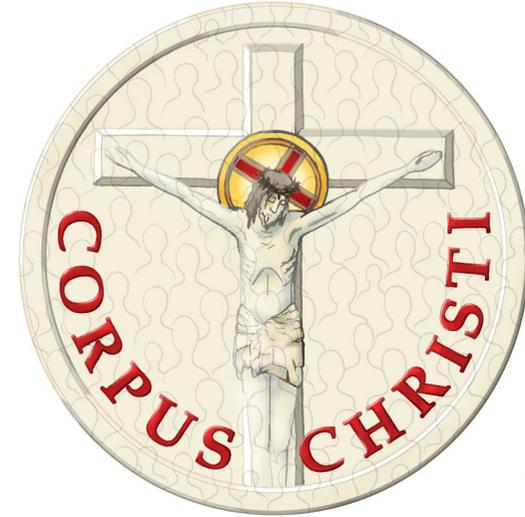
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The Feast of the Most Holy Body of Christ

May 26th 2016

THE MESSENGER

June 2016



Deacon's Diary

Dear Friends,

I was looking for something topical for the front page of this messenger and noticed that Corpus Christi falls on May 26th this year. I realise that we do not observe this day, but our friends in other churches will, so I thought it would be good to remind ourselves of its significance for them.

Corpus Christi in United Kingdom

Many Christians in the United Kingdom, especially those of Roman Catholic faith, observe Corpus Christi in honour of the Holy Eucharist. It is also known as the Feast of the Most Holy Body of Christ, as well as the Day of Wreaths. What Do People Do?

Corpus Christi is mainly celebrated in the Roman Catholic Church, but it is also observed in a few Anglican churches in the United Kingdom. Many Christians, particularly those who belong to the Catholic denomination, receive Communion on this day.

Some people, particularly children, receive their first Communion during Corpus Christi. Corpus Christi usually falls on the Thursday after Trinity Sunday although some churches may celebrate it on the Sunday after Trinity Sunday.

What a difference a few days make. As an island sitting on the edge of the Atlantic Ocean I know our weather can be very variable, but we do seem to have moved from spring to summer in just a few days. We have to adapt to change all the time, so it is reassuring to know that God's love is a constant amidst all the chaos of our daily lives.

The Bible is full of scriptures that show God's love for us. In these you can see that no matter what our circumstance may be or how much we may sin, God's love is always powerful and willing to make us a better person.

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>

9. The challenge of Christian discipleship

'In difficult times we may be tempted to find excuses for self-indulgence and to wash our hands of responsibility. Christmas stands for the opposite... we need to go out and look for opportunities to help those less fortunate than ourselves, even if that service demands sacrifice.' (1980)

10. Why no one is beyond God's love

'For Christians, as for all people of faith, reflection, meditation and prayer help us to renew ourselves in God's love, as we strive daily to become better people. The Christmas message shows us that this love is for everyone. There is no one beyond its reach.' (2013)

Article from *Premier Christianity Magazine*: April 2016 Issue. <http://www.premierchristianity.com> Mark Greene is co-author of *The Servant Queen and the King she serves*, and Executive Director of LICC

The Servant Queen and the King she serves produced by HOPE, Bible Society and LICC, has sold over 370,000 in nine weeks, making it the best-selling book in Britain. It is available from www.cpo.org.uk for £1 per copy plus P&P when bought in packs of 10

This article was submitted by Rosalie Ross

Never judge a book by its cover

To continue with our fundraising efforts for the church roof, we will be hosting "Blind date with a Book" in the Friendship Room from June 19th for about 8 weeks.

Fact or fiction, spiritual or secular. All books will be wrapped in newspaper and the only clue to the contents will be a quote from the book itself. Written on the label attached.

In return for a donation the fund, you can select your mystery book based simply on a quotation from its pages. Once you've read the book, feel free to keep it, pass it on, or donate it to another charity—the choice is yours.

A short explanation to show you what to do will take place while we are having coffee after the morning service on June 12th

Caroline Greatbanks

If you have a friend who is struggling or stressed with life's obstacles, try and find an opportunity to share one of the passages of scripture below with them. They will feel God's love and realize things are not as bad as they seem.

Romans 8:37-39 - No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

1 Peter 5:6-7 - Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you, casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you.

Psalms 86:15 - But you, O Lord, are a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness.

John 13:34-35 A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.

I am very grateful to Rose our Moderator who is helping us along the path to find a new Minister. The process can seem protracted at times. Leaving, Transition, Preparation, Calling and Welcoming but you will recognise that we are now between the Preparation and Calling stages and progressing towards finding someone who will meet our expectations.

As I write this it is a beautiful warm sunny day, which always helps us to feel good, but please remember in your prayers our members that are unwell or in hospital, convalescing from operations or suffering with the pain of bereavement. When they feel the comforting arm of God's love around them it will help them once more to enjoy the summer sunshine.

