

THE MESSENGER



February 2018

Deacon's Diary

This edition of The Messenger comes out as we think of Lent which this year begins on Valentine's Day - 14th February.

Lent is a time of preparation remembering the forty days Jesus spent in the desert praying and preparing for his public ministry. Beginning on Ash Wednesday, the practice actually begins 46 days before Easter Sunday, the six Sundays in between not being counted as they are not considered days of fast, for example Mothering Sunday, the fourth Sunday in Lent. The forty day period of course runs run up until the Thursday before Easter Sunday which this year is 29th March, known to some as Holy Thursday.

Different people observe Lent in different ways, though by and large most people do this by giving something up for Lent that they would miss such as chocolate, fast food, alcohol, or the Internet. However, there are other ways to recognise Lent and there are various organisations which encourage you to do something generous during Lent. There are Lent Challenges which suggest numerous things people can do as part of the challenge for 40 days of acts of kindness and reflection.

#Do1NiceThing is about loving the person in front of you - serving others and the wider community. It is about making positive steps to make life better for others and possibly yourself in the process. The ideas are generally simple and if you don't like one of the ideas, do something else! You can download a copy of the #Do1NiceThing Lent challenge but some examples from it are as follows - I expect you can think of others for yourself for the Lenten period.

14th February - Engage in conversation with the people who serve you (e.g. shopkeepers)

15th February - Say thank you to someone as they work and say how much you appreciate them

16th February - Call in on an elderly neighbour - take some cake, have a cup of tea and a chat

18th February - Show some love to your neighbourhood and pick up litter or see if there is anything more you can recycle at home

19th February - Hold doors open for those behind you

21st February - Be a nice driver - spread road-calm!

23rd February - Take time to pray for your neighbours

5th March - Consider investing some time volunteering over the next year?

6th March - Commit to collect used stamps for charity

7th March - Catch a bus (#Do1NiceThing for the environment) and say thank you to the bus driver

8th March - Give a drink to a homeless person or take part in the 'Suspended Coffee' initiative

10th March - Take a prayer walk round your neighbourhood and pray for needs

21st March - Offer your skills to someone else for free

23rd March - Clear out unwanted items and give to a charity shop

Palm Sunday 25th March - Thank people for the virtues they have

One cause which we support is the St Paul's Pantry foodbank. In 2017 they helped 1,314 people with 641 crisis food packs which provided 11,826 meals so that is something which we took part in by replenishing our box and perhaps praying for the work there and remembering that extra tin with your shopping could count towards your Lent challenge.

Robin Mann

From the Secretary

Happy New Year! to everyone. The time certainly flies these days!

We were sad to hear of the death of a member Sally Parkinson early in December and our thoughts are with Jill at this time.

We enjoyed the Choir's performance of Roger Jones' 'The Inn Crowd' just before Christmas which the Christmas story is told by the Innkeeper and his wife.

Our minister Rev Lynn Clack led our Christmas services. On the evening of 17 December we joined in a traditional 'Carols by Candlelight' service which was very enjoyable and then we had our Christmas Eve and Day services on the following weekend.

On 31 January we had Café style Worship. This was to introduce our new midweek worship 'Coffee with US' which will be held on the third Thursday of each month at 7 pm in the Friendship room from 18 January. We hope to welcome all friends who would like to explore questions of faith and God – please join us.

Will all members try to be at the Church Annual General meeting on Sunday 18 February when we shall be electing deacons and confirming office holders for a further 12 months. Thank you to everyone who has worked for our Lord during the last year. Included in this Messenger are the 'End of year reports' from all our organisations.

Best wishes,

Helen Birtles

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

Minister: Revd Lynn Clack
Tel: 07774 635001

Secretary: Mrs. Helen Birtles
Tel: 01270 589075

Find us on the internet:
www.crewebaptist.co.uk



Christmas may be over but.....
1 Corinthians 13
shared by LesleyAnn Timms

If I bake a Christmas cake & dozens of mince pies, but have not love,
I am just another harassed housewife.
If I decorate my house with outdoor fairy lights & a twinkling Christmas tree, but have not love,
I am just wasting electricity for no reason.

If I write a hundred Christmas cards & stick a news letter in each one, but have not love,
I only gain writer's cramp.
Love stops baking to phone a friend in need.
Love stops decorating to hug a child.
Love stops shopping to visit a lonely neighbour.

Love does not envy the colour co-ordinated Christmas decorations in another's house,
nor the neatly wrapped presents under a neighbour's tree.
Love does not write vain Christmas letters boasting of this year's achievements.
Love does not just send cards to those who can return the favour.

Love does not only buy presents for those who can return the favour.
Love does not work out how much a friend will spend on your gifts & then seek to spend not a penny more.
Love knows the joy of giving without counting the cost.

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

Love is patient when faced with a queue at the post office
And smiles at those sharing the experience.

Love does not get angry & shout at the kids to stay out of the way,
It keeps no record of wrongs.

Love bears all things,
believes all things,
hopes all things,
endures all things.
Love never fails.

Computer games break, chocolates soon vanish, Christmas trees drop their leaves,
But the gift of LOVE endures forever.
Love is not just for Christmas, it lasts the whole year through.
Christ is not just for Christmas, He wants to stay with you forever.

Anon

Ministry of Flowers



FEBRUARY

4 Eric & Maggie Denter
11 Ruby Johnson
18 In memory of George Crump
25 Audrey Grocott

MARCH

4 In memory of
Mr and Mrs H Greatbanks & Mrs M Smith
11 In memory of Edna Isherwood
18 In memory of Lily & Walter Hirst
25 Hilda Wright

APRIL

1 In memory of Reg & Doris Marshall
8 Vacant
15 Mr & Mrs S Latham
22 Vacant
29 In memory of
Mr & Mrs K Ollier & Anne Price

