

Southwell Baptist Church



Family News

February 2012

www.southwellbaptistchurch.co.uk



All-Age Christmas Service - more on p15



OUR JOURNEY OF PRAYER.....

Early in the life of the Steering Committee the words from 2 Chronicles 7:14 came clearly to our attention.

"If My people who are called by My name, will humble themselves and pray and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land."

We realised that to "humble ourselves" required a surrendered and submissive heart which was dependent on God and on Him alone. By "humbling ourselves" we are in effect saying "God we need You.....we do not know what to do....our eyes are on You.....we only want Your way."

Such a heart attitude is what God requires in us as individuals but also in our corporate life and so the call to prayer was sounded. As we have set aside time for corporate prayer we have sensed a delight in our Father's heart and we begin to hear Him respond to us. Learning to listen, to tune our spiritual ears to Him, being bold and courageous to speak out our prayers and longings is a great way to grow together as a body. Discerning what He is saying and sharing and recording it is also important.

Initially we were so aware of His desire for us to hold before Him a blank sheet of paper so that He could write on it.....so we have been encouraged to come before Him with no preconceptions or assumptions and even with the possibility of anticipating something new.

He challenged us with the constant need for individual as well as corporate holiness, (Psalm 15) and the clear instruction that before we can build the right thing, we need to BE the right people - in attitude, behaviour and love for one another.

He continues to draw us deeper into relationship with Himself. He must be our passion, our focus, our all in all. He has alerted us to recognise the tension between "doing" and "being" and the importance of staying on course with HIM. It does truly seem that we are at a crucial place.....a potential tipping point. And as Debbie's word to us on 8th January said "the choices we make and are making both as individuals and as a body need to be God led, God inspired and formed as a result of prayer".

The next opportunity for corporate prayer, other than during Sunday services and homegroups, is on Saturday 21st January from 8.30 - 10.00am in the sanctuary. Come with an open and expectant heart to meet with God.
See you there!

Sheila

A quote from Drew Wilkerson which is worth pondering on....."All churches pray, but prayer must become our lifestyle. It must become intentional and specific....When prayer becomes the heartbeat of the ministry, God will bless His church, bringing health and progress."

SUNDAY MORNING SERVICES UPDATE JANUARY

This is my last update because we now have a well-functioning Master Rota which we can use for the running of our Sunday services for as long as we wish. The system is fit for purpose, but not written in stone, so that changes can be made if we feel that the Lord is pointing us in other directions. Similarly we are always needing others to volunteer and some will drop out for various personal reasons. Although it all seems very complicated and long winded it is actually very simple and if we all do only what we are asked to do it works very well.

OUR AIMS FOR SUNDAY MORNINGS

- * To worship God wholeheartedly, sincerely and vibrantly without distraction
- * To make Jesus the centre of our meeting together
- * To be positive and expectant of God
- * To grow and mature in our walk with God and each other
- * To share communion
- * To give and hear testimony
- * To uphold and include the whole of our church family

HOW THE ROTA WORKS

Each Master Rota is for 3 months, Jan – Mar, Apr – Jun, Jul – Sep & Oct – Dec. Planning for a rota will begin two months in advance – yes, it really does take that long! The current rota will be displayed on the notice board in the entrance and it will be updated most weeks. Where possible the rota will include details of special events and themes as well as the job rotas.

When asked to plan a rota the area leaders will contact all their volunteers for information re availability and it would **help greatly if you would give early replies because until everyone has replied we cannot progress.** Once the availability is known the area leaders will make their rota and review their job descriptions. Having made the rotas they are sent to me to co-ordinate into the Master Rota. Only when I have made the Master Rota will the area leaders send a copy of the rota and job description to all involved in their rotas. **Please read these carefully because things may change and there may be things which need altering.**

If you find you are unable to fulfil one of your slots please arrange a replacement yourself and write the change on the Master Rota ASAP. If you have any problems regarding your volunteering please contact your area leader as listed on page 9. **FOR ALL GENERAL MATTERS REGARDING SUNDAY SERVICES PLEASE CONTACT TRISCH THORNTON**

Now that we have everything covered to make Sundays run smoothly may I thank you for all your efforts to date. I look forward to enjoying our fellowship together on Sundays and may I also, respectfully, ask you to play your part by doing your own job diligently while leaving others to do theirs without interference.