Blessings,

David Elliott

BMS News

Summer 2016 will see the welcome return to the UK of Judy Cook, as she arrives on Home Assignment on 1st July. She will be joining us at the renowned BMS Garden Party, which this year takes place on Saturday 16th July, in Audlem, starting at 2pm.

As always, there will be stalls selling paperware and craft items, together with cakes, plants, books and a tombola. Delicious afternoon teas will be available and all accompanied by musical items from Nantwich Young Voices. Any donations of items for sale, offers of help on the day, or for any other information, please see the poster in the Friendship Room or speak to Annette. Look out for specific requests in the June notice sheets. All we need now is some warm sunny weather!

Judy will also be speaking at the USBC Contact Club meeting on the evening of Wed 27th July, starting at 7.30pm. Those of you who read the regular Jottings, will know that 2016 has been a challenging year for Judy and her team, in so many different ways.

It would be great to have a good Union Street turnout in Audlem, but also some extra visitors to Contact Club too! Please give it your prayerful consideration.....

Annette Elliott – BMS rep

Future dates for your diary

25 June – 7.30pm
Choir presents Roger Jones' "Barnabas"

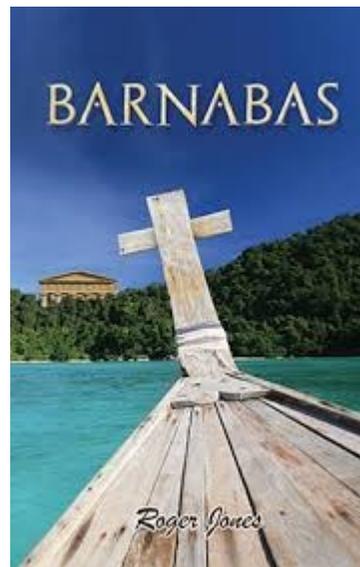
16 July – 2pm
BMS Garden Party at Audlem

20 August – 9am
Home Mission Coffee Morning in Nantwich

8 October – 7.30pm
Lions Youth Brass Concert

26 November
Kipling Singers Concert

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



3. Why Jesus is unique

'Although we are capable of great acts of kindness, history teaches us that we sometimes need saving from ourselves – from our recklessness or our greed. God sent into the world a unique person – neither a philosopher nor a general (important though they are) – but a Saviour, with the power to forgive.' (2011)

4. What sustains her in difficult times

'To many of us our beliefs are of fundamental importance. For me the teachings of Christ and my own personal accountability before God provide a framework in which I try to lead my life. I, like so many of you, have drawn great comfort in difficult times from Christ's words and example.' (2000)

5. How Christ is the inspiration in her life

'For me, the life of Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace, whose birth we celebrate today, is an inspiration and an anchor in my life. A role-model of reconciliation and forgiveness, he stretched out his hands in love, acceptance and healing. Christ's example has taught me to seek to respect and value all people of whatever faith or none.' (2014)

6. God's gift of reconciliation

'The gift I would most value next year is that reconciliation should be found wherever it is needed. A reconciliation which would bring peace and security to families and neighbours at present suffering and torn apart. Remember that good spreads outwards and every little does help. Mighty things from small beginnings grow as indeed they grew from the small child of Bethlehem.' (1976)

7. Jesus gives us strength to follow him

'Christ not only revealed to us the truth in his teachings. He lived by what he believed and gave us the strength to try to do the same - and, finally, on the cross, he showed the supreme example of physical and moral courage.' (1981)

8. How God restored love to our lives through Jesus

'This is the time of year when we remember that God sent his only son 'to serve, not to be served'. He restored love and service to the centre of our lives in the person of Jesus Christ.' (2012)

WANTED: UNWANTED BIBLES AND CHRISTIAN BOOKS

If you have any Bibles or Christian books that you don't need any more, the forthcoming mission: **Love Crewe** can certainly find a good home for them! As part of the mission's outreach, a stall has been set up which offers Christian literature completely free. It can usually be found outdoors and towards the back of Crewe's Wednesday market. The stall is doing well, but it would be a pity if the "stock" dried-up whilst there is obviously so much interest.

Please give anything you wish to donate to Rosalie Ross or Ellie Terry. If we are not at church that week, then put them in a bag clearly marked for our attention. We will arrange to have them safely delivered to the stall's organiser.

Rosalie Ross

10 brilliant things the Queen has said about God:

The Queen has never hidden her strong Christian faith. In celebration of her 90th birthday, Mark Greene presents ten significant quotes from her famous speeches. The Queen doesn't reveal what she thinks about a whole host of subjects, but about her trust in Christ she has been open, clear and direct. Here are ten quotes that show something of the Queen's relationship with Christ and how that strengthens her and shapes the way she lives and works.

