

## Message from the Minister

May the God of peace . . .  
equip you with everything good for doing His will.

*Hebrews 13: 20-21*

As a young Christian I listened to many a sermon or bible study about discerning God's plan for our life and searching for God's will in a particular situation. And so there would be times where I would sit and wait for God to speak about should I offer to do youth work or not. Some exciting things happened. There was the time I changed my job because I had a dream! I applied for my dream job and even before I was invited for an interview I knew I would get it!

Discerning God's will is at the heart of Baptist life. A Church and prospective minister try to discern God's will; is he or she the right person to be the minister of this Church? Is this Church the right Church for me – is it part of God's purposes, is it His will?

A major theme running through scripture is about God's plan, His will for His creation. A cursory read of the Gospels can leave you with the impression that it was all planned this way, especially Matthew has the repeated phrase: 'then what was said through a prophet was fulfilled' (Mat 2: 18), indicating all this was meant to be, it was God's will. Even Jesus dying upon the cross was 'meant to be'.

Over the years, I have struggled with this way of understanding God's will; how does free will fit in to this? How can everything be planned even before the beginning of the world? Is it in God's will that so many people suffer in the way that they do? And just look at the sheer chaos of some people's lives.

Reflecting again on the phrase 'doing His will' in our theme passage for 2019, I was struck by the word 'doing'. Maybe what this passage is after is not about plans for my life, should I accept this or that job. Maybe it is

about doing what God wants us to do by living out our lives doing Jesus like actions. Maybe 'doing His will' is more about being people that set other people free to be what they are meant to be, by loving enemies, giving to the poor, offering words of comfort to those who need comfort. Maybe 'doing His will' is more about the other person than ourselves.

Grace & Peace  
Gert

## **Words of Inspiration**

Breathe on me, Breath of God,  
Fill me with life anew,  
That I may love what Thou dost love,  
And do what Thou wouldst do.

Breathe on me, Breath of God,  
Until my heart is pure,  
Until with Thee I will one will,  
To do and to endure.

Breathe on me, Breath of God,  
Till I am wholly Thine,  
Until this earthly part of me  
Glows with Thy fire divine.

Breathe on me, Breath of God,  
So shall I never die,  
But live with Thee the perfect life  
Of Thine eternity.

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*February 2019*

## News of the Fellowship

**Congratulations** to Marriott and Keyla Kunakah on the birth of a son, Paolo Eduardo in Brazil, Paolo is healthy but is only 3 ½ lbs so needs special care, please pray for the family

**We were saddened to hear of the recent deaths** of Joan Philips, who died on January 14th and Edwin Newbold who died in December, we remember their families and friends as they mourn their loss.

**We pray for those who are receiving treatment;** for Maralyn Speight receiving intensive physiotherapy at Coalville Hospital following a stroke, for Hilary Ketton continuing treatment, for Pat Maisch who has started dialysis but is having some difficulties.

**And continue to pray for those who are not well:** Stan Coombs, Alex Fairley and Jenny Warren

**We were pleased to hear that Marianne Birtwistle** has been appointed as Family Worker and will take up her appointment in January.

### Meaning of friendship and God in times of need

Well, where do I start. Well, many of the elderly congregation know me growing up within the church over the years, from a young age I regularly attended with my sister Lynne and my mum and dad Pauline and Brian Granger. I lost contact with the church over the years but never lost my faith. I know I'm always welcome at a Sunday service and am always happy to be greeted with a friendly face and a smile.

I've always turned to god in times of need and strife, I know He is there close by. I had a bad time nearly two years ago where I wanted to end it all after my marriage broke up but two very close friends restored my faith in humanity. The two friends, Ben Haines and Grace Pickering, got my head straight and pointed me in the right direction which I am grateful for, all my friends have helped me but God means a lot.

Presently I am happy and feel God has helped me see the way plus my close ones I love, my girlfriend and our children

If ever you need a chat turn to God and friends, there is always someone there to listen to see you through your dark days.

