

The Blaby Baptist Messenger



**February / March
2017**

www.blabybaptistchurch.org.uk

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Greetings from Pastor Pauline

Dear Friends

May I wish you a happy 2017!

We look forward to what God is going to do amongst us this year. Our verses for the year come from are Psalm 37.

Trust in the Lord and do good: dwell in the land and enjoy safe pasture. Delight yourself in the Lord and he will give you the desires of your heart.

This is a call to concentrate on the basics of our faith and to strengthen our relationship with our Lord Jesus Christ. "Delight yourself" is an invitation to simply spend time with Him-in worship, in prayer and in reading scripture. It is a call to keep Him at the centre of our lives and trust Him for our future. It is very easy to get involved in all the activities of life-and there is nothing wrong about living life to the full for God gives us so many opportunities to experience different things-but we must always seek God first and give Him the best of our time and energy-not the leftovers at the end of the day.

So let us as a church delight in our Lord and continue to build His kingdom here saying "Your will be done in our lives."

May God bless you with His joy and peace.

Pauline



Personal

God bless all of our church family who have been dealing with health issues of one sort or another. Both Maria, Di and Roy have spent time in hospital and thank God they are all recovering at home. We pray for Julie's sister who also has spent time in hospital and Graham Webb who has been in and out of hospital, we pray for recovery.

As usual this winter has seen many suffering with cough and cold, Kathleen and John, Mick and Ann all have had the dreaded winter cold and again we can only pray that they are all feeling much better.

Let us also keep in our prayers all those in our church family and extended family and pray for health as we continue through the rest of the winter into spring.

Wynne

How to pray for the Persecuted Christians in North Korea

(summary of an article in Open Doors magazine Jan 2017)

The World Watch List 2017 has been published, based on information gathered throughout 2016. North Korea remains the country where Christians experience the worst persecution for the 16th consecutive year.

Leader: Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un

Population: 25,405,000 (300,000 Christians)

Main Religion: Atheism/traditional beliefs

Government: Dictatorial paranoia

Source of Persecution: Communist Oppression, Dictatorial Paranoia.

The family that has ruled North Korea for three generations are worshipped like gods, and any suggestion that there is a higher authority than the nation's leader, Kim Jong-Un, is immediately crushed. Tens of thousands of Christians are incarcerated in horrific labour camps, and thousands more are forced to hide their faith completely from government authorities, neighbours and often, even their own spouses and children. Due to ever-present surveillance, many pray with their eyes open, and gathering for praise or fellowship is practically impossible.

Brother Andrew, founder of Open Doors, says,

“Our prayers can go where we cannot.

There are no borders, no prison walls, no doors that are closed to us when we pray.”

He has suggested some ideas to prompt us to pray for the church in North Korea in the coming weeks.



1 Pray when you eat

Pray that God will bless North Korean Christians as they share the little food they have, with others.

2 Pray when you open your Bible

The Bible is a forbidden book but there is probably no other country in the world with so many hidden Bibles. Some are literally buried in the ground and dug up to read.

Pray that North Korean Christians will be brave enough to own a Bible and for their protection as they read it in secret.

Pray that God will enable Open Doors workers to smuggle more Bibles to North Korean believers.

3 Pray as you walk down the street

North Korean Christians know that they are always being watched by their neighbours.

Pray that God will make their seeing eyes, blind, and that the North Korean Christians will not be discovered.

4 Pray when you hear a siren

Tens of thousands of North Korean Christians are imprisoned in prison camps or sentenced to forced labour.

Pray for their strength, comfort, and that they will soon be free. **Pray** especially that those who have started to lose hope, or even given up on their faith, will know God's love and presence with them.





2 Timothy 1:6

For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands.

ANNOUNCEMENT!

It gives me great pleasure in welcoming Laura into our Worship Group: "Flame".

Laura sings, and also plays keyboard, thus giving us extra cover for when any of us are missing, and adding continued variety to our Worship.

I know we will be very blessed by the added gifts that Laura brings and ask you to pray for us all as we seek to continue to lead you into God's presence through our music.

We have quite a few new songs to introduce to you in the very near future and hope that you will embrace them (as you usually do) and join in the singing of them as they become more familiar.

One such song is called "Unbroken Praise" and has two wonderful phrases that I will leave you with as I close this item for our next magazine:-

"So, let my deeds outrun my words and "let my life outweigh my songs".

Amen to that!

Shirley x

Memories of the Christmas Season

Guides/Brownies/Rainbows Christingle





Do you have questions?

What is the meaning of life?

Why do bad things happen to good people?

Why is there suffering?

Who is God?

Come along to the Alpha Course and find the answers you are looking for.

If you would like to be part of an exciting journey talk to June Hughes for more information.

Blaby Baptist Church

77th year

Women's Own

February 8th

AGM

March 8th

The musical stylings of Steve and Tony



Bring a friend - she will be glad you did

Friendship Group

Meets every Wednesday evening
7:40 pm

February

1st Quiz Night

8th Table Games

15th Heritage Drop in Centre

22nd Meal out at the Old Vicarage

March

1st Pancakes

8th Speaker, Jenny Fox

15th Heritage Drop in Centre

22nd Lent Course

29th Lent Course



Men's Fellowship

Here it is a new year with a new programme of events that will enable everyone to share a time of informal fellowship. Steve Allen takes on the job of Coordinator. Please feel free to come along and join us for fun and fellowship, we meet the second Monday of the month at 7:30pm.