So let us never tire of doing good, for if we do not slacken our efforts we shall in due time reap our harvest. Therefore, as opportunity offers, let us work for the good of all, especially members of the household of faith. Galations 6: 9&10

The UK Church: Big shots, wimps or just humble servants?

Recent comments by American pastor and author Mark Driscoll regarding the state of Britain's church leaders in a *Christianity* magazine interview have spawned a barrage of protests, but also a few defenders, from Christians on this side of the pond. Many think Driscoll doesn't 'get it', while others claim he has a point. To get to the heart of the debate, we asked two British pastors to answer this question: Do we really need more well-known, influential Bible teachers in Britain?



Matt Hosier: "The Church militant has been replaced by the Church hesitant"

I have a real appreciation for 'anglosphere' culture. I like the pioneering, positive, aggressive attitude of many South Africans and Australians and Americans, compared with which we Brits can appear a little wan. Whatever the mistakes of the colonial era, arguably the most dynamic part of the British gene pool abandoned these shores leaving timid DNA behind.

Recent comments by Mark Driscoll play to this stereotype. Compared to our more brazen American cousins, with their mega-churches and mega-ministries, are British pastors just a bunch of wimps?

I'm not much interested in the comments (misquoted or not) that have stirred up this little contretemps, but I am interested in whether the British Church is doing what Christ has called us to do. And it would appear to me that the reason clergy are invariably portrayed as wishy-washy characters in the media has some basis in fact. The Church militant has been replaced by the Church hesitant. Whether it is the Church becoming little more than a building in which to hold jumble sales and coffee mornings, or a concern for theological 'nuance' that leads to a terror about holding any orthodox belief with clarity and conviction, much of the British Church is lacking in muscularity.

But - and this is a big but - I also see increasing evidence of a different kind of church with a different kind of leadership. These are pastors who might not spend their recreation hours watching cage fighting and driving jeeps, but who are resolute in their beliefs and determined in their commitment to the gospel. These leaders might not get national media attention (for which we should probably be thankful) but they are faithfully doing the work of the gospel.

My confidence is that the harshness towards the gospel that Driscoll identifies in the UK will lead to the weeding out of the wimps and the emergence of the bold. The new world we now face is sifting our DNA.

Matthew Hosier is pastor of Gateway Church, Poole. He studied zoology at university before entering church work and has an MA in Christian Ethics from Kings College London.



Cris Rogers: “The Church needs fewer big shots and more humble servants”

Mark Driscoll's comments have left me thinking about this issue with great passion. The reality is the American Church simply doesn't understand the UK and the complexities of ministry here. Do we need more young preachers? Yes, if we want to reach a lost generation. Do we need a handful of well-known and influential speakers and writers? No, I don't think so. Yes, we have seen the likes of John Wesley and Charles

Spurgeon who had this kind of ministry, but maybe what we need for this next move of the Spirit isn't more influential preachers but a Church that is becoming more like Jesus. We need more locally ministering passionate people who teach the good news of Jesus. There is no point in having more national speakers if they can't engage with people locally day in day out.

In a world that has gone celebrity-mad and sadly rubbed this off on the Church, the last thing we need is more well-known church leaders who perpetuate a culture of big celebrity as the masses hang on their words.

What we do have in the UK is a generation of Christians that are more passionate than ever to seek Jesus and his ways. We are firmly moving away from denominational divides and working together for God's Kingdom. We have many passionate preachers, many of whom never get a podcast, many of whom are still too young to be seen as credible; but they do exist. What we need is a Church that is stepping up to the challenge to be the good news of Jesus in tangible and practical ways. We don't need more preachers but more disciples who desire the Kingdom, people who seek to be the practical outworking of Jesus' ministry. Influential Bible teachers in my opinion don't inspire more preachers, but they often de-skill others from developing their God-given gifting. What the Jesus movement needs is fewer big-shots and more lovers, more partners and more humble servants.