*David Granger*

## Letter from Egypt by Moira Andrew

Dear Miriam,

Just a line to let you know how things are with us & of course to thank you (and your good man) for all you did for us - and at your busiest time too what with the census & everything. I was quite exhausted and the baby was beginning to make himself felt. If it hadn't been for all your help that night my baby might have died.

Good of you to put up with all our visitors – who'd have thought, six scruffy shepherds up and leaving their sheep like that? and didn't they ever smell? Still they were good-hearted & they meant well. I hope they brought some extra trade to the inn. They looked in need of a hot drink and a meal.

And what about those kings, Miriam? Kneeling there in their rich robes and all? and me in nothing but my old blue dress! Joseph said not to worry, it was Jesus they'd come to see. Real gentlemen they were. But what funny things to give a baby – gold and myrrh and frankincense. That's men all over! It wouldn't cross their minds to bring a shawl!

Sorry we left so suddenly. No time for good-byes with king Herod on the warpath! We had to take the long way home and I'm so tired of looking at sand! Joseph has picked up a few jobs mending this and that so we're managing quite well. Jesus grows bonnier every day and thrives on this way of life, but I can't wait to see Nazareth again.

Love to all at the inn,

Mary

Moira Andrew [www.moirandrew.com](http://www.moirandrew.com)

## Quiet Reflections

Lord, there are days when we seek material things

And measure failure by what we do not own.

Let us seek not to acquire, but to share and to open

Our hearts to the needs and rights of others.

Amen

## Visit to Keith at The Martin's

Between Christmas and new year our travels took us past Bury St Edmunds, a ten minute detour allowed us to visit Keith Boucher in his new home The Martins run by the Methodist Housing Association.

It was an absolute delight to see Keith in this setting, looking well and happy. He was interested to hear our chatter of LBC and we later attended a musical entertainment session with him in the lounge.

I have visited many residential homes so feel qualified to share how impressed I was with The Martins, the staff were cheerful, overwhelmingly caring and exceptionally welcoming. The building was subtly decorated and furnished, it was light, airy and had interesting views from its picture windows.



Below is an excerpt from the MRA's website.

### **Our Values underpin our entire approach:**

- We **respect** every person as a unique individual
- We treat others, especially the most frail and vulnerable, with the **dignity** we wish for ourselves
- We are **open and fair** in all our dealings
- We always seek to improve, to become **the best we can be**
- We nurture each person's **body, mind and spirit** to promote a fulfilled life

This sums up entirely what I felt during our short visit and left feeling happy that Keith was living in a place where he was being provided with care and activities that reflected his own interests and outlook on life.

*Vicky & Geraldine*

## **Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child**

We would like to say, on behalf of Samaritan's Purse, a huge thank you for your fantastic contributions to the Shoe Box Appeal at Christmas. We delivered a total of 56 complete boxes from LBC to the Checking Office at Beeston in Nottingham - we chose this centre as the Leicestershire Centre this year was at Burton-on-Trent, which is a greater distance and more complicated to get to than Beeston. The organisation and staffing levels at Beeston were very good and they had an excellent turn-out of helpers. A total of 5,800 boxes were sent from here to Belarus, which is a small country (population in 2000 of around 10 million). It is bordered by Russia, Ukraine, Poland and Latvia and is classified by Google as a 'developing country'. It's mainly an agricultural country and still carries the effects of the Chernobyl disaster. The average January temperature is -7c - which makes the lovely warm hats & mittens from Yarn Angels very welcome! The Centre pounced on the considerable amount of extra items we were able to take from your donations - ranging from soft toys, dolls, toys, toiletries and stationery etc. - and these were used to fill the boxes which came in which were lacking in their content.

So, again, thank you for contributing to Christmas joy for disadvantaged children and passing on to them the Lord's love and blessing.

