

# THE GRAPEVINE

*Monthly Magazine of Botley Baptist Church*

*"the message of  
the cross*

*...*

*is the power of  
God."*

*(1 Corinthians 1:18)*



**JANUARY 2020**

## JANUARY PRAYER DIARY

Wednesday	1	All churches as we begin a new year	
Thursday	2	For God's peace in our lives	
Friday	3	Those who have had a happy holiday	
Saturday	4	Shoppers looking for bargain in the sales	
<b>SUNDAY</b>	5	New Year Dedication service today	<b>(C)</b>
Monday	6	For children starting a new school term	
Tuesday	7	Ann Clarke and family	
Wednesday	8	All those new to the Botley area	
Thursday	9	Those working in hospices	
Friday	10	Thanksgiving for daily food	
Saturday	11	All public service workers	
<b>SUNDAY</b>	12	Quarterly Church Meeting after Service	
Monday	13	Those unable to get out	
Tuesday	14	Susan Costar; Georgina Croot	
Wednesday	15	Work of Aid Agencies	
Thursday	16	Writers and artists	
Friday	17	Prison Chaplains	
Saturday	18	Families recently bereaved	
<b>SUNDAY</b>	19	Service for Prayer of Christian Unity @ St Michaels & All angels, Cumnor	
Monday	20	Those who have lost property through fire	
Tuesday	21	Kalyan & Narola Das and family	
Wednesday	22	Safety on our roads	
Thursday	23	All those involved in medical research	
Friday	24	For daily guidance from God	
Saturday	25	Invited clergy visiting our new building	
<b>SUNDAY</b>	26	Service of Dedication for our new building	
Monday	27	Thanks for music and song	
Tuesday	28	Nigel Thomas and Riyanka John	
Wednesday	29	Those who suffer in the wintry weather	
Thursday	30	Missionary work worldwide	
Friday	31	Those who are in constant pain	

**(C)** - COMMUNION

## PASTORAL MUSING

### *Managing the Challenge of Change*

By the time you read this, we would be well into January **2020**! By the end of the year, I hope and pray we may all enjoy 2020 perfect vision of the plans and purposes of God!

Our future as always, is unmapped and unknown; we can, therefore, have only an out-of-focus understanding of the future. As I started writing this, my heart skipped a beat - on the 26th January we shall inaugurate and dedicate our new Church building, to the Glory of God! It has been a long journey from late 2002 when we first mooted the idea of a new church building, much to the consternation of some; back it the future was indeed out-of-focus!

Well, here we are, about to enter the new building, which is truly a gift from our loving and caring God. Hindsight they say is 2020 vision! One day, I hope someone might read through the volumes of correspondence and paperwork, to discover and write about the hand of God taking us through every twist and turn in our journey. With every ounce of honesty I can muster, I make this declaration: without the wisdom of God, the diligent and meticulous project management by Jesus Christ to whom we the Church belong, and the guidance and direction by the Holy Spirit, the physical structure by which we are identified as a Church, would not have been possible.

Planning our move into the new building and organise new beginnings reminds of a room in our home, the smallest of three bedrooms in a “bog-standard 3-bed English semi”, which occasionally goes through a thorough clean-**out** (not just a “clean”!), to get rid of things no longer required, used nor needed.



If the prospect of change unnerves or unsettles you, then read with me, the first four verses of the third chapter of Paul's letter to the Church at Colosse (Colossians), which challenge us as God's children, to **retain** some things of

real value, to **release** everything we are attached to which can easily become a millstone around our necks, and to **remember** with joy, the pleasure of having had and enjoyed everything being discarded.

Paul starts by telling the church, to **retain** the following:

- hold firm to the Truth that you have been “raised to new life with Christ”, because *Jesus is the only one who conquered death into new (resurrected) life, and invites us to be a part of His new life* (Colossians 1:15);
- focus your mind to continually seek the realities of Heaven: a deeper knowledge of Jesus (3:10), living a Holy life (3:5-9), acquiring Godly virtues (3:12-17), enjoying Holiness in our home and social lives (3:18-4:1), building an effective prayer life (4:2) and establishing a fruitful witness (4:3-6).



Then **release** things which have attached themselves to our lives, that inflict damage, like **false doctrine** which draws us away from Truth, philosophies based on **human wisdom and traditions**, made by society (*just because*

*we have done it, and continue to do it, doesn't make it proper and True*).

