

PERRY BAPTIST CHURCH

Newsletter March 2024

Hello everyone

We are now marching into a momentous month as our newsletter for March is published, concluding on the 31st with Easter Sunday. On the 10th of March we remember “Mothering Sunday”, a day in this country which was initiated by young people making a pilgrimage to their mother church 3 weeks prior to Easter. Leading up to Easter is a period known as Lent when some will fast and pray. In addition, the month began with the “World Day of Prayer” on the 1st Friday of the Month.

Though these are features of the month, I want to suggest that they all include something that ought to be important for us on any given part of the year. Throughout the year we need to give thanks that God so loved us that He gave His only begotten son that we might know life in abundance. This should be our prayer daily. In the same way Christians have been called to fellowship, so we need to regularly make our own pilgrimage to our church for worship and prayer. Finally, prayer is never meant to be an annual event but our whole life must radiate a demonstration of our prayerful relationship with God. That applies to our personal devotions and collectively within the fellowship that we attend. The Bible has much to say about prayer, painting a multifaceted picture of this important practice. Here are some key themes:

Prayer is primarily seen as a two-way dialogue between us and God. It's not just about making requests but expressing gratitude, confessing sins, and simply connecting with God in worship and adoration.

God cares more about our heart than our eloquence. Fancy words or public displays aren't necessary. Pray authentically, humbly and from the heart.

Believe that God hears you and can answer your prayers, even if it's not in the way you expect. Don't give up. Continue to pray with faith and trust in God's timing.

Paul said “Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful.” (Colossians chapter 4 verse 2). May we be willing to do just that not only in March but throughout the year ahead.

Yours prayerfully,

Jon Magee

Services and Meetings in February

Sundays: Service at 10.30am with Communion on 17th
Sunday 10th Rev John Smith as Jon preaching at
Little Staughton
Evening services: 6.00 pm on 3rd March & 7th April.

Tues mornings: Prayer Meeting at 10.00 am, venues as announced
Wednesday evenings: Home group (Bible study) 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

Men's prayer meeting: 1st March and 5th April at 8am
at 31 Roundhouse Drive.

'Drop-in' for tea/coffee and chat 10.00am to 12 noon:
Mondays 4th & 18th March

Members' Meeting and AGM 6th March at 2.30pm in Church.
This meeting is open to all, although only Church members are
allowed to vote.

Easter Services;

Sunday 24 th	10.30am	Palm Sunday Service
Thursday 28 th	7.00pm	Reflective Communion Service
Friday 29 th	7.00pm	Good Friday Service at 7.00pm.
Sunday 31 st	10.30am	Easter Sunday Service at 10.30am.

Visit from Hebron on 26th April: Tickets are available from Jon.
Please continue to pray for this event. Especially for the Hebron
team Simon, Chrissy and Helen.

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

Pam Sear's funeral 8th March at 11.00 am. Please contact one of
the Deacons if you need transport

Prayer Diary for March 2024

1st March Roads for prayer Glebe Road & Cowley Close
2nd Ann Burditt 3rd Evening Service at 6pm
4th Drop-in, Coffee morning 5th Lara & John Campbell.
6th AGM & Church Meeting 7th Audrey Clarke
8th Derek & Maureen Greenwood 9th Janet Gould
10th Sue Harper 11th David Hawthorne
12th Mary Hazel 13th Joyce Jones
14th Pearl & Brian Lanham 15th Graham & Sandie License
16th Jon & Joan Magee 17th Paul Mascall
18th Drop-in, Coffee morning 19th Pauline Moody
20th Neil & Nicky Pateman 21st Howard & Ann Purser
22nd Our friends at Little Staughton Baptist Church
23rd Marjorie & Doug Smith 24th Bob & Joyce Stammers
25th David & Isabel Storie 26th Amanda Tyrell
27th Jan & David Usher 28th Jocelyn Walden
29th Roger Watkins 30th Tony Whitlock
31st Easter Sunday - Christ is Risen Hallelujah!

1st April Easter Drop-in Coffee morning

2nd Roads for prayer this month: Hawkins & Lakeside Close
Please also pray for others in the Church and Community that are not listed on the diary above. Remember the visit of Hebron on the 26th April

Next newsletter out on 31st March, items by 27th March please

Ministerial dates

Please pray for the following dates in addition to the regular events in the church.

Every Sunday at 6am I host the show on Black Cat radio (This is recorded)

Tuesday 12th March Coffee Morning at Great Staughton

Tuesday 26th March Men's Breakfast at Gt Staughton

Thank you, Jon

Peppercorn Singers:

Tony is singing with the Peppercorn Singers on Saturday 9th March at 7.00pm in the Methodist Church, Berkley Street, Eynesbury, St Neots. Free entry but donations appreciated towards EACH (East Anglia's Children's Hospice) Ask Tony for more details.

Always be thankful to God

'It is good to give thanks to the LORD.'

Psalm 92:1 NKJV

Journalist Fulton Oursler tells the story of an elderly nurse called Anna. She had attended Fulton's birth, plus that of his mother. He honours her for teaching him the best lesson he ever learned about giving thanks and finding contentment: 'I remember her as she sat at the kitchen table in our house; the hard, old, brown hands folded across her starched apron, the glistening eyes, and the husky old whispering voice, saying, "Much obliged, Lord, for my vittles." I asked, "Anna, what's a vittle?" "It's what I've got to eat and drink – that's vittles," the old nurse replied. "But you'd get your vittles whether you thanked the Lord or not," I said. "Sure," said Anna, "*but it makes everything taste better to be thankful!*"

The excitement that comes from getting something new, or even something you have worked hard for, is often short lived and quickly replaced by your desire for the next thing. Solomon put it this way: 'The eye is not satisfied with seeing, nor the ear filled with hearing' (Ecclesiastes 1:8 KJV). So, what's the solution? Having an attitude of gratitude! Stopping regularly to remember the goodness of God that makes it possible for you to enjoy every blessing you have and remembering to say, 'Thank you, Lord.'

The Psalmist had a heart of gratitude. He wrote, '*It is good to give thanks to the LORD and to sing praises to Your name, O Most High; to declare Your lovingkindness in the morning and Your faithfulness every night*' (Psalm 92:1-2 NKJV). So, always be thankful to God. (*UCB Word for Today*)

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