

THE MESSENGER

Harvest 2017



Message from the Minister

Back in 2012, there were many discussions on the internet about various aspects of the Baptist Union assembly. One of the debates was centred around the fact that some of the sung worship in one session was in Hindi, with one delegate commenting that he could have been singing the menu of the local take away for all he knew! He questioned whether this then could be called worship.

Having spent some time working in cross cultural situations I have joined local Christians for worship where the singing was all in the local languages, and with a rhythm that was alien to me. Initially I had no understanding of what I was singing and yet I would say that just being part of the community of worshippers, who **could** understand what they were singing I still felt a part of the 'worship' of that church. Why? Because I trusted that a church that was in all other respects theologically sound and spiritually mature would not allow the sung worship to be anything other than a reflection of true worship, and more than that I could sense the authentic love of God in the hearts of those present. Of course the more I learned of the languages the more I could then sing with understanding in my head as well as a feeling of oneness in my spirit, and I gradually got used to the different rhythms.

But it is not just different ethnic cultures who appreciate different musical expressions of worship, different generational cultures also develop their own preferred styles of worship. We are all familiar with the fact that music styles have changed over recent decades in the 'pop' world with each generation evolving a new style. The same has happened in the church, with the evolution of contemporary songs and hymns written by up and coming new writers over recent decades. The debate over whether it is best to stick to the tried and tested traditional hymns or to embrace the contemporary forms of sung worship is one that continues in many churches up and down the land, and yet the best way forward must surely be to keep the best of both.

Research suggests that most churches actually have a very limited 'playlist' of, on average 100 songs. The latest edition of Songs of Fellowship, one of the most comprehensive collections of traditional and contemporary songs, brings the total of songs in all six volumes to 3,210. Of course, in all decades there have been some songs with theologically questionable lyrics which should have no place on any churches 'playlist'. But these figures suggest that most churches are ignoring thousands of worship songs that could add richness, diversity and perhaps even a deeper spirituality to their worship.

Here, in our own church we have people of differing ethnicity, and from different generations, which brings its own richness to our worship. So as a first step to developing our own 'playlist' I would like to invite everyone who is a member of the church, or attends the church to give me a list of their 10 favourite hymns or songs, which gives us the potential 'playlist' of around 300. As we explore these lists I would also encourage everyone to listen attentively to the choices of others even if they are alien to them, for in doing so, we show respect for the spirituality of others, and open up the possibility of expanding our own spirituality. After all when we worship God in the glory of the new heaven and earth we will be singing alongside people of all races, generations and musical styles, so it's good to begin practising now.

With love Lynn

Secretary's Notes

September has arrived and most of us cannot believe we are in the last quarter of 2017. Many friends have been holidaying during the summer and I hope you all feel refreshed. It is good to welcome you back.

The augmented Church Choir performed another Roger Jones musical 'Pharaoh to Freedom' recently. Thank you to all involved for a great performance. Thank you to David and Caroline and helpers for another entertaining Quiz evening raising funds for Home Mission.

Our Harvest Parade and Gift Service will be held on Sunday 17 September at 10.30 am and on Sunday 24 September we are eagerly looking forward to a Baptismal Service, also at 10.30 am. Everyone is welcome to join us on these special occasions when our new minister will be presiding.

Our next Church Meeting will be held on Sunday 17 September after the morning service. We hope members will be able to attend.

Some of our friends are having tests and hospital treatments at the moment and we wish them all good recoveries. Please remember all friends in your prayers.

May God bless you all,

Helen Birtles

Music @USBC

The Kipling Singers will hold their Annual concert on November 25th at 7.30pm. Tickets are priced at £8 which includes a light buffet and there will also be the Dutch Auction with some excellent prizes so bring your pound coins too.

All monies raised will go to Cancer Research and USBC so please come and spend an enjoyable evening whilst supporting these worthwhile causes.

Tickets are available from any of the Kipling Singers.

The Choir is already preparing their next musical 'The Inn Crowd' by Roger Jones which tells the Christmas story in an entertaining and light hearted way. They will be performing on the following dates;

3rd December 6.15pm at Elworth

16th December 7.30pm at Union Street

13th January 2.30pm at Minshull URC

Please join them for their Seasonal performances.

