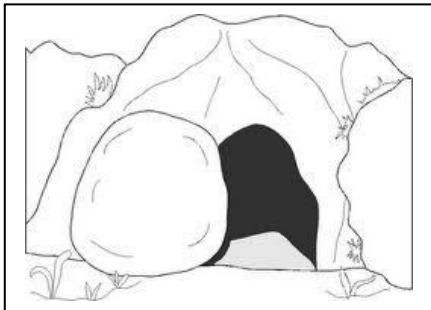


Message from the Minister



For some reason the Saturday between Good Friday and Easter Sunday has held a fascination for me. The imagery in the Gospels for both Friday and Sunday is very stark, on Good Friday there are earthquakes, a temple curtain torn in two while dead saints are raised; on Easter Sunday there are large stones

rolled away and empty tomb and a general confusion. Yet on Easter Saturday there is silence, as if the world stood, still holding its breath. You can imagine people going about their normal Sabbath business – morning breakfast, a visit to synagogue or temple, followed by a family meal. Easter Saturday for Jesus' followers must have been full of the agony of loss, the guilt of betrayal, or just denial: 'this can't have happened'!

And what about the tomb? Jesus' body lying there?
Eyes closed with no one there, total stillness,
God is dead! Where is He?

During my last retreat I imagined myself, almost like a wake, sitting there with Him in the tomb, in the dark – I have never minded the dark, even total darkness, there is uncertainty, some fear maybe but also comfort of not seeing. Darkness for many people has all sorts of connotations; people go through dark periods in their lives because of loss of loved ones, redundancy or sheer depression. We also talk of their 'being light at the end of a dark tunnel', which wasn't the case on Easter Saturday, there was no light!

Halfway through my retreat I woke up in the middle of the night, I was totally awake and as clear as day it came to me that the tomb I had been sitting in was empty. In fact the stone was rolled away and daylight was breaking through the hole where the stone had been; Jesus Christ was not in the tomb – HE HAD RISEN!

The promise of Easter day is that Easter Saturday is not the end, hope could not be put to death, He is not in the tomb, He is out there going ahead of us bringing hope in a broken world.

May the Easter Blessing restore and strengthen you during this Easter period

Gert

April 2012

Words of Inspiration

May the mind of Christ my Saviour
Live in me from day to day,
By His love and power controlling
All I do or say.

May I run the race before me,
Strong and brave to face the foe,
Looking only unto Jesus
As I onward go.

Catherine Storer well remembers enjoying attending Sunday School with her sister, Alice, in Barrow Baptist Church with the supervisor, Mr. Richard Bennett, in the 1920s. She wonders if anyone else remembers singing the same choruses and hymns as they did:

“God make my life a little light, wherein the world to glow,
A little flame that burneth bright, wherever I may go”.

and the more familiar

"Count your blessings, name them one by one
And it will surprise you what the Lord hath done"

She would be pleased to see any visitors at any time at Abbeyfield, 44 Westfield Drive, Loughborough
Please phone first to make sure she is ready.
Tel No: 01509 266605

News of the Fellowship

We send congratulations to Brenda and John Newton who celebrated their Golden (50th) Wedding in March.

We remember with thanksgiving, Gwenda Williams, a long serving church member, who died recently.
And **Charles Fisher** who died in March.

We pray for those who are recovering from illness or operations, Maralyn Speight, Margot Gabe, Dennis Coxon, Mary Scoot.

John Philips is now in Swithland Ward, Epinal Way Hospital, we think of him and Joan.

THANKS

SOaR Great Big Meal

A Great Big Thank You to all those volunteers who helped to present the Great Big Meal for two weeks last month. We told the story of Passover, the Last Supper, Good Friday and Easter Sunday to over 800 children and to those attending Sunday at 4. Thank you to those who shifted all the pews and set up the scene and to those who put the Worship Room back together again.

Pauline and Richard

London Marathon for Christian Aid

I wish to express my thanks to all who helped with the recent Auction of Promises to help me achieve £2000 in running the London Marathon for Christian Aid.