1. Putting her service in the hands of God

'I declare before you all that my whole life whether it be long or short shall be devoted to your service and the service of our great imperial family to which we all belong. But I shall not have strength to carry out this resolution alone unless you join it with me, as I now invite you to do: I know that your support will be unfailingly given. God help me to make good my vow, and God bless all of you who are willing to share it.' (21st birthday radio address, 1947)

2. The only way to live her life

'I know just how much I rely on my faith to guide me through the good times and the bad. Each day is a new beginning. I know that the only way to live my life is to try to do what is right, to take the long view, to give of my best in all that the day brings, and to put my trust in God!' (2002)

Ministry of Flowers

JUNE

5 – in memory of William James Kellett
12 – in memory Albert Molloy
19 – in memory of Mr H and Mr A Cornes
26 – Revd Jennie Wakefield



JULY

3 – Vacant
10 – Vacant
17 – Helen & in memory of Bill Birtles
24 – in memory of Mr & Mrs Yeomans and Ernie Yeomans
31 – in memory of John Allcock



AUGUST

7 – in memory of Mrs A Cornes
14 – Mr & Mrs G Thornhill
21 – Mr & Mrs E Rowland
28 – Mr & Mrs M Fenton



SEPTEMBER

4 – in memory of Dennis Morton & Nancy
11 – Mrs Carol Spencer
18 – Mr & Mrs D Kellett
25 – Harvest

BMS Birthdays

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

JUNE

None

JULY

13th – Jennifer Thornhill
19th – Anne Mann



AUGUST

28th – Iris Skelton

SEPTEMBER

24th Ruby Johnson



Lyfe Bible Studies

Following the last church meeting, a small group comprising - Pam Burton, Rosalie Ross, Gill Lindop, Anne Hynes, Anne Mann and Robin Mann - met on 5 May to discuss the future of Bible Studies at Union Street Church. In particular we looked at whether anything could be done to include members who found it difficult to commit to a regular day or time. We came to the conclusion that one way forward would be to undertake an online Bible study which could be downloaded and copied for all those who had no online facilities; but could also be accessed directly by other members who wanted to join in the study but were unable to commit to a day or time.

A suitable study appeared to be the Bible Society's Lyfe programme which has online Bible studies for small groups - "Exploring the Bible". The studies are themed and include an appropriate Bible passage for each session. Each member of the group would be able to read this in advance together with the supporting resource material such as articles on the particular theme and profiles of prominent Christians. There is also DVD material. It includes thoughts, reflections and questions for the group or individuals to consider. Those members who opt to undertake the study online could, if they so wished email their thoughts or comments so that those attending the group meeting could take them into consideration in their own discussions; likewise the thoughts of the group could be sent back to the members online.

Anne and Robin will act as coordinators to ensure that the material is made available to those without internet access in good time for each group meeting. Those with internet access would be able to look at it online and download where necessary. Robin and Anne would also coordinate comments from those online to feed into group discussions; and feedback on group discussions to those not at the meetings.

We are proposing to meet twice a month; one at lunch time for those who found daytime meetings to be easier; and the other forming part of mid week worship in the evening. We are thinking of the 2nd and 4th Thursdays but we will need to confirm this. The two meetings each month would study one session. The frequency of the meetings could be varied once the idea was up and running if it proved to be practicable. It was hoped that leadership of the group would move around the group but Pam and Anne would be happy to take on that role initially.

We hope that these ideas will help many more members of the church to have an involvement in Bible studies where this has not been possible previously.

The deacons have given their approval to proceed. We are now inviting members of the congregation to "sign up" if they wish to participate in the Bible studies with Anne or Pam - so that we have some idea of the numbers involved and can arrange the necessary downloads and distribution of the material for those who are not online.

The series of studies we have identified covers 8 sessions and would therefore spread over a period of 8 months. This sounds quite a long time but we can review it as we see how the studies move forward. At the end of the series (or perhaps sooner!) we would invite the whole church to a meal to eat and share fellowship together - really to have a social evening together.

Anne Mann

Secretary's Notes

I wish to thank everyone for your kind inquiries and wishes following my short stay in hospital. I am now making a good recovery with my 'new knee' and pleased to be back at Union Street Church among my friends.

Our Easter Services were enjoyed by all – thank you to all those involved. Then we had a lovely service when David and Jane's son Matthew was dedicated.

We have had so much help from our own members leading services for us and helping in other ways during the last 12 months. Thank you to all concerned. The deacons are starting to look at prospective candidates for our next minister so the following few months will be interesting. The deacons ask for your support and prayers that we all may be able to know God's will as decisions are made.

Our choir are going to sing 'Barnabas' in church on Saturday 25 June at 7:30 pm so please come along and enjoy the evening with us.

We send best wishes to several members and friends who have been unwell recently and wish you a good recovery.

Helen Birtles