

# *PERRY BAPTIST CHURCH*

*Newsletter January 2024*

Hello everyone

'For last year's words belong to last year's language

And next year's words await another voice.

And to make an end is to make a beginning.' – TS Eliot

May I start by wishing you a blessed new year. There are a number of strange and interesting New Year traditions around the world. In Scotland, New Year's Eve is called Hogmanay and 'first footing' remains a popular custom with people visiting friends' and neighbours' houses just after midnight. The first person who visits your house should bring a gift as this will mean good luck. In Spain, it is the custom to eat 12 grapes as the bells sound for midnight on 31<sup>st</sup> December. One grape is eaten at each sound of the bell and each grape is supposed to bring good luck for each month of the year ahead. In Brazil, Ecuador, Bolivia, Venezuela and some other Central and South American countries, people wear special underwear of different colours on New Year's Eve. Red is supposed to be good for bringing love in the new year, while yellow is to bring money.

However, as Christians is there not something more important on this landmark of the calendar? In Jeremiah, we read “‘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 verse 11) As we face the future of 2024 this verse reminds us that our Lord is going before us. The year may be hard or easy but the year is one in which the Lord has promised to go with us every step of the way. As Jeremiah reminds us, in the mysteries of what lies before us, our Lord has plans for us that are for our best. As we begin the year may we trust our Lord that the plans will be fulfilled in the most wondrous ways.

Sharing with you in the love of our Lord, as Partners of the gospel.

Blessings to all of you,

***Jon Magee***

## **Christmas Services**

It was so good to welcome so many at our services over Christmas.

To see the Church so full at our Carol service, also on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. Not forgetting the good turn out for our Carols and Soup after the Drop-In. So many new and 'old' faces.

Over the Christmas weekend along with money for displaying cards we collected £435 for the work of Spurgeons Childcare. Thank you for your cards and donations - the money has already been sent off.

## **Services and Meetings in January**

Sundays: Service at 10.30am with Communion on 21<sup>st</sup>

Evening services: 6.00 pm on 7<sup>th</sup> January 2024 and 4<sup>th</sup> February

Tues mornings: Prayer Meeting at 10.00 am, venues as announced

Wednesday evenings: Home group at 7.30pm, venues as announced

If you were not in Church on Sunday and want to know the venue, please phone one of the deacons; numbers are on the back page  
Please also phone if you need transport or help to any service or meeting

Mondays 15<sup>th</sup> Jan and 5<sup>th</sup> February: 'Drop-in' for tea/coffee and chat  
10.00am to 12 noon

Note: There will **not** be a 'Drop-in' on the 1<sup>st</sup> January 2024

Little Staughton Baptist Church: Prayer for revival at 9.30am on the first Saturday of each month. Coffee morning from 10am – 12noon on the first Wednesday of each month. To which we are all invited

## **Church New Years Lunch**

Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2024 12.15pm for 12.30pm at the Wheatsheaf.  
Booking open – please sign up on the list at the back of the Church

## **Prayer Diary for January 2024**

1<sup>st</sup> Jan 2024 Roads for prayer: Welby Close & Whitehall Way  
2<sup>nd</sup> Ann Burditt 3<sup>rd</sup> Lara & John Campbell  
4<sup>th</sup> Audrey Clarke 5<sup>th</sup> Graham & Sandie License  
6<sup>th</sup> Derek & Maureen Greenwood 7<sup>th</sup> Evening Service at 6pm.  
8<sup>th</sup> Sue Harper 9<sup>th</sup> David Hawthorne  
10<sup>th</sup> Mary Hazel 11<sup>th</sup> Joyce Jones  
12<sup>th</sup> Pearl & Brian Lanham 13<sup>th</sup> Jon & Joan Magee  
14<sup>th</sup> Paul Mascall 15<sup>th</sup> Drop-in 10am to 12 noon  
16<sup>th</sup> Pauline Moody 17<sup>th</sup> Neil & Nicky Pateman  
18<sup>th</sup> Our friends at Little Staughton Baptist Church  
19<sup>th</sup> Howard & Ann Purser 20<sup>th</sup> Pam Sear  
21<sup>st</sup> Marjorie & Doug Smith 22<sup>nd</sup> Bob & Joyce Stammers  
23<sup>rd</sup> David & Isabel Storie 24<sup>th</sup> Amanda Tyrell  
25<sup>th</sup> EBA Regional Ministers team, David, Claire and Gale.  
26<sup>th</sup> Jan & David Usher 27<sup>th</sup> Valentino & Rejoice  
28<sup>th</sup> Jocelyn Walden 29<sup>th</sup> Roger Watkins  
30<sup>th</sup> Tony Whitlock 31<sup>st</sup> Minister and Deacons  
1<sup>st</sup> February Roads for prayer; Armstrong, Lymage & Valley.  
2<sup>nd</sup> Ann Burditt 3<sup>rd</sup> Lara & John Campbell  
4<sup>th</sup> Audrey Clarke

*Next newsletter out on 4<sup>th</sup> February, items by 31<sup>st</sup> January please.*

### ***Ministerial dates***

*Please pray for the following dates in which I represent you in addition to the regular events in the church.*

Tuesday 9th January: Gt Staughton Coffee Morning (There is an open invitation for you to come too)

Tuesday 23rd January Men's Breakfast in Gt Staughton: (Men, you are welcome to come too)

Sunday 28th January: I will present the Black Cat Radio service

***Thank you, Jon***

*"It is my earnest expectation and hope that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but with all boldness, as always, so now also Christ will be magnified in my body whether by life or by death" Philippians 1:20.*

Paul was determined that nothing would stop him from doing exactly what God wanted. Are we so determined in our lives?

*Oswald Chambers.*

## **Secretary's Ponderings!**

Dear All

May I wish you all a very Happy, Healthy and Christ filled 2024. What a Christmas time it has been in Church. I do hope that, like me, you feel really blessed after our tremendous services. It was so good to see friends and neighbours attending various services. Thank you all for your support and help at these events. It was nice to have a visit from our former Minister, Graham License and his wife Sandie. How I wish I had been in the entrance when David and Isabel's family turned up from New Zealand, what a lovely Christmas surprise for them!

So, we start into a new year with a lot of planning going on already. I'm sure you have already seen that our New Year's lunch at the Wheatsheaf is on 8<sup>th</sup> January so please book your place (sign up on the list at the back of the Church). We wanted it later in the month but the Wheatsheaf kitchens close at the end of that week. Chris and Kay leave at the end of January. We wish them every success in semi-retirement at the Mermaid in Ellington. As for the Wheatsheaf at the moment there is not a new tenant taking over. It will be a sad day for the village if it closes.

We will be looking forward to the visit of Hebron soon.

If you have suggestions for meetings, outings or entertainment please speak to anyone on the Diaconate.

In closing, I would like to congratulate Joan on reaching a significant milestone this month. Also, condolences at the death of her aunt. Jon and Joan will be away from 8<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> January in Scotland to attend her funeral.

May God bless you all.

**Tony**

### **Church Contacts:**

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