*Hilary Ketton & Margaret Thirwell*

## **Church Directory and Data Protection Forms**

We are due to produce an up to date **Church Directory/Year Book** and people have been asking when this will happen.

As a result of the recent Data protection Act we can now only include personal information in the directory if you have given permission for this. Many people have filled in the form but there are still a significant number missing that we would like to include.

If you have not completed the form but wish to be included in the directory then please do so as soon as possible, we would wish to include everyone who is a member of our fellowship.

Forms are available from the office at any time.

*Lilian Limb*

# HYMN WRITER IN OUR MIDST: DAVID BRACKENBURY

To tune: *Wild Mountain Thyme* (BPW 199)

We can find Him in our hearts,  
At the centre of our being,  
A still small voice of reason,  
Our souls from passion freeing.  
He is here, in our hearts.

**Chorus:** Yes our Lord God is with us,  
Despite all our sinning,  
To allow a fresh beginning,  
He is here, in our hearts.

We can find Him in our friends,  
In our sisters and our brothers,  
Their many ways of showing  
That they care for us and others.  
He is here, in our friends.

**Chorus:**

We can find Him in the world,  
In the midst of strife and factions.  
We still can see His children  
Performing loving actions,  
He is here, in the world.

**Chorus:**

We can find Him everywhere,  
In each and every nation,  
A reconciling spirit  
Uniting His creation.

**Chorus:** Yes, our Lord God is with us,  
Despite all our sinning,  
To allow a fresh beginning,  
He is here, everywhere.

## 2020 Vision: Time to Re-focus

The start of a new year is often the time for taking stock of the past 12 months and looking forward to the next. During last year the 2020 vision groups have reported to the church meeting on their progress, with the Admin and Finance group posing questions about increased use of technology to ease the burden caused by greater legal requirements for running a charity and raising the issue of a paid administrator/buildings manager. The group tackling Human Resources has updated LBC's privacy documents in line with Data Protection legislation and created a data collection form for everyone associated with LBC which includes the compilation of permissions given for the church use of their data. If you haven't filled in a form yet, please get one from the office. (See the article about the Church Directory)

Looking forward there will be training courses in the use of some new software the church has purchased which will potentially make our administration smoother. These courses will be advertised and be open to anyone who wishes to avail themselves of easier ways of information sharing and publicity.

Our minister has indicated that his retirement is not too far off, which gives impetus to the need for the church to be ready with worked out requirements and modes of operating for Ministry at LBC. This will also demand that we are sure about the role and composition of our diaconate and their relationship with the trustees.

The issues in the two paragraphs above are not entirely unconnected and so it is perhaps time to re-focus our 2020 vision to address these challenges head on. An invitation is therefore extended to anyone with an interest in any of these tasks to meet together, hopefully before the end of February, to make a start. This invitation applies, even if you have been a member of one of the other 2020 groups.

This country is facing changes that make it difficult to predict the future. So too is our church facing changes. Let us make sure that we make adequate preparations to face them with confidence. *Mike Limb*



*A Special Service  
of Thanksgiving  
For Loved Ones  
At*

*Loughborough  
Baptist Church*

*Sunday 17 February 2019  
4.00pm*

**Followed by a tea**

You are invited to a special service to remember your loved ones, to give thanks for their lives and to pray for God's comforting love for ourselves

## **Lunchtime Concert**

### **Tuesday 19th February at 12.45pm**

A visit from the music students at the Endowed Schools has become a delightful regular occasion for which we thank Melanie Reinhard for making the arrangements. At this stage we do not know who is coming because they have a selection procedure coupled with a progress competition. However we do know that there will be a high standard of performance by young musicians, many of whom will be giving first public performances and will have invited friends and relations to attend.

This is a concert not to miss!

*David Gabe*

## **A HISTORY OF BAPTIST HYMN BOOKS**

### **Beginnings**

When the first legal Baptist Church was founded in London in 1612 one of several important practices being promoted was hymn singing (others being congregation participation by way of leading prayers and reading the Bible in services etc). There was no suitable hymn book available and the number of nonconformist hymns available was severely limited. Consequently a number of hymn booklets were produced often by county associations edited by leaders of the day – Benjamin Keach, John Haddon, John Rippon and F.W. Goadby. This continued for many years and it was not until the late 19<sup>th</sup> century that the Baptist Union agreed to produce a denominational hymn book (The Baptist Union was founded in the 1860s but it was a few years before they decided to produce one hymnal for the whole denomination). How much they were influenced by the Anglican Church, which in 1861 published ‘Hymns Ancient and Modern’ with a second edition in 1904 and third in 1950 and the ‘English Hymnal’ in 1906 for the more Catholic wing, is not clear. Thus the first Baptist Church Hymnal was published in 1900 with a pew book with words only, a music edition for choirs and a further book of Anthems usually incorporated into the music edition, The choice of hymns was essentially conservative and edited from the new Baptist sponsored Psalms and Hymns Trust but included hymns from the Congregational and Methodist traditions with authors such as Isaac Watts, Charles Wesley, Philip Dodderidge and John

Bunyan widely evident. At the same time the Welsh Baptist Churches published 'Llawlyfr Moliant' in 1930 (following a series of smaller booklets from 1880) and a later edition was produced in 1956 as Llawlyfr Moliant Newydd. These contained mainly hymns unique to Wales some of which were later translated into English notably 'Guide me O thou great Jehovah' by William Williams.

## **Modernisation**

By 1930 it was apparent that a revised edition was needed as new hymns and tunes were becoming popular and independent publishers were producing 'modern' hymn books such as 'Hymns for Today' (1930). Furthermore the Sunday School Hymnary had generated a large number of hymns in the previous generation of scholars driven by formidable persons like Mrs. Cecil Frances Alexander and Carey Bonner were included in the standard hymn books. Furthermore the influence of international evangelists like Sankey and Moody, and Alexander had published substantial campaign hymnals with well-loved hymns and choruses.

Meanwhile, the Second World War intervened for publishing and worship styles were changing. Dr Billy Graham continued the American Sankey tradition, published campaign hymn booklets but had only a limited use unlike Sankey 50 years earlier. Evangelical Anglicans entered the arena with people like Geoffrey Beaumont having a large influence leading to booklets and hymns for Youth groups naturally called Youth Praise (1 and 2) becoming widely used. A new Baptist Hymn book was planned and eventually was published in 1962 as the Baptist Church Hymnal or the '*Green*' Book while a modern style book, thought to be of less wide acceptance appeared in 1974 as *Praise for Today* which had a special interest for LBC members through Ron Thomson and George Towers. Interestingly the Methodists and Anglicans also produced alternative books which tended to have a niche interest and sold less well! Historically the Roman Catholics did not use *congregational* singing as part of their liturgy but recently there has been a notable change and their current hymnbooks include Protestant hymns possibly as a response to their popularity through use in schools.

A trend which began in the 1930s of non-denominational hymn books became apparent; for example 'Hymns of the Kingdom' was published in 1923 for schools use, the Scripture Union's 'Songs of Worship' for students

and 'Songs of Praise' being published originally for the same market. The BBC Hymn Book was published to support the daily success of a broadcast morning service on the Home Service; it has subsequently gone to a second edition and been used by a number of churches as its regular hymnal. The cynics amongst us would say that at this point a publishing opportunity was being recognised and independent publishers took up the challenge the result being 'Mission Praise' (whose origins can be traced to Billy Graham's 1984 campaign) amongst others. Songs of Fellowship, published by Kingsway, is now in 4 volumes. Critics would say that they are re-publishing all the classic hymns of the past while introducing a limited number of new hymns and choruses with a profit motive being apparent in the cost of the books; they are also causing denominational books to cease.