Finally, there is a pile of things which should be **discarded**, things which are no longer important, significant or have value to us, things which no longer make sense to anyone but ourselves.

Paul wants us to grasp this Truth, if we have *new life in Christ*, then a “death” must have taken place. True! We have died to all that has no significance nor importance to our new life in Christ, and should, therefore, with careful thought and consideration, be either retained, released or disposed off, with a thankful memory of having been a blessing in the past.

As we stand here on the cusp of a New Year, with the added excitement of entering into, and using our new church building, and the all the promise of God's blessings this holds, may God give us 2020 vision to prayerfully release that which is neither relevant nor important, including things which have deceived us into believing they are significant, and retain that which has value in the kingdom of God. Finally, let's dispose off all that is no longer relevant. These have had their time and served their purpose, but they should not be left around to distract us from the future God has planned for us!

Amen? Yes, **AMEN!**

Yours in the retaining, releasing and discarding mode!

Kalyan

## **BOTLEY LADIES IN FELLOWSHIP TOGETHER (LIFT) MEETINGS**

Next Meeting

Wednesday, 29th January, 2020



If you have any idea or suggestions for a forthcoming LIFT Meeting please speak to Narola. Maybe you have a skill you can share or know somebody who could come and talk to us about their interests or profession. We meet on the last Wednesday of the month at 7.30 p.m. We usually meet at the home of Narola but are always open to a new topic and change of venue.

## **FAMILY NEWS**

It looks like we've all come through the busyness of Christmas and the transition into the new year, unscathed and unscarred! I enjoyed receiving comments on the Advent and Christmas theme of "The Four Songs of Christmas", and many appreciated the final service of the year on 29th December, at which we received into membership, Wyn, Jeanine and Sarah. The bring-and-share lunch was also a success, and as always, there was more food to go around than there were people!

To start with, I am very grateful to Robin who is present at every worship service, be it day, night or midnight! Please join me in thanking him for his unflinching commitment to the music ministry of the Church.

As we transition from our temporary premises to our new building during the second half of January 2020, I am reminded of the legacy of many people who have contributed to the the establishment, growth and development of Botley



Baptist. Some names have been lost to history, but the Owner of the Church, Jesus Christ Himself, knows them personally. There are some still among us, to whom we are grateful and for whom we continue to pray. Rita Woolridge has not been keeping too well,

and Christine White is keeping well and has moved to the new home at the top of Cumnor Hill, where Jeff Samways is also staying.

We also remember with fondness, the families of those whose parents were such an integral part of Botley Baptist, the sons and daughters of Wendy and Bob Rich, Geoffrey and Mary England, Wyn and Cliff Faulkner, Alec Russell, Ben Barratt, Bill Cherrill, Aubrey Neller, Eileen Trinder, Doris and Phil Wilcox, Thelma Willetts, Pat Norman, Oliver and Eileen Plail, Gerald Collette, Walter Dalchau, Tony Welpton, Win Trethewey, Freda Trafford and many others (*forgive*

*me if I have missed significant names!)*. We give thanks to God for these families who were once part of this Church.

We shall continue to remember in prayer those who have current needs, for whom we pray for regularly: Jeanine Küffer, Helen Watson, Bob Clark's mother, Celia's sister Beryl and daughter Louise, the Ansell's friend Susan, Martin Guest, Angela's brother-in-law Terry, Mary Timbrell, Chris Webb and John Newton.

Let the words of the chorus/refrain from the hymn "Hand in Hand with Jesus", be your approach to 2020:

Hand in hand we walk each day,  
Hand in hand along the way;  
Walking thus I cannot stray,  
Hand in hand with Jesus.

Someone commented on the Benediction used at our last service of the year and I leave you with this blessing:

*As you journey into the year ahead, clutch tightly in your left hand, the seed of faith deposited with you. Let the Master of the Journey clasp your right hand and let Him lead you into the parts of your life not yet travelled by His love, into the parts of your world unexplored by His grace, and when with confidence, He releases you to travel by yourself, follow the roads underlaid by His compassion and signposted towards His Hope.*

Yours on this journey,  
Kalyan

## A POEM

Christmas may be over,  
the stockings put away.  
The chocolate and the puddings  
enjoyed every single day.



Now the New Year's here,  
all hurry on their way,

to live their busy lives,  
perish all thoughts of Santa's sleigh.