Thanks 1

Many thanks for all the cards, flowers and presents from all at Union Street. Special thanks for the lovely surprise birthday party from the leaders, Rainbows and Brownies. It was a real surprise, I had no idea.

Love Iris (Tawny Owl)

Thanks 2

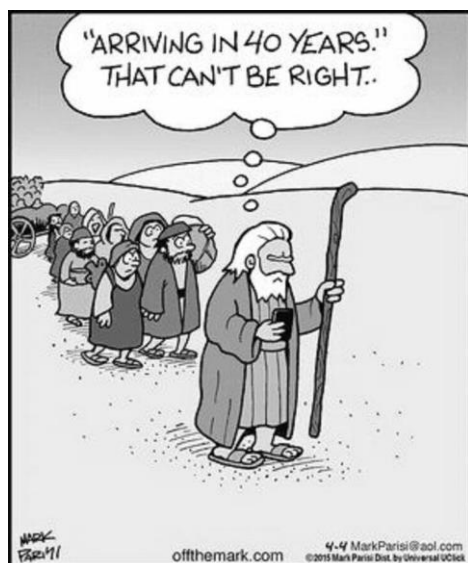
Hannah and Jessica would like to thank everyone who sponsored them for their 'Pretty Muddy' run earlier in the summer. They had lots of fun getting really muddy and raised £522.01 for Cancer Research thanks to your help.

Deacons Diary – Finding Our Way

After our long interregnum, it has been good to have stability Lynn is bringing to us and we are settling down together, though no doubt by now Lynn is wondering what she has let herself in for!

The Deacons with Lynn are holding an awayday in earl October to review the current church position and from this discuss our future way forward.

When I am out walking I use a Satnav based on OS maps which show the footpaths so you cannot really get lost as your track shows on the Satnav. However, while you know where you are and can see the route to the end of the walk, you can come up against all sorts of obstacles from the almost impenetrable path with brambles and nettles, marshy ground which nearly sucks your boots off, wobbly stiles and herds of curious cattle, plus obstructive landowners who really don't want you to go that way. This is the problem we have now with the future of Union St. We all want to see a thriving church full of committed members spreading God's word but on the way there are all sorts of problems to be overcome.



Cont.

The Deacons would appreciate any views you may have which you think should be reflected in the discussion (on an unattributable basis if you wish) as it is important we have not just the views of a few Deacons in our discussions but an understanding of the church as a whole so please have a chat with one of us in the next couple of weeks.

While discussions during the day will hopefully bring forward ideas for the future, it will also be important to consider our priorities. We cannot do everything we would like at once as resources in funds and people are limited, but equally we must not use this as a reason for doing nothing.

I recall that in our discussions with Rose that there is an expectation of change coming; it is the scope of change and its management that we have to get right, the importance of explaining why change is suggested before making it. Some of you may have heard me quote a line from the Last of the Summer wine where Clegg says in his usual laconic way 'Progress is all very well... if it is just wasn't so inconvenient' WE must see it as necessary *and* convenient

There are several times of prayer during the awayday as we seek God's help in finding our direction in our discussions. We need to be open and receptive, listening to god as he speaks to us and be ready to download his 'Satnav' instructions and follow His direction.

We would appreciate your prayers of support for the Deacons and Lynn at this time.

Robin Mann



Ministry of Flowers

September

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

October

- 1 In memory of Brian and Hazel Dodd
- 8 In memory of Edith and Bernard Kennerly
- 15 In memory of Harold and Phyllis Fox
- 22 Annette Elliott
- 29 Gerald and Evelyn Dunn in memory of their daughters Pamela and Patricia

November

- 5 In memory of Mr and Mrs Meachin
- 12 In memory of Yvonne Chetwood
- 19 In memory of Mr and Mrs C Riley
- 26 In memory of Martin Thomasson

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



BMS Birthdays

September

- 24 Ruby Johnson

October

None

November

- 23 Revd Jennie Wakefield
- 28 Darren Thornhill

Messenger deadline

Items for the next edition of The Messenger to Annette Elliott by mid November, thank you