

THE MESSENGER

July 2017



From the Minister

Hunting for Jesus

'In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed. And Simon and his companions hunted for him. When they found him they said to him, "Everyone is searching for you." (Mark 1:35-37 NRSV)

In my previous life as a nurse I spent a number of years working as a Night Sister, and remember the quietness and the stillness of the city outside of the hospital in the very early hours of the morning. Even if areas of the hospital were busy even frantic sometimes, to take a few moments to look out over a sleeping city was very calming, and enabled me to reconnect with God for those few moments.

The stillness and the solitude of Jesus are very striking as he finds a place to be alone with God in the quietness of the early morning. But this serenity is disrupted as the disciples find him. Here we have a flurry of frantic activity as the disciples hunt Jesus down. The author of a study on these verses highlights the impact of accurate translation here. In the NIV the verses read 'Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed. Simon and his companions went to look for him.' There are a number of differences in translation that totally change the feel of these verses, but to say that the disciples 'went to look for him' does not carry anything like the sense of intensity as saying the disciples 'hunted for him'.

In these verses we learn two things; one is the importance to Jesus of spending time with his Father before the busyness of the day begins; the second is the intensity of the disciples search for Jesus. Although the author of the study was stressing the importance of starting each day in communion with God it was this difference in translation of the Greek word meaning hunted that most challenged me.

'Hunted' is a very evocative word, and carries suggestions of urgency as well as intensity, but why were the disciples so intent on finding Jesus? Perhaps it was hunger to be in his presence again, perhaps fears at his absence, perhaps pressure from others, after all, when they find him they say, "Everyone is looking for you". Whatever their motivation they were determined to find him. When they found him Jesus response to them was to say 'Let's go on to the neighbouring towns'. Let you and I together carry on the work that I have to do.

We are beginning a new phase of the work that Jesus has to do here in Crewe, and as together we really need to learn how to seek Jesus out at the beginning of the day. Not just ticking the box of doing a devotional reading and a quick prayer, but really hunting for his presence in the middle of our busyness. Then we will be ready when Jesus says 'Let's go on..' Let you and I together continue with the work that I have to do.

There are other reflections on other aspects of these verses, and perhaps in the future we will come back to them again, but for now may God bless you, as you 'hunt' for his presence from day to day.

Lynn

MUSIC @ USBC

Rehearsals are well underway for the first presentation of Roger Jones' "From Pharaoh to Freedom" on Saturday 12th August, starting at 7pm. Although composed more than 30 years ago, it will be the first time that the choir has performed the work, which seeks to demonstrate the relationship between the Jewish Festival and the Christian celebration of Holy Communion.

And please put Saturday 25th November in your diaries now, for the Kipling Singers Annual Concert. There will be lots of new music, as well as some old favourites, with fun and food, whilst raising some funds for USBC and Cancer Research at the same time. We look forward to seeing you there.

Annette Elliott

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:
www.crewebaptist.co.uk

Ministry of Flowers

JULY

16 Helen Birtles
23 Vacant
30 Mr & Mrs M Fenton

AUGUST

6 In memory of Mrs A Cornes
13 Mr & Mrs G Thornhill
20 In memory John Allcock
27 Mr & Mrs G Rowland

SEPTEMBER

3 In memory of Dennis Morton & Nancy
10 Mrs Carol Spencer
17 Harvest Festival
24 Mr & Mrs D Kellett

BMS Birthdays

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

JULY

13th Jennifer Thornhill
19th Anne Mann

AUGUST

28th Iris Skelton

SEPTEMBER

24th Ruby Johnson

HOME MISSION FUND QUIZ

Sat 19 August

For a few weeks now, you have been reading about the Quiz Night in aid of Baptist Home Mission, which helps a lot of churches like ourselves and which always needs more money. So now the time has come to get your friends together, to make teams of six. Don't worry if you don't have that many friends – as there will be friends to spare on the night! There will also be a tombola. Tickets price £5 are available from David G, Caroline, Dena & Annette, which includes food and drink.

Caroline Greatbanks

...And to get you in the puzzle mood

Anagrams - Books of the Bible
Created by BibleQuizzes.org.uk

seesign
hemwatt
usedox
visitclue
nailed
nominaltaste
violentera
lastagain
hazephina
asheepsin
onmars
moodytenure
hobaida
ijeerham
hemplion
ashoe
tileaccesses
beshrew
socialsons
shipinpipal
human
chairhaze

Annette has the answers.....!

BMS WORLD MISSION

Hello, this is my first article for the Messenger as BMS representative and I would like to start it by saying a big thank you to Annette Elliott for all her hard work over the last few years as our BMS representative.

As a church USBC proudly support our link missionary Judy Cook who set up and runs a residential and respite home for children with disabilities in Thailand, and if you were able to attend last year's garden party in Audlem you would have been able to meet her whilst she was back in the UK for a short period of time.

In the latest issue of Engage - the BMS magazine (of which I have a copy of and you are welcome to have a look at!) there is a 4 page article talking of Judy's work with a little girl called Yim and her family. Yim has slow development and her family and herself have been getting support from Hope Home since she was 2 years old. They provide practical support like milk for Yim and Yam (Yim's younger sister), vital respite so that Sor their mother ,can work and emotional support for Sor as there is a lot of stigma surrounding disability in Thailand and many children are abandoned by their parents. It goes on to explain that Judy's project is BMS's Harvest appeal for this year. Please go to www.bmsworldmission.org/wonderful for more information about this.

Other ways you can support BMS include donating used stamps, having a collection box and joining our BMS birthday scheme. Please ask me for more information!

Thank you

Jane Kellett - BMS rep

SECRETARY'S NOTES

We were pleased to welcome many friends to the Induction Service of our new minister, Rev. Linda Clack on Saturday 3 June. Lynn is finding her way around Crewe and getting to know some of her new congregation. She hopes to be able to visit our activities, members and friends during the coming weeks.

The Quiz evening in April was very successful, so by popular demand, Caroline and David Greatbanks are planning another Quiz for Saturday 19 August. Do come along to test your knowledge at 7.30pm.

Many of you will be taking holidays during the coming months and I wish you all have an enjoyable break.

May God Bless you all.

Helen Birtles

NEXT MESSENGER DEADLINE will be in early September 2017.

DEACONS DIARY

Hello and welcome to July's edition of the Messenger. As we are now half way through 2017 we have been blessed to welcome the Rev Lynn Clack into ministry at Union Street. We must thank all the ministers, lay preachers and members of our own congregation for taking services during our time of interregnum and now we can look forward to working with Lynn to spread God's love to our friends and neighbours in Crewe and beyond.

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A bible verse to reflect upon in this time of change and newness..... 'it all starts with love'.

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."

Following on from this verse... I came across the following images, do either of these 'ring a bell' in your life?

David Kellett