My dream would be to see many more young people locally preaching. Let's equip the young people we have to do the stuff of the Kingdom rather than having a few well-known speakers doing it for us.

Cris is a writer, pastor, speaker and church visionary. He has written a number of books including 'Practising Resurrection' and 'The Bible Book by Book'. In September 2010 Cris planted a church in the heart of the poorest area of London. His dream is for the Church to be an explosion of joy within the tower block estate he works.



Dates for Your Diary

Feb 8th	Church Meeting and AGM
Feb 12th	Rev Jonathan Edwards at Newark BC
Feb 19th	Youth Mentor Meeting
Feb 27th-Mar 26th	Ecumenical Lent Course
Mar 1st	‘Faustus’ by Saltmine Theatre Company at Newark
Mar 2nd	Women’s World Day of Prayer
Mar 4th	Service at Riverside
March/April	Spring Harvest
April 1st	Joint Service with Riverside & Holy Trinity

Please see weekly notice sheets for the most up-to-date information.

YOUTH MENTORING

As part of SBC’s youth work we run a youth mentoring programme. Mentoring is a part of discipleship and as Christians we are called to make disciples. We would like to develop this programme as several of our youth do not have mentors at present. To this end we are planning to have a Youth Mentors Lunch after the morning service on Sunday 19 February at church where we will explain what mentoring is, who can be a mentor, what is involved in mentoring etc.

We would like anyone who is presently a mentor to attend plus anyone who would be interested or would just like to know more! There will be a sign up sheet at the back of church so we can cater accordingly.

In the meantime if you have any questions please speak to Becs Marshall, Janet Kneen or Nigel Marshall.

Weekly Programme

Sundays

10.30am Sunday Worship, Sunday School
and Crèche

Mondays 7.45pm Home-group at the Gaw's, Caythorpe

Tuesdays 10.00am Tuesday Home Group meets at SBC
7.45pm Home Group at the Adams' , Southwell

Weds 1.30pm Playtime Toddler Group
8.00pm Home Group at the Hapgood's, Southwell
7.30pm Youth Home Group at the Marshall's,
Farnsfield

Thursdays 10.00am Fellowship at the Marshall's, Farnsfield
10.15am Senior Saints, Southwell

Contacts

Church Office: Sue Hartley (01636) 813510
info@southwellbaptistchurch.co.uk

Interim Steering Group: steeringgroup@southwellbaptistchurch.co.uk

Child Protection Advocates:

Debbie Hapgood (01636 816805)
Hilary Gaw (01636 830085)

SBC SUNDAY SERVICES ADVISERS/CO-ORDINATORS

Service Leaders	Mark Kneen 07711 059184 mark_kneen@uk.ibm.com
Preaching/ Communion Prep / Chairs	Trisch Thornton 01159 663983 trischthornton@btinternet.com
Worship/Sound	Jono Adams 07805 204285 jw.adams@tiscali.co.uk
Speaker	Trisch Thornton 01159 663983 trischthornton@btinternet.com
Prayer	Sheila Adams 01636 813003 cadams745@btinternet.com
Welcome Team	Jackie Whall 01777 872201 rjhc.whall@btinternet.com
Computer	Robin Clee 07932 04497 Robin.Clee@yahoo.co.uk
Children's Slot	Colin Dunkley 01636 816362 c.dunkley@virgin.net
Youth	Becs Marshall 01623 883383 becsperry@hotmail.com
Sunday School / Offering	Jenny Harris 01636 705466 jennyaharris@hotmail.com
Crèche	Becky Peake 07952 950582 beckypeake99@hotmail.com
Testimony	Richard Whall 07798 744521 richard.whall@premierfoods.co.uk
Coffee	Janet Brown 01636830408 jacaranda@waitrose.com
Housekeeping	Joan Westbury 01623 882185 barry_westbury@yahoo.com
Flowers	Angela Halfpenny 01636 636604

Amazing Transformation

Dear Friend,

A young woman recently looked back to 1995 and reflected on a girl who was in her peer group at that time, “She was regarded as a nonentity.” Another young woman remembered that same girl as a 13yr old crying her eyes out on the stairs at Downe House School and commented “She was definitely having a miserable time.”

