



## CHRIST CHURCH DOUGLAS-IN-PARBOLD

### FEBRUARY 2019

### PRAYER NEWSLETTER

#### **ENCOURAGEMENT**

Two weeks ago Phil Prescott and I had a snowy day out in Manchester, with Peter –in more ways than one. Yes we were with Peter Massey but more importantly we spent the day with the apostle Peter studying his first letter recorded in the New Testament.

Knowing I had been asked to write for the February newsletter I had prayed that there might be something I could pass on and I particularly wanted to link it with our Watchword.

**I am not ashamed of the gospel.** That means I am not ashamed to pass it on to others.

What stops me? Here are some encouragements from just a few verses from 1 Peter chapter 2 verses 9-12 and chapter 3 verse 15. Read them for yourself!

- **Being – who we are.** A chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, not because we are special in our own right but because He has called us out of darkness into his wonderful light.
- **Doing – how we live.** Living good lives so that those among whom we live will see our good deeds and glorify God.
- **Telling – what we say.** Declaring what he has done for us, giving everyone who asks the reason for the hope we have, in a gentle and respectful way.

#### **What stops you?**

“I feel I am too insignificant to take this on”. No you are not! Look at how God sees you.

“I don’t know how to start”. As Jesus himself said let your light shine by your good deeds. People will see you are different and some at least will wonder why.

“I’m not a preacher”. You are not asked to be! Just share your own experience of what God has done for you.

May we all, empowered by God’s Spirit, live out our watchword so that others, as Peter puts it, may come to new birth into a living hope.

*Brian McGucken*

*(with thanks to Neil Hudson and Anthony Billington who led our study day).*

#### **PARISH TELEPHONE PRAYER CHAIN.**

- a) Anyone who has a prayer need can phone his/her request to Brian and Frances McGucken (01257 462058) between 6pm and 6.30pm any day, or for urgent needs, at any time. A team of people is on hand to pray immediately for your need.
- b) If neither is available to take your call live - please do not use the answer phone for this purpose - but contact Lin Milne on 463523 or John Mountain on 463919.

Your prayer request will be treated as confidential – unless you state otherwise

## **PRAYER REQUESTS**

- Pray for Shelley Burdett, Amie Birkett and Viv Smith who are visiting Uganda this month as part of a small group supporting the organisation, International Needs
- Please pray for all the elderly and infirm who find getting out difficult in the icy weather.
- Pray for all those preparing for their confirmation in March. May it be a special blessing to them.
- Pray for all our charity links home and abroad for the Lord's blessing and provision.



## **MERCY RESCUE TRUST**

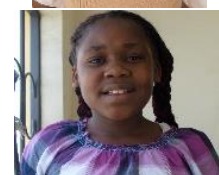
Christmas holidays started at the beginning of November, but for two of our girls Filda and Lin it was the start of their end of primary school exams. The results determining the secondary school they would be allocated. Both girls did well and much to their delight they are both now attending the same secondary school. Please pray for them, as they adjust to full time boarding school.



Their day start at 5 a.m. and usually ends about 10p.m. with lights out that is if there is any lighting as loss of power can be quite frequent. During this time there is not much down time, as their days are full of lessons, meals and homework. They are only allowed contact with their families once a month when their families can visit and top up necessary supplies.



Thank you to everyone who prayed for Mercy, she is now fully recovered and is now back at school.



Christmas at Mercy Rescue is especially enjoyed by the older children, who have family, but for one reason or another are unable to live with them on a full time basis. Over the Christmas period they are able to visit their families and spend a few weeks with them, this is one of the highlights of their year.

Babies and toddlers spend time with staff and their families in their homes, giving them a special time being part of a family. With all the children away this allows Jedidah a well-earned rest.

During November four or five babies/toddlers left Mercy rescue to join a forever family. It's really great knowing that these children will be loved and cared for enjoying their new family.

January has been a busy month with four new arrivals, all had been abandoned in Eldoret a large town a 2 hour drive away.

This little girl is the 200<sup>th</sup> baby/child that has been rescued, and as always our social workers will work hard to find her family and if this is not possible a lovely foster family to call her own.



*Barbara*

## **THANKS**

Thank you to all our contributors this month. The next newsletter will be in April

### **THE MESSAGE TRUST**

Thank you so much to all at Christ Church Parbold for supporting me this year in my work at The Message Trust. I really appreciate your support, both in finance and in prayer.

This year (2018), we've seen unprecedented responses to the gospel as we've taken the Higher Tour across the UK to the Midlands, Cambridgeshire and South Wales. This Christmas think about the nearly 60,000 young people who have heard the truth of the gospel this year through Higher, and the many thousands who committed their lives to the Lord for the first time. How different their Christmas this year will look!

Our Eden teams have had an uncountable kingdom impact in their neighbourhoods. We've released new teams up and down the nation from Glasgow to London, and our existing teams have continued to pour out their lives sacrificially for the sake of the gospel. So many in our Eden estates will be experiencing their first Christmas free from loneliness, hopelessness and despair.

Our prisons teams have worked tirelessly to not only introduce inmates to Jesus but journey with them while they serve the rest of their sentence. Hundreds will now experience a Christmas knowing the one whose birth we celebrate. And those new disciples are finding stable employment, supported accommodation and the love of Jesus through the Message Enterprise Centre and Oaks

*Judith Townsley*

### **OPEN DOORS**

Letter from Henrietta Blyth, CEO of open Doors:

Thank you for your tithe gift to help the persecuted church. Your support is giving life and hope to believers living in places where faith costs the most.

### **THE OAKS**

News from Duncan at the Oaks, Skelmersdale:

On behalf of the whole church, a huge thank you for considering