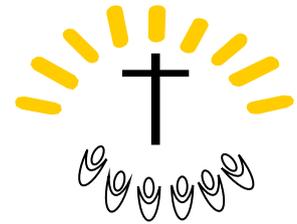


THE MESSENGER

April 2018



From the Minister

Dear Friends,

Over recent weeks life has been very busy as I have been involved in discussions about the possibility of setting up Street Pastors as a project in Crewe. The initial request came from Cheshire Police and is being very enthusiastically supported by representatives from Cheshire East Council. As easy as it would be to be carried away by their enthusiasm, I am also very aware of the caution being shown by Churches Together in Crewe, maybe with good reason.

But this situation has reminded me once again of the words of Gamaliel at the council of the leaders of the Jerusalem synagogue after Jesus was raised from the dead, and the disciples were telling of the news. The synhedrion were understandably discomfited by this news, and were discussing how they should deal with the disciples who were making these claims. Finally the synhedrion discussed what they should do about this 'seditious' sect. It was Gamaliel who said that if this movement was of man, then it would die a natural death, but if it was of God, no one could stand against it.

So as I look at all the projects and initiatives that are currently being discussed and explored by various Christian communities, and leaders in Crewe, I am reminded of those words of Gamaliel. So often we think that as human beings we must make things happen for God, and fail to ask Him the question 'is this of you or not?'

When we don't ask this fundamental question we can become distracted with human busyness, and not God's busyness. Our remit as a church as we gather together to think about and envision our future together is to seek the mind of Christ in our decisions. But too often it becomes a pragmatic discussion of what we think would be good for our church. My prayer as we once again encounter the crucified and risen Christ this Easter is that we will be willing to submit our human plans and busyness to his plans for us as his people here in Crewe.

If our plans are manmade they will not prosper, if they are of God no-one can stand against them. May we each of us know his leading and guiding as we seek his heart for the future of the Christian Community here at USBC.

Much love

Lynn



From the Secretary

By the time you read this we shall have completed our Easter services. I am sure we shall all feel elated, following the celebration of our Lord's resurrection at the end of a very thoughtful week.

In recent weeks, due to inclement weather, some activities had to be postponed but we shall be able to include them at a later date.

At our Annual General Meeting we were pleased that Darren Thornhill was voted onto the Diaconate together with Pam Burton and Helen Birtles for the next three years. The diaconate will be re-commissioned at the Communion Service on 1 April.

We are looking forward to a Quiz evening on 14 April commencing at 7-30pm which will raise funds for Home Mission. Put on your thinking caps and join us!

On Thursday 19 April at 7 pm we shall be welcoming Jules Riding, a Christian Singer/songwriter who will give his testimony and lead our Midweek Worship. Jules is touring this country and Europe from his home in New Zealand. We hope for a good attendance – please do come along. You can find him on www.julesriding.com

God Bless,

Helen Birtles

Thank you

Annette and family would like to thank everybody for their prayers, letters, cards, and flowers, following the loss of Edna.

Donations received, will be split between Alzheimer's Association and USBC.

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

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Find us on the internet:

www.crewbaptist.co.uk



He Is Risen

Deacon's Diary

It seems amazing that we are at Easter, where have the last two months gone?

It has been lovely to see the carpet of snowdrops in my garden: they are the only flowers there, but they have cheered me up in the last few weeks, as have all the prayers, cards and words of condolence from the Church family, friends and many other people, on the death of my daughter Ruth. Thank you all so much.

Our sympathies go to Annette Elliott on the death of her mother Edna Kent. Edna was a member here for many years, until illness prevented her from attending for a long time.

It was lovely to read all the reports from the organisations and activities that happen at Union Street and we look forward to what the next few months will bring.

It has been interesting to attend "Coffee with Us", on the third Thursday in the month. It is like Café Church but with a time for everyone to join in and discuss the topic of the meeting. I encourage anyone who can, to come and join in. Tea, coffee and food included!

Thinking about what goes on at Union Street, nearly everything seems to include food, if only biscuits. I am looking forward to the Quiz Night on 14th April, to raise money for Home Mission. I hope you can come...refreshments included again.

Iris Skelton

NEXT MESSENGER DEADLINE will be in mid June 2018. Please pass any items to Annette Elliott. Thank you.

Dates for the Diary

Sat 14 April – 7.30pm – Quiz Night in aid of Home Mission, including refreshments and tombola. Tickets price £5 from Caroline Greatbanks and Annette Elliott.

Sun 13 May – 2.30pm – augmented choir presents "Rock" by Roger Jones.

And one for the future...

Sat 10 Nov – 7pm – Kiplings Singers annual concert. All the usual fun, plus the famous Dutch Auction!

Ministry of Flowers



APRIL

- 1 In memory of Reg & Doris Marshall
- 8 Jane Kellett
- 15 Mr & Mrs S Latham
- 22 In memory Bill Birtles
- 29 In memory of
Mr & Mrs K Ollier & Anne Price

MAY

- 6 In memory of Mr & Mrs Grenfell & Betty
- 13 In memory of William & Nancy Thornhill
- 20 Vacant
- 27 Ivy Hart

JUNE

- 3 In memory of Bill Adcock (Pops)
- 10 In memory of William James Kellett
- 17 In memory of Ruth Price
- 24 In memory of Albert Malloy

Something to think about....

This morning I was walking home from the post office, not feeling 100% but doing ok, and almost walked past a homeless man. I stopped and gave him £2. I asked how he was. He said he was doing well, that a kind lady had given him a new jumper and blanket last night. I then sat on the pavement next to him and we started to chat.

His name is David, he's 42, he became homeless 4 years ago after being cheated by his window cleaning business partner. He showed me that he takes care of himself, he uses hand gel before he eats, he applies lip balm to avoid cold and cracking lips. He has an NHS card that says he is entitled to GP care. He said that he feels well in himself, and that he only came to our area yesterday but already he had been shown kindness and that the humanity of this keeps him strong.

Ten minutes later the lady who had helped him yesterday came by - she had prepared lunch for David. She sat down and joined us on the pavement. She asked 'David what can I do to help?' And he answered 'just sitting here talking to me is enough' because he told us that being homeless can be isolating. The three of us chatted for an hour, and in that time people came over and said hello.

The local cafe owner came out and offered David lunch. David declined, as he had already had lunch. The lady is really the hero, a 75 year old Indian lady, who looked much younger: she booked a dentist appointment for David in a week's time. He cried at this gesture and she was very firm with her offer. She said 'what is money when it comes to a young man's life, I am going to help you'. She offered so much more, but David told her that she had already given him so much.

It proves giving your time and talking has as much benefit as giving something.

Taken from a post on Darren Thornhill's Facebook page.