February 13th

AGM

March 13th

Quiz Night



Men's fellowship

Flower Arranging Course

Monday Evenings

6:00pm

Come along and learn to
create works of art with
flowers





Make a Note!



An important date for your diary

Men's Fellowship Group presents:-



Quiz Night



Monday 13th March 2017

Starts *promptly* at 7.00 p.m.

Tickets: £4.00 each person

(Supper & light refreshments included)

Tickets now available from Nev Taylor

(Mobile: 07825 179417)

*** Tables set for teams of up to x4 people ***

Offertory

Nov	6th	£439.29
	13th	£471.04
	20th	£496.29
	27th	£457.73

Average £466.09

Dec	4th	£561.28
	11th	£482.95
18th	£432.36 & £130.75 (Carols)	
	25th	£452.70

Average £515.01

Kitchen update

We have to have an asbestos survey as the Church has no certificate to say it is clear of asbestos. They will be mainly concerned with the area of the new kitchen and will take place at the end of January. Once this has taken place we can then go out to contract, which will give us the real cost of the build. Steve and Tony are still trying to raise the extra we need via grants but at the time of writing none of the submissions have produced any funds.



Les

The Day I Fell in Love
by Hope Tshuma

The Day I Fell in Love

The day my eyes opened I realized the sun shone every day
The beauty of the sunrise in the morning filled my heart with joy
The magnificent sunset moments in the evening, lifted my spirit
The fresh breath of falling waters, made me smile inwardly
Birds humming sweetly took my heart afar to Sweet land and I rejoiced

I looked then I saw, the beauty I never realized as each day passed
Moments with the nature bonded me with the Creator

I comprehended the one who created for He is greater than I
I laughed joyfully as I walked on the grass and mingled with the nature
Fresh drops of water touched my feet, the feeling made me cry of joy
How could I have not seen and known all this beauty before?

Days became sweet to me, nothing else mattered so much except You
The times we shared together in our secret place built me
I took heed of Your Word and kept your statutes in my heart so I may not depart from You

I keep the Word from you so I may do things your way and be successful
When I opened up to You, You gave me the reason to live
Life with you is good, so good, I just have to share it with others around

Waking up and listening to sweet hymns from the birds makes my day
Waking up and smelling the fresh breath of the day, makes me spread my arms and fly

Waking up and knowing that You have granted me yet another day, blesses my soul

Take my hand and let me not depart from You oh Lord
When I gave my heart to You , all things opened up for me
That's the day I fell in love with You

Thoughts from the Reluctant Editor

I don't know about anybody else but it seems like the year is speeding by, we are already one month into the year and we have had some brisk weather. I don't know about you but I am looking forward to feeling the warmth of the sun on my face. Winter is not my most favourite time of the year and it is always a boost when we pass the shortest day of the year. It is a pleasure as I walk the dog in the morning to notice that it is lighter in the sky and the days are getting longer. God has created a beautiful world for us to live in and I thank God for all the opportunities he has given me and Julian (my husband) to get out and see some of the things he has given us. All of the extraordinary animals, birds, insects and all of the wonderful landscapes we have seen. Having seen all of these things it disheartens us to know that so many of these animals are under threat and landscapes are being destroyed. I thank God for all of the people who work tirelessly to preserve and protect. I also thank God that his creation is resilient and if given the chance recovery can take place. As with the Earth and animals God has given man the same resilience to be able to heal and recover with his help. So it is comforting to know that God will always be there to help us heal and recover and all we have to do is ask.

Karen

Blaby Baptist Church Calendar 2017

February 1st	Deacons Meeting 7pm
February 5th	Pauline away
February 14th	Bible study 7pm
February 22nd	Brownies Thinking Day
February 26th	Evening praise 6pm
March 1st	Deacons Meeting 7pm
March 5th	Church Anniversary Mark Clay to preach
March 11th	Lent lunch
March 12th	Church AGM after morning service
March 14-16	Pauline and Shirley at New Wine leaders conference
March 26th	Mother's Day
April 5th	Brownies St Georges Day 6pm
April 9th	Palm Sunday
April 12th	Deacons Meeting
April 13th	Maundy Thursday Communion 7pm
April 14th	Good Friday service 7pm
April 16th	Easter Day communion
May 28th-June 3rd	Pauline on holiday
?July 3rd – 13th	Pauline on holiday
October 8th	Harvest
November 12th	Remembrance Sunday

Church Services

Sunday Service: 10:45 am

Communion: The third Sunday of every month.

Groups

Monday

Men's Fellowship: 7:30pm every second Monday of the month.

Contact Steve 0116 2990266

Wednesday

Playtime: 10am-11:30 an informal drop-in session for babies and toddlers. £1 per session.

Contact Pauline 0116 2477450

Friendship Group: 7:30pm-9pm every Wednesday.

Contact Pauline 0116 2477450

Women's Own: 2:30-4pm every first Wednesday.

Contact Eileen 0116 2772108

Friday

Rhythm Time: morning classes (babies and toddlers)

Contact Chris 0116 2773239

Rainbows/ Brownies/ Guides/ Rangers

Contact Beryl 07891689841

For I know
THE PLANS

I have for you
declares the Lord,

Plans to **Prosper You**

and not to harm you

Plans to give you

HOPE

and a **FUTURE**

Jeremiah 29:11