

PERRY BAPTIST CHURCH

September 2018

Dear Friends

Well what a month we have just had. Unfortunately, it did not go quite to plan. We were all sorry that the 'preach with a squint' (a first preach from a Minister looking to come to a Church) did not come up to our hopes and expectations.

Please do not get me wrong, of all the people in the Church, the Secretary is as eager as all to appoint a new Minister. We must, however, be patient and pray to God that we have the right person for the Church here in Perry! Mike and Alison came and everyone felt they are a nice couple but we need a person that can help lead the Church and build us up in Christ. As they have said they will pray for us to find the right Minister, we pray that they will be led to the right Church.

Cilla and I have been involved in calling Ministers in several Churches. Most have been good decent Ministers, two were outstanding one not so well liked and one a disaster! You see it is not always straightforward calling a new Minister. Don't despair, most Ministers we have had in different Churches have been well liked, hard working and doing their best for God and his Church.

This month we look forward to our Harvest Thanksgiving. When I was a boy most people had a garden or allotment so it was not only farmers who had a harvest. I can remember when the harvest display in Church was all home-grown flowers, fruit and vegetables! Times change and few people grow their own now! As last year, we will be collecting for the local Food-Bank so please see the notice board for a list of what is needed. You can bring items anytime as a box will be put in Church for your donations.

Also, you can join the Friendship Circle on 24th for a trip to Roxton and tea at the Chapel. If you have never been I'm sure you will find it interesting. I am pleased we have a modern building and not an old thatched one!

I would ask you to pray for the National Settlement Team as they meet on 11th September to try and match Ministers and Churches. One month we will be successful but it is hard waiting. I have copied and written about calling a Minister. If it does not answer your questions please ask me!

Yours in Christ, Tony.

Sunday Services 10.30am each week.

2nd Stephen Draper, 9th Marco Reale,

16th Rev David Taylor – Communion,

23rd Rev Robin Giles – Harvest,

30th David Rootham and team from Godmanchester Baptist.

Fellowship evening, Home Group Thur's at 7.30pm.

6th & 13th at 8 Whitehall Way. 20th at 31 Roundhouse Drive

27th at 24 Glebe Road.

Harvest Weekend

Sat 22nd Harvest Supper at 6pm see notice for names and food.

Sun 23rd Harvest Thanksgiving Service. Gifts for the food bank can be brought anytime, there will be a box for them in Church.

Please offer your help in distributing leaflets in the village.

Friendship Circle

24th Sept "A tour of Roxton Congregational Chapel & Tea"

This historical Chapel is a Grade II listed building converted from a barn in 1808! It is timber framed with a thatched roof which needs replacing at a cost of £100,000!

Tea cost £5 with any profit towards cost of roof, donations also welcome.

MacMillan Coffee Morning on 6th October look out for notice

Church members' Meeting Wednesday 10th October.

Prayer Diary for September 2018

3 rd David and Ann Burditt	4 th Lara and John Campbell
5 th Audrey Clarke	6 th Stephen & Grace Draper
7 th David & Dorothy Haines	8 th David Hawthorne
9 th Preacher Marcos Reale	10 th Joyce Jones
11 th Pearl & Brian Lanham	12 th Pauline Moody
13 th Anne and Mac Macaskill	14 th Iris Mumford
15 th Betty Presland	16 th Howard & Ann Purser
17 th Preacher David Taylor	18 th Pam Sear
19 th Marjorie & Doug Smith	20 th Bob & Joyce Stammers
21 st Dave & Sue Stone	22 nd Amanda Tyrrell & Paul.
23 rd Preacher Robin Giles	24 th Ken & Marlene Turner
25 th David & Kathleen Taylor	26 th Jan & David Usher
27 th Ted & Marjorie Wady	28 th Roger Watkins
29 th Tony & Cilla Whitlock	30 th Godmanchester Group

I reproduce and add to guidelines from the BU for calling a Minister. Hope you find it helpful. Tony

People often ask how long the process of seeking a new Minister will take. Every situation is different of course so it's a difficult question to answer. Once a church's Profile has been agreed and their search team are ready to begin receiving names it may be only a few months before a new Minister is called. However, for all kinds of reasons the process may take several years to see through.

It's vital that the Church agrees over the content of the profile, including the kind of ministry being sought. Failure to work things through properly at the beginning can make it very difficult when it comes to issuing a call.

Prayer is essential throughout the process as you seek God's will together. Make this a priority over the coming months and set aside regular times to bring people together for the specific purpose of praying about future ministry.

Patience is needed as you wait on the Lord and seek His will. It may seem slow at times but the call of God is being discerned,

rather than an employee interviewed. That needs focussed prayer, reflection, discussion and ... time!

Recognise that you are engaging in a process you may find that the Lord has things to do in and among you as the months go by. This might include refining your ideas about the kind of ministry needed, dealing with some tensions within the fellowship or simply teaching people to trust Him for the future. In His time, which is not the same as ours, the Lord will provide!

When Paul retired we waited a year as we wanted to finalise the sale of Offord, work on the Manse which has now brought in extra money. This has helped build up a reserve so that we can offer a salary to an incoming Minister.

The Church was asked if they would like another member to join the Deacons as a search team but left it to the Deacons. The process is that if any names come forward they are contacted to see if they are willing to come and visit Perry. If so our profile is sent and the deacons interview and if appropriate an invite to preach is issued. After such a preach and consultation if appropriate an invitation is given to preach with a view.

We have had three Ministers come to preach, one with a view did not get the Churches support. One withdrew for family reasons and Mike did not get enough support to issue an invite to preach with a view.

After phoning and emailing Mike I got this reply;

Hi Tony,

Sorry for late reply. Thank you for your email and the feedback, much appreciated.

Yes I agree with the leaders. I'm not the right person for Perry. Just to say thank you, to you and the leadership team for your support and hospitality over this journey. Ali and I really appreciate it. We pray for you guys as you do for us, that you find the right person for the church. Love it in Christ Mike.

Church Contacts

Moderator Revd. David Taylor 01480 457779.

Secretary / Treasurer Tony Whitlock 01480 810906//07746594542

Deacons: Bob & Joyce Stammers 01480 731532//07870841519