With other sponsorship & money from other events the total raised looks like the final figure could be £4000+ when gift aid is included. The run itself is on the 22 April. Look out for me on BBC TV when they show the race!

Thanks to all who have helped in any way with raising money for this event.

Paul Anderson

Letter to Loughborough Baptist Church

Dear Friends

On behalf of my dad Eric and I, may I say a big 'thank you' to you all for the loving kindness you have shown, following Norah's illness and subsequent death.

It was her wish that the funeral service be a celebration of a long life spent in the service of her Lord. It was therefore pleasing to see such a good number of people in the Church on this occasion, several of whom had made a great personal effort to be there.

Thank you to Gert for conducting the service in a way that I'm sure she would have approved of. Singing some of her favourite hymns would surely have gladdened her heart. It was especially pleasing that both David Butcher and Neil Draisey were able to attend. With so many people there, we were unable to get round to speak to everyone in person.

Dad is continuing to gain great strength and comfort from his contacts with the Church via the lunch club and coffee mornings. Long may that continue!

As Christians we know that death is not the end, but a return to the Father. Norah is at peace in the arms of the Lord and Saviour she loved.

God bless you all.

Chris and Eric Damon

Holiday@ Home 2012

will take place from July 16th to 22nd this year,
please reserve the date if you qualify as a Senior Friend.
More information will follow.

Do you understand?

Then Jesus stripped ready for action, & washed the dirt from our feet.
Do not reject him! He must serve you, & you shall all be servants too.
And you shall all be servants too.
Do you understand? Do you understand?

If you will just take his example, if you will do the same too.
If you act to all as a servant, God's blessing will be upon you.
God's blessing will be upon you.
Do you understand? Do you understand?

The messenger cannot be greater, than he who sends him to you.
If you accepted the messenger, then you have accepted the word.
Then you have accepted the word.
Do you understand? Do you understand?

We are among those who are chosen, but Satan sifts us like grain.
The betrayer is here among you, and those who deny him are too.
And those who deny him are too.
Do you understand? Do you understand?

Our love is the sign of the kingdom, love for all, you disciples.
And this is now our new commandment. Love each other, as he
loved you.
Love each other, as he loved you.
Do you understand? Do you understand?

We give thanks to our God for the bread. We thank him for the wine
too.
Remember whose blood had to be shed, when you share in wine
and in bread.
When you share in wine and in bread.
Do you understand? Do you understand?

And now we can all sing together, telling the glory of God.
Take watch and pray that in us today, The Lord Jesus is glorified.
The Lord Jesus is glorified.
Do you understand? Do you understand?

David Beresford

A formidable blessing

May God bless you with discomfort at easy answers, half-truths, superficial relationships, so that you may live deep within your heart.

May God bless you with anger at injustice, oppression, and exploitation of people, so that you will work for justice, equality and peace.

May God bless you with tears to shed for those who suffer from pain, rejection, starvation and war, so that you will reach out your hand to comfort them and change their pain to joy.

And may God bless you with the foolishness to think that you can make a difference to the world, so that you will do the things that others tell you cannot be done.



The story is told of a little boy on the beach with his bucket and spade collecting up jelly fish one at the time and taking them back to the sea where they started to float away.

There were hundreds and hundreds of them stranded on the sands. His family told him he was just wasting his time because he couldn't save them all but the lad replied that the ones he had taken back to the sea had been saved.

Christian Aid Week 2012 in Loughborough

Sat 12th May - Coffee Morning at LBC 10-12noon

Sat 12th May - Sponsored Walk

12km marshalled walk and 20km walk (surprise route again)
Even shorter route for older people & Mothers with babies/toddlers.
Walkers are again asked to wear at least one item of red in their clothing, more would be better, and this will provide a colourful picture for the local papers! See Pauline or Paul for the details and a sponsorship form. See Richard if you can help with marshalling.

Sunday 13th May - Agape Lunch at 12.30 at LBC.

No need to book, you are most welcome. Invite your friends. Eat simply and give generously. See Mike or Pauline if you are willing to help.

House to house collection all week.