Although the season's come and go,  
and Holidays have their cheer,  
The Spirit of Christ stays in our hearts,  
to cheer and to bless all near.

I hope you had a merry Christmas,  
full of the Spirit of Christmas,  
but more than that I hope, your year



has much happiness and more love in it!

~ Diane Bohn

## SECRETARY'S NOTES

By the time you get to read this it will be the season of New Year Resolutions. So here are some suggestions for your diary:

- Church Meetings:
- 1) 12th January 2020
  - 2) 26th April 2020
  - 3) 12th July 2020
  - 4) 18th October 2020

Well that is the plan at the moment, but it is always possible that some at present unseen obstacle will arise causing a change of date, so please check the service sheets and Grape Vine calendars for latest updates.

We do need as many members as possible to be present, and active in planning the future for Botley Baptist Church. Minister, Secretary, Treasurer, Deacons, we are all servants of the church, anxious to do that which is right and holy in and for the church, but we are only human with the usual frailties and short-

comings, we need your prayers and opinions, your help in being church. One of the items on the 1st quarterly meeting agenda will be the recognition for John Andrew's contribution to the new building. We are suggesting that the large meeting room above the sanctuary be named for John.

Another important item concerns an anonymous letter addressed to "Baptist Church, Botley", but actually delivered to Narola & Kalyan's home. The writer states that they have attended our church services several times but "find a serious lacking in your fellowship: you do not pray for your Pastor, you are very critical of him,". The letter continues in this vein for several paragraphs. It is a serious critique of the church. If this is how visitors see us we are in dire straits indeed.



Don't forget that Sunday 12th, January is not only the Church Meeting, but also the last Sunday service in the present building.

Sunday 19th, January is the Churches Together Service of Prayer for Church Unity, hosted at St. Michael and All Saints, Cumnor, at 11:00a.m., so no 10:30 a.m. service at Botley.

We will be having our Dedication services in the new building on Saturday, 25th / Sunday 26th January with more details at the church meeting.

See you all there

Ted.

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## **NEW YEAR PRAYER**

May you have,  
Enough happiness  
to keep you happy.  
Enough trials  
to keep you strong.

Enough sorrow  
to keep you human.  
Enough hope  
to keep you optimistic.

Enough failure  
to keep you humble.  
Enough success  
to keep you thankful.

Enough friends  
to give you comfort.  
Enough faith and courage in yourself  
to banish depression.  
Enough wealth to meet your daily needs,  
and share with those less blessed.  
Enough determination to make each day  
a better day than yesterday.

*Author Unknown*

## **“THE SON OF GOD”**

*By Jeffrey Archer*

He was born in a barn, his father a carpenter and his mother a decent woman, but they were of no significance and certainly couldn't have afforded to give the boy a private education.

And yet, as a teenager, he was arguing the toss with his elders and better in the council chambers. He never got a proper job, just roamed around the countryside, unshaven, and living off bread and water and the occasional fish while offering his opinions to those who cared to listen.

He became the manager of a football team known as The Disciples, not one of them a star, in fact the twelfth man rather let the side down by accepting a transfer fee of thirty pieces of silver to play for the opposition.

The authorities eventually arrested him as a rabble-rouser, but couldn't decide what to charge him with, other than the fact he claimed he was the Son of God. They strung him up with a couple of criminals, and when he finally gave up the ghost, rather assumed that would be the last they'd hear of him.

The Disciples were relegated at the end of the season, in fact the captain denied on more than one occasion that he'd ever been a member of His team.

When He died at the age of thirty-three, there were no obituaries in the local press reporting his achievements, no glossy supplements highlighting his colourful career, no radio programmes to discuss his legacy, and no box sets recoding any of his miracles.

But then, He'd never relied on focus groups to advise him on current trends, or advertising gurus to spend millions promoting his bran, or spin doctors to sharpen his image, and he didn't require social media to keep his followers up to date, so you could be forgiven for assuming he'd be forgotten in a few days. So how can one explain that over two thousand years later, Jesus Christ is still be best-known celebrity on earth?

**Could it just be that He is the Son of God**

## **A Baptist Church in Botley**

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*Submissions are received from members  
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*Recollections, Reflections, Observations,*

*The Way We Were, Goings On, Newsworthy Items etc. are welcome.*

*Email above, or submit in person to Gillian, Ted or Kalyan*

*Editor's discretion/decision is final.*

*Thank you.*

*Editor: Gillian Guest*

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