However, 29th April 2011 marked the end of a journey from Downe House to Clarence House for that miserable 13yr old. On that day, while millions around the world watched, 29yr old Kate Middleton exchanged wedding vows with Prince William and married into the British royal family! I wonder if Kate ever looks back to those early days of her life now, and compares the misery of 1995 with 2011. I imagine her life today is beyond her wildest dreams.

Amazing as it is, the transformation of Kate from an unhappy young teen crying on the stairs at Downe House into a 29yr old princess surrounded by pomp, riches and tradition pales into insignificance compared to the transformation we read of in Ephesians 2:1-7 (NKJV). The passage describes the wonderful change that happens in us when we accept God’s gift of salvation and trust Christ as our Saviour. To go from being “dead in trespasses and sins” to being made “alive together with Christ” is absolutely astounding; and all because of God’s grace and mercy. Nothing can compare!

As we celebrate God’s great gift this Christmas time, it is this joyful news that RBC ministries wants to share with people all around the world. This is why we continue in our mission “to make the life changing wisdom of the Bible understandable and accessible to all”.

Yours in Christ

Kevin Gregory
Vice President
RBC Ministries

Submitted by June Robinson

Regional Minister's Reflection

Investing in People

The world of organisations has for many years emphasised investing in people. The Investors in People stamp of approval is an achievement worth having. It shows that an organisation is developing and supporting all within the organisation so that it might be the best it can be.

I wonder what an award for investing in discipleship might look like in the church. We might have to reflect on all kinds of issues.

- * Are we identifying people's gifts and strengths and enabling them to be developed?
- * Are we reflecting on when someone is not in the best place within the church family as far as roles are concerned?
- * Do we consider whether the worship, teaching, prayer life and pastoral care enables our congregations to go deeper with God and be effective in their discipleship?
- * Have we teaching and training available for growing inspired and committed disciples of the living God?
- * Do we encourage and inspire people in their discipleship at work, in the home, with neighbours and friends, and do we have strategies for discouraged and burdened disciples?

Investing in Leaders: As an association we have an emphasis on 'Investing in Leaders'. We hope to inspire, encourage, affirm and support leadership, in all its diversity, within all our churches in the coming months. Jesus took 12 disciples and invested in them. He lived with them, taught them, discussed with them and reflected with them. Are we investing in each other as we might? Sometimes investing in people is simply affirming the truth about them:

- * You are the salt of the earth: you are the light of the world. *Matthew 5:13, 14.*
- * You are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession *1 Peter 2:9*
- * You are a new creation in Christ *2 Corinthians 5:17*

Investing in people often means having the highest expectations for people. Encouraging and inspiring each other in love, wisdom, faith, hope and prayer. It is also about being prepared to take risks with people, being creative with opportunities and being willing to make mistakes. You will be seeing in the coming months the phrase "Just imagine if...." It is linked to Home Mission giving. If everyone could invest in the Home Mission fund then how much more could be resourced around the country for the sake of the Kingdom of God. Let's also 'just imagine if....' 2012 was the year when we seriously invested in each other in order for each one of us to be all that God enables us to be. If from the child to the

teenager, to the young adult, the family, those in middle years and seniors, if all of us inspired and encouraged each other and so invested for the sake of the Kingdom. What might God do in our church communities to surprise and excite us?

Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal. Store up for yourselves treasures in Heaven *Matthew 6:19-20*. As we think about how we partner together in the Gospel and use our time and energy we might take note of Jesus' words. Think about storing treasures in Heaven by investing in others for the sake of the Kingdom. Encourage, inspire and affirm as much as you are able, that we might all see God at work amongst us.

With best wishes in Christ

Dianne Tidball
(Regional Minister)

Taken from EMBA news for churches.

Recycling Used Ink Cartridges

Do you use ink cartridges in your printer? Are you aware that Southwell Live at Home Scheme can raise money by returning empty ones to manufacturers? Your used cartridges will be gratefully received at the Live at Home Scheme's office in the basement of the Methodist church.

Southwell & District Live at Home Scheme offers services and support to help older people lead active and fulfilled lives and to feel part of our community whilst still remaining independent and living in their own homes. The scheme strives to give members support and friendship by providing one-to-one befriending and social activities, which include a weekly friendship coffee morning and two luncheon clubs, an exercise and games club in Farnsfield, and outings.



"Jesus at the heart"

December 2011

**Visit of Rev Jonathan Edwards to Newark
Sunday 12th February 2012 in the evening at 6.00.**

Invitation

Dear Friends,

Newark Baptist Church (Albert Street) is pleased to invite you to the above event.

It is with delight that we invite you to a special service at which Rev Jonathan Edwards, the General Secretary of the Baptist Union, will be the speaker.

Jonathan has a wide ministry to the churches in this country and also travels around the world to represent us, working with others in the spread of the gospel and building up the churches. His Bible based preaching and wise counsel is appreciated wherever he goes. We are sure that his ministry among us will bring blessing and challenge.

We are so excited to hear what this man of God has to say to us and the churches in our area and we don't want you to miss out. The service will be led by Rev David Rogers who will recently have been inducted as Part-time Transitional Minister of our Church.

After the meeting light refreshments will be served. Please plan to stay and meet with Jonathan and folk from other churches. If you plan to attend, and have not already done so, it would be very helpful if you would let us know numbers by Monday 6th February. This is not essential.

We do hope that representatives of your church will be able to join us for this very special occasion. (There are car parks both sides of nearby London Road if street parking is not available.)

Yours faithfully
For Newark Baptist Church

Mrs Carol Moon (Treasurer/Administrator)

A Smile for February

Mistaken Identity

A man was being tailgated by a stressed out woman on a busy boulevard, when suddenly, the light turned yellow, just in front of him. He did the right thing and stopped, even though he could have beaten the red light by accelerating through the intersection.

The tailgating woman hit the roof, and the horn, screaming in frustration as she missed her chance to get through the intersection.

As she was still in mid-rant, she heard a tap on her window and looked up into the face of a very serious police officer. The officer ordered her to exit her car with her hands up. He took her to the police station where she was searched, finger printed, photographed, and placed in a holding cell.

After several hours, a policeman approached the cell and opened the door. She was escorted back to the booking desk where the arresting officer was waiting with her personal effects.

He said, I'm very sorry for this mistake. You see, I pulled up behind your car while you were blowing your horn, flipping off the guy in front of you, and cussing a blue streak at him. I noticed the 'Choose Life' license plate, the 'What Would Jesus Do?' bumper sticker, the 'Follow Me to Sunday-School' bumper sticker, and the chrome-plated Christian fish emblem on the trunk.

Naturally, I assumed you had stolen the car.

Are you an atheist?

A young woman teacher with obvious liberal tendencies explains to her class of small children that she is an atheist. She asks her class if they are atheists too. Not really knowing what atheism is but wanting to be like their teacher, their hands explode into the air like fleshy fireworks.

There is, however, one exception. A little girl has not gone along with the crowd. The teacher asks her why she has decided to be different.

"Because, I'm not an atheist."

Then, asks the teacher, "What are you?"

"I'm a Christian."

The teacher is a little perturbed now, her face slightly red. She asks her why she is a Christian.

"Well, I was brought up knowing and loving Jesus. My mom is a Christian, my dad is a Christian, and my grand parents are too, so I am a Christian."

The teacher is now angry. "That's no reason," she says loudly.

"What if your mom and your dad were idiots. And what if your grand parents were idiots? What would you be then?"

She paused, smiled and said, "Oh, I guess that I'd be an atheist!"





Saltmine
Theatre
Company

Faustus



*What good is it gaining the world,
if you lose your soul?*

**Palace Theatre, Newark-on-Trent, 1st March, 7.30pm
Tickets £10 (Concs £9), Box Office: 01636 655755**