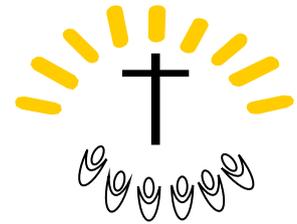


THE MESSENGER

Summer 2018



From the Minister

Dear Friends,

Over the past week or so, we have missed the company of friends who have been away on holidays. I trust that you will return to your 'everyday' lives refreshed and rested ready for the next few months. I am in the middle of packing to take a few days away in the countryside on 'retreat'.

As I was packing I was struck by how much preparation we make to go on a journey. The right clothes, essentials, possibly food if we are self-catering, but we make sure that we have everything that we need to make our journey not only possible, but enjoyable. We often refer to the Christian life as a journey, a journey with God and also with each other. But I wonder how often we set aside time to make sure that we are prepared for that journey, that we have all the resources that we need to make such a journey.

Ever since I began training as a minister, and all the way through my ministry I have taken at least one week a year to go 'on retreat' because for me this is an important part of packing for the journey that lies ahead in the coming year. To refocus on my spiritual life, to spend time with God, and to rest, relax and recover from the busyness of the previous year. But most importantly to allow God to prepare me for the coming year.

Retreats do not suit everyone, but I would encourage all of you to find some extended time, when over and above your daily dealings with God, you can set aside sometime during each year to pack your spiritual luggage to prepare you for all that lies ahead.

Blessings

Lynn

Street Pastors

Will all who wish to know more about the proposed Crewe Street Pastors please note that a meeting with the Ascension Trust will be held at 7pm on Thursday 12 July at Union Street.

Our minister will be pleased to discuss this with you and we are hoping for a good attendance from all our churches in Crewe. Please do support this new initiative for Crewe.

Helen Birtles



From the Secretary

Welcome to our latest Messenger!

We enjoyed our Easter services and the visit of Jules Riding and his companion Hannah who each gave testimonies during the evening along with the performance of Jules' own music.

Thank you to our choir who performed Roger Jones' musical 'Rock' telling the story of Peter.

We had a good attendance for all these events which encourages all who work hard to ensure an enjoyable time together.

The Home Mission Quiz evening was successful and we all look forward to the next quiz in August. The BMS Garden Party will take place on Saturday 21 July at Audlem everyone is welcome – please ask for full details.

We are now in the holiday season and wish all friends a happy and restful holiday and we look forward to welcoming you back at Union Street.

God Bless,

Helen Birtles

Cakes!

If you would like a cake made - money raised will go towards new cushioned pews. Please let me know at church or by phone 01270 586043.

NB: I can only bring them on a Sunday.

Fruit Loaf £3.00, Lemon Drizzle £2.50, Victoria Sandwich (with jam) £2.50, Butterfly Cakes 6 for £1.50, Iced 6 for £1.50, Small Victoria 6 for £1.50.

Jennifer Thornhill

Dates for your Diary

Sat 21 July – from 2pm - Garden Party in aid of Baptist World Mission in Audlem

Sat 25 August – Quiz Night in aid of Baptist Home Mission at Union Street, from 7pm

Sat 10 Oct evening – Wistaston Singers/Kipling Singers Joint Concert at Union Street

Sat 10 Nov – 7pm – Kipling Singers Annual Concert. All the usual fun, plus the famous Dutch Auction!

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

Ministry of Flowers



JULY

- 1 In memory of Mr H & Mr A Cornes
- 8 Vacant
- 15 Helen Birtles
- 22 Barry Leech
- 29 Mr & Mrs Matt Fenton

AUGUST

- 5 In memory of Mrs A Cornes
- 12 Mr & Mrs G Thornhill
- 19 In memory of John Allcock
- 26 Mr & Mrs E Rowland

SEPTEMBER

- 2 In memory of Dennis Morton & Nancy
- 9 Mrs Carol Spencer
- 16 Harvest
- 23 Mr & Mrs D Kellett
- 30 Vacant

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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Secretary: Mrs. Helen Birtles

Tel: 01270 589075

Find us on the internet:

www.crewebaptist.co.uk



Deacon's Diary

I have been re-reading the history of our church at Union Street and decided to share some of it with you. The church here was formed by 19 people in 1882 and they met in a room above the Britannia Coffee Tavern in Station Street just across Mill Street. The first minister was Rev. William Lees of Walsall who was appointed early in 1883. The schoolrooms were finished in 1883 so the church services were held in that and the sanctuary was finished and used for worship from 10 September 1884 when Rev Charles Spurgeon led the opening service.

Our church has been used for worship since then and many devoted members have held office and ensured that the successive ministers have been successful in their ministries. There have also been many times when quick thinking has been required i.e. during the first World War the number of male members was insufficient for singing four part anthems. Mr Stevens, the choir master got over the difficulty by introducing two part anthems which the ladies sang with good effect! Sadly 81 men connected with the church and Sunday School were recruited into war service and 8 did not come home.

During the Second World War 58 members were in service and 2 did not return. During 1940 fire watching by three persons each night on the premises was arranged. In regard to this, stirrup pumps, buckets and bags of sand were obtained and the baptistry was filled with water for use in emergencies! The baptistry cannot have leaked then! Arrangements were made to use the air raid shelters in Derrington Avenue by the Sunday School if necessary.

We do not have any of these concerns and we are able to worship our God freely for which we should be grateful. Let us carry on as our predecessors did by demonstrating our faith and spreading the Good News of Jesus Christ as we go about our daily lives.

May God Bless you all,

Helen Birtles

Home Mission Quiz Night

The next quiz night in aid of Baptist Home Mission will take place on Sat 25 August, from 7pm.

More details available soon...but in the meantime, weekly quiz sheets will be available for a few more weeks.

Caroline Greatbanks