### **The Future**

So what is the future? We are undoubtedly experiencing the biggest change in worship styles for a century and the future is unpredictable. The slogans could be 'out with the organ and in with the band' or 'out with hymn books and in with the VDU'. Success has to be measured by support through church attendance and faith consolidation amongst the worshippers: it is probably still too early to judge. If cost is a factor the VDU wins; if worship spirit is critical then the winner is less certain. The quality of new and inspired worship material is generally poor and days of hymns with many verses is long gone and replaced by repetition. Furthermore there is a divide between the south and north of England – change is more apparent in the south and tradition more staid in the north. We wait for the spirit to guide us and division is possible which is only right where a church gathering of believers has its own governance and takes its own spiritual guidance within the Union of Baptists.

*David Gabe*

### **Recollections of the Church from a 1939 viewpoint**

It was amazing to find brief notes about our church written in 1939 looking back over 67 years. The writer was Church Member R.W. Wightman who lived in School Street, with his wife and two sons.

He looks back to the Ministers that he knew:

Edward Stevenson served 1846 – 1896. "a most devoted preacher"

Robert Julian served 1893 – 1891. “brought joy to the young scholars and a good assistant for the ageing minister”. He left to take up the pastorate of a Baptist Church in Calcutta.

Rueben Handford served 1893 – 1922. “He helped the young and old members to the advantage of us all”.

Edward Martin served 1920- 1938. “gave of his best to carry on the work of the Church”.

He writes warmly about individual Deacons and the Sunday School leaders that he knew over the years appreciating their devoted work. Looking back to his own days in the Sunday School he remembers seeing copy books and being told that in the early days of the School children were taught reading and writing and as he puts it “a splendid action on the part of the officials of the Church”. The Baxter Gate Sunday School had been the largest school in the town (800 children).

For the heating of the church he remembers “how difficult it was to heat the Chapel for the Sunday Mornings to a respectable temperature. There was a stove sunk in the aisle on the right hand side with a flue that was covered by grating. In order to stoke up one of the iron gratings had to be lifted away to get into the fire hole. There were three or four steps to go down. A great deal of caution had to be made in the firing or else lots of smoke rose and made it very unpleasant in the Chapel and necessitated having the window sashes lowered. This was bad in cold weather I can assure you!”

He was a singer in the choir (Bass). For many years the music in the Church was led by George Adcock. He was “never tired of giving us musical treats. The Christmas Concerts and other concerts at different periods were great. Nor must I forget the number of services of song he led sometimes with augmented choirs. There was nothing like it at that time”. Another memory was of the Sunday School Anniversaries. “Much time was spent and no expense spared to ensure that each celebration was successful as George Adcock was so anxious to make the event successful for the children”.

The new Minister, Rev. Scott, was welcomed to the Church in September 1939. The writer says “It will be a pleasure to see him amongst us at our Contact Club” .

*Sources: Document in the LBC History Collection.  
The Church Yearbook, 1939.*

*Stan Cramer*

## Monday Nighters

Our programme for February is as follows:

Monday 4th February "Where on earth are you?" David Green

Monday 18th February Sports Night - Something for everyone!

Monday 4th March Rev. Gert Glasius

*Everyone welcome Our aim is Friendship*

## Baptist Women's Fellowship

**During the last weeks of 2018 we learnt about the Air Ambulance Service** whose 2 yellow helicopters are busy every day saving lives in Leicestershire, Rutland, Northamptonshire and Warwickshire. It is dependent on sponsors and donations for finance. Gareth Ferrin told us something of his life story; we shared memories of Christmas presents and an afternoon of Christmas cards and readings.

Our new session began on **January 8<sup>th</sup>; the New Year Party** included Card Bingo and a lovely Bring and Share Tea.

**January 15<sup>th</sup> Trevor Holmes told us of Loughborough Town of Sanctuary.** There are 10 Immigration Enforcement Reporting centres in England, the East Midlands centre is based in South Street, Loughborough. Refugees and Asylum Seekers have to report at regular intervals wherever they live in the area. Volunteers wait in pairs outside the building to welcome and support before the people go in, and when they come out are offered items they might need such as hats, scarves, children's toys and vouchers for food and drink. Donations come from supporters and many knitted items have been given by our Yarn Angels. These folk have a hard time, waiting for a result of their application may take years, and many are professional people but are not allowed to work. It was an eye opening afternoon.

### Future Events

|                           |                              |
|---------------------------|------------------------------|
| February 5 <sup>th</sup>  | Called to be?                |
| February 12 <sup>th</sup> | Rev Derek Tickner            |
| February 19 <sup>th</sup> | Memories of Old Loughborough |
| February 26 <sup>th</sup> | Irene Newton                 |
| March 5 <sup>th</sup>     | Annual General Meeting       |

# Rotas for February

## CHURCH FLOWERS

Feb 3<sup>rd</sup> In memory of Mrs Cumberland  
Feb 10<sup>th</sup> Elaine Grimley  
Feb 17<sup>th</sup> Pauline Anderson  
Feb 24<sup>th</sup> Celia Wilkinson



## SATURDAY STEWARDS



Feb 2<sup>nd</sup> Richard O'Connor  
Feb 9<sup>th</sup> David Warren  
Feb 16<sup>th</sup> Richard & Linda Parsons  
Feb 23<sup>rd</sup> David Gabe

## COFFEE MORNINGS

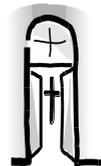


Orfund: Cramers  
BMS: Betty Marsh  
Guides

## CHURCH STEWARDS

### Mornings

Feb 3<sup>rd</sup> Shade Ojo  
Feb 10<sup>th</sup> Margot Gabe, Victoria Edwards  
Feb 17<sup>th</sup> Katie Tebbatt, Pat Moore  
Feb 24<sup>th</sup> Anne Lockley, Peter Taylor



**Evenings** John & Brenda Newton

*Items for the February magazine should be handed into the office or sent to [edward-atkin@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:edward-atkin@hotmail.co.uk) by NOON on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> February 2019*

## Calendar for February 2019

|                            |              |   |
|----------------------------|--------------|---|
| Sat 2 <sup>nd</sup>        | 6.30         | Link Up   |
| <b>Sun 3<sup>rd</sup></b>  | <b>10.45</b> | <b>Family Worship: Ezekiel 43: 1-12</b>                     |
|                            | <b>6.00</b>  | <b>Evening Communion Service:<br/>Hebrews 13: 20-24</b>     |
| Wed 6 <sup>th</sup>        | 3.30-6.00    | Messy Church  |
| Thurs 7 <sup>th</sup>      | 11.00        | Forget-me-nots  |
| Fri 8 <sup>th</sup>        | 12.45        | Luncheon Club   |
| <b>Sun 10<sup>th</sup></b> | <b>10.45</b> | <b>Family Worship: Luke 1</b>                               |
|                            | <b>6.00</b>  | <b>Evening Service: Matt 6: 5-14</b>                        |
| <b>Sun 17<sup>th</sup></b> | <b>10.45</b> | <b>Family Worship: Luke 14: 1-13</b>                        |
|                            | <b>4.00</b>  | <b>Sunday@ Four: Memorial Service</b>                       |
| Tues 19 <sup>th</sup>      | 10-12        | Yarn Angels   |
|                            | 12.45        | Lunchtime Concert:<br>Loughborough Endowed Schools Students |
| Thurs 21 <sup>st</sup>     | 11.00        | Forget-me-nots  |
| Fri 22 <sup>nd</sup>       | 12.45        | Luncheon Club   |
| <b>Sun 24<sup>th</sup></b> | <b>10.45</b> | <b>Family Worship: Luke 5: 1-11 &amp; 27-31</b>             |
|                            | <b>6.00</b>  | <b>SVGP Joint Service at Woodhouse Eaves</b>                |