Volunteer to collect from a street in your area. There are many streets in Loughborough that cannot be covered adequately. Please offer to help. We advise that you do not collect by yourself. Find a friend to help you or we can pair people up to do this very worthwhile task. See Lilian, Stan or Pauline if you can help.

Saturday 19th May - Coffee Morning at LBC 10-12noon

Same day - Market Stall selling cakes and home produce.

Please make a cake or provide some home produce for the stall. Leave it at the Church clearly marked or bring it down to Church between 6.30 and 7.30 on Friday 18th May for Maralyn and Rowena.

Same day, in the afternoon - Scoot for a Hoot.

Back again by popular demand! A sponsored event for drivers of electric or manual wheelchairs and scooters, taking place at the Christian Aid Offices on Derby Road. See Mike for details and sponsorship forms.

We look forward to an exciting week. Do join in where you can.

Thank you.

***Our prayer - Christ our Lord,
When we remember the sacrifice you made for the world, remind
us that we are called to care for the world and its people, and
challenge us to see how our actions change the
world. Be with us as we act to make a difference. Amen.***

The power of standing together



Tenneh Keimbay stands with others in the food production group set up by Christian Aid partner the Methodist Church of Sierra Leone (MCSL). By working together, the farmers have become a powerful force for change

Christian Aid Week tells the story of a community in Sierra Leone that has seen remarkable change. Tenneh Keimbay's life turned around when the Methodist Church of Sierra Leone (MCSL) started to work in her town, distributing tools and teaching farmers simple food production techniques. She talks enthusiastically about the difference this has made: 'Now the children eat two meals all year round, whereas before it was one. They are growing well; they don't cry around me because of hunger. They are happy to go to school because something is in their stomach.'

The benefits of regular food speak for themselves. But the effects of the food production group have been more wide-ranging than this. Tenneh speaks of the huge difference working in a group has made to her. Acting together, the farmers can share their skills and work more

efficiently. As she tells us, the bottom line is that 'the group work provides more food'.

Tenneh speaks of the support and the encouragement that the farmers give to each other, and how much can be achieved when the community comes together. 'What inspires me in life is unity,' she says. 'To me, unity means coming together to decide on one thing and take that forward.'

Now that they are no longer limited by hunger, the people of Gbap (pronounced Bap) have come together and successfully lobbied for a new school and an agricultural work centre for the community. The people of Gbap have taken their future into their own hands.

During Christian Aid Week, 15,000 churches across Britain and Ireland will organise

house-to-house collections and events to raise funds to enable organisations like MCSL to carry out their work transforming communities such as Gbap. Christian Aid currently works with 507 partners in 47 countries in Africa, Asia, the Middle East, Latin America and the Caribbean, helping people to make change happen. Our donations will be multiplied many times over as many small actions come together to make a huge change. But the giving that takes place during Christian Aid Week is not one-way.

Unity is something that our churches are not always good at, and the value of community that has inspired Tenneh is something that we can learn from and be changed by. Christian Aid Week is about raising funds. But it is also a call to unity – an invitation for churches to come together and celebrate the possibility of hope and life in parts of the world where mere survival can be a struggle.

This is a challenge, because division and inequality and injustice will always be

easier than unity. But Tenneh's insistence that remarkable things can happen when we come together is not new. We see it in the actions and ministry of Jesus, who pushed against all that leads to violence and separation and called his disciples to model a new way of community.

Can we use this Christian Aid Week to allow ourselves to be changed? If we can work together, with each other, with our churches and with our neighbours both at home and as far away as Gbap, then we may start to see huge change happen.

Tenneh says that 'when you are a group and work with focus and total commitment, you work at a faster rate; the stronger ones can help with work that weaker ones cannot do by themselves'. As we engage in Christian Aid Week, we can rejoice as we stand together in solidarity. Although we might ask who is the strong and who is the weak – and who is actually giving to whom.

Be a part of Christian Aid Week this year: if, together, we take small actions we can give people like Tenneh the tools to make big change happen.

£6.50/€7.50 could buy a set of four hand tools for a farmer living in the town of Gbap.

£50/€57.50 could pay for advocacy training for two young people in a Kenyan slum, equipping them with the tools they need to pressure their government to provide essential services.

£123/€141.50 could buy a reclaimed aluminium greenhouse for women working on market gardening projects in Tajikistan, providing a vital tool for growing vegetables in a harsh climate experiencing extremes of hot and cold.

Thomas Cook and Sunday Schools 1828-31

As part of the terms of his appointment as the General Baptist's Village Missionary Thomas Cook was to be a promoter of Sunday Schools in the area and, surprisingly, his stipend came from the local Sunday Schools. He actively supported several in the area including one in Stamford and Barrowden where he was lodging.

The model he would have chosen was that in our church which at the time was by far the largest school in the town with over 500 children and 50 teachers meeting once a month to assess the progress of the pupils and follow up any children who had missed schooling. The children were of age from seven to twelve staying typically three years and taught in their early years with the aid of the "Telegraph Board". This was two circular boards on a stand with a window in the front board to reveal single letters or short words as the back one was rotated. For the more senior pupils a system of homework was provided with questions set each week on the scriptures requiring the pupils to search the Bible for the answers and to be examined the following Sunday.

From the addresses in the registers it is clear that the children came from homes where the father would be in work of some kind. They were not from the very poorest parts of the town. The funding for the school came mainly from the annual "Sermon" in May each year where parents and well wishers gave generously. The children were encouraged to be generous themselves for instance helping to support a missionary in Orissa, India.

At the time that Cook was there the children and teachers were looking forward to having the whole of the old Woodgate church to themselves following the move of the congregation to the building we now use in Baxtergate on Christmas Day 1828.

The secretary of the school at the time was 28 years old John Chapman who was a precision machine tool manufacturer for the lace making industry in the town. Later, he moved to London and achieved fame as a journalist, inventor of the Hansom Cab and pioneer of Indian Railways and irrigation projects.

Throughout Victorian times and into the early years of the 20th century people generously supported the Baptist Church's bazaars which were usually held in the Town Hall and other fund raising efforts. Their generosity acknowledged the worth of the early 19th century Baptist Sunday School which provided the basic education available to most children in the town. We are now enjoying the results of this generosity.

Sources: The General Baptist Home Missionary Register, Tract Repository, and Teachers' Magazine. Vol 2 1829.

For John Chapman: The British National Biography.

Stan Cramer

Lunchtime Concert 17th April

The Lunchtime concert in April will feature two performers, one returning after a year and one newcomer. Maria Veretenina (soprano) and Rachel Rivers (oboe) will share the concert giving relief to each other and variety for the audience. Many will know how accomplished they both are and will look forward to an excellent event. As usual the proceeds will go to the Rainbows Hospice 2012 Appeal.

David Gabe

PAT Testing

The property team are in the process of ensuring that the register of all small electrical appliances on the premises is brought up to date. The existing register is out of date due to the fact that some appliances have been replaced due to them failing. Therefore the team would appreciate it if when items are replaced or new items are brought onto church premises that they are informed as to what the item is, and where it is to be stored. Also it is everyone's responsibility to ensure that the equipment they are using has been PAT tested (by looking for the green label, and checking that it is in date). If any equipment has not got a current PAT label, it should not be used and Paul Grimley, or any other property team member informed so it can be tested. We are currently looking into ways of making the job easier for Paul to locate items when they need testing, as we realise from a security point of view that certain things need locking away. This can only be done by ensuring the register is up to date. Thanking you all in anticipation.



6th March 2012 Mission without Permission (2004)

Here is a film that none of the membership had seen before. It portrayed a girl in the lead role, and her two friends who raid a bank, looking for the money needed for financing the cure of her dying father. This was a tense drama, with of course, a happy ending.

Our favourite parts tended to be centred around the antics of the incompetent bank security staff. We then went on to spot all the times in the story when people manipulated others to their own ends. The nature of this film led smoothly into telling them about the theft of our new projector and all the Film Club tuck in the recent burglary at LBC. We spoke about how we felt when people stole things from us, why people did it and what punishment the perpetrators ought to receive. These suggestions were very wide ranging, ask me if you would like to know some of their thoughts! PS Our projector caught the criminals and we hope to get it back soon.

20th March 2012 Shrek 2 (2004)

This Film Club marked our 1st Birthday! So we partied before watching our film. Vicky sorted the catering and Geraldine made our fantastic Clapper Board birthday cake. After the group photo shoot members completed annual review sheets, noting why they liked attending and suggestions for future developments.

Then we watched the film. Shrek has rescued Princess Fiona, got married, and now is time to meet the parents. Shrek, Fiona and Donkey set off to Far, Far Away to meet Fiona's mother and father. But not everyone is happy. Shrek and the King find it hard to get along, and there's tension in the marriage. It's not just the family who are unhappy. Prince Charming returns from a failed attempt at rescuing Fiona, and works alongside his mother, the Fairy Godmother, to try and find a way to get Shrek away from Fiona.

Amid fun and laughter we discussed our favourite parts and how we felt about peer pressure. One member said he felt welcome at Film Club and was able to be himself.

I then presented the six highest attendees with certificates. Daisy and Josh had been to all 21 Film Clubs in our first year, Emma, Georgia, Vipul and Corey had just missed one or two. Everyone went away with an exclusive LBC Film Club fridge magnet and new invitations for their friends.

Pauline Anderson

B.W.F

February 21st Sue Wainwright's title was 'Fascinating Facts and Salt'.

A postcard from Australia started her investigating the subject. The card was a picture of Lake Eyrie Yacht Club, the lake contains water approx. every 30 years when yachtsmen come for a once-in-a-lifetime sail. The rest of the time it is a salt lake. Salt, an everyday common item, how much do we know about it? We saw pictures of salt pans and learned of the processes involved in making salt, carried out all over the world. There are different grades of salt, the best being the first grade removed, and it is a greyish colour. Table salt has been treated to make it white. We are reminded of Jesus' words 'You are the salt of the earth'.

February 28th Pamela Bird spoke on 'Fashion, Fancy and Faith'

Pictures reminded us of the 20's and 60's fashions and clothing catalogues of today showed us what we could be buying. There were pictures of the Queen, in this her Jubilee Year. Pam brought samples of her work, including her wedding dress, which illustrated what she fancied. She talked of references to clothing in the Bible, starting in Genesis through to Ephesians 6: putting on the Armour of God. We each received a bookmark printed with a 'clothing' text.

March 6th The Annual General Meeting.

When we looked back to 2011 & forward to what is planned for the summer. The committee were re-elected, & all thanked for another good year. We are still open to receive new members, all ladies welcome.

March 13th Eunice Butters picked out 2 phrases from Luke 6 v 37 & 41.

She had been on a group holiday to New England to see the trees in the fall, which were beautiful, & to learn more of its history. Among others places they visited Boston & Salem & learnt of the strictness of the Puritans, the first settlers, of the witches trials, & the Tea Party. Eunice read extracts from 2 novels by Nathaniel Hawthorne based on those times. Today's inhabitants don't like to dwell on or talk about the past, they prefer to present a different view. The visitors went to an Art Exhibition by a post war artist showing happy family scenes & beautiful country, & we saw coasters illustrating these. This is the picture they want people to take away... and yet ... on the TV in the evening they watched candidates in the republican party having their say about one another!
Has Much Changed?

The texts mentioned, Jesus said- 'Do not judge' & 'clear your own eye first'.

Future Meetings

| | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------------|
| April 3 rd | Thought in Holy Week |
| 10 th | Holiday |
| 17 th | Derrick Tickner |
| 24 th | Daphne Beale |
| May 1 st | Civic Reception at Town Hall at 2pm |

B.W.L

14th February. Mrs Anita Perkiss of the Salvation Army was welcomed by the meeting. Mrs Perkiss arrived with an armful of sheep like toys and confessed that she was a collector of sheep look-alikes and ornaments. SHEEP would be the topic of her talk. After an opening hymn "The King of Love my shepherd is", we were invited to say that most familiar of psalms, Psalm 23, from memory. We were then invited to join the speaker in reflecting on certain words in each verse.

The Lord is my Shepherd, here we considered the many responsibilities of a shepherd in biblical times. All of these could be translated in meaning to guidance and care for us in the present time. Other assurances follow; HE GUIDES, HE INVITES, PREPARES, LEADS and RESTORES. Even though we fear, He is with us and we can find comfort in His protection. Finally, SURELY goodness and mercy will be with me is a positive declaration that HE will be with us constantly.

A Prayer: Lord Jesus, teach us that whatever today may hold and the future bring we know that we are YOURS and YOU are OURS for all eternity.

13th March Our programme for the year would not be complete without an evening with Mrs Anne Lockley. This year she demonstrated the making of Easter cards before we all had-a-go. The proverbial pin could have been dropped and have been heard such was the silence in the room as we began the task in hand. The time flew by, chatter and laughter crept into the evening. Result, two attractive cards each and the enjoyment of a sociable evening.

Future Meetings

| | |
|------------------------|--|
| 27 th March | A visit from the Loughborough Ladies Choir |
| 10 th April | Easter Tuesday: NO meeting |
| 24 th April | An evening at a member's home. |

MONDAY NIGHTERS

Monday 2nd April ---- "Landlady with a difference" Mrs Rushell
 Monday 16th April ---- "Not in God's Image" David Jones

We will not be meeting on Monday 7th May as this is a Bank Holiday

Everyone welcome - Our aim is friendship

Rotas for April 2012



CHURCH FLOWERS

1st Eileen Wardle
 8th Easter
 15th Irene & Martin Allen
 22nd
 29th

CRECHE



Anne Speight, Sandy Northcote
 Richard O'Connor, Jillian Beresford
 Linda Blake, Laura Bowler
 Pauline Anderson, Brenda Newton
 Sandy Northcote, Jillian Beresford



SATURDAY STEWARDS

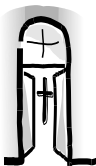
March 31st Brenda & John Newton
 April 7th Richard O'Connor
 14th Richard & Linda Parsons
 21st Michael Tebbatt
 28th David Warren

COFFEE MORNINGS

Ladies Choir
 Monday Nighters
 B.W.L.
 Global Care



CHURCH STEWARDS



Mornings 1st Celia Wilkinson
 8th Lydia Percival
 15th Anu Awotula
 22nd Jean Bates
 29th Edward Atkin

Evenings Betty & Kathleen Marsh

Calendar April 2012

| | | |
|-------------------------------|----------------|---|
| Sat Mar 31 st | 6.30 | Link Up |
| Sun 1st | 10.45 | Palm Sunday Family Worship |
| | | Matthew 21: 1 -11 |
| | 6.00 | Palm Sunday Worship with music |
| | | Free Church Choir |
| Mon 2 nd | 7.30 | Deacons' Meeting |
| Holy Week | Prayers | 7.45 am – 8.15 am |
| Thurs 5 th | 7.30 | Maundy Thursday Service |
| | | At Frederick St URC |
| Sun 8th | 9.00 | Easter morning breakfast and communion |
| | 10.45 | Easter Sunday Matt 28: 1 -19 |
| | | 'Christ has risen!' |
| | 6.00 | Easter Sunday Luke 24: 13 – 23 |
| | | 'The road to Emmaus' |
| Lunch break and Office | | closed all week |
| Sun 15th | 10.45 | Family Worship & Communion |
| | | 'Meeting the Christ' Acts 9: 1-19 |
| | 10 - 12 | Sundi Club |
| | 4.00 | Sunday@Four |
| Tues 17 th | 12.45 | Lunchtime Concert |
| Thurs 19th | 7.30 | Church Annual General Meeting |
| Fri 20 th | 12.30 | Luncheon Club |
| Sun 22nd | 10.45 | Family Worship |
| | | Margaret Thirlwell |
| | 6.00 | Evening Worship |
| | | Jillian Berrisford |
| Sat 28th | 6.30 | Link Up |
| Sun 29th | 10.45 | Family Worship |
| | | Revd Dianne Tidball |
| | 6.00 | Evening Worship |
| | | Revd David Alderson |

Items for the April magazine should be handed into the office or sent to edward-atkin@hotmail.co.uk by NOON on Sunday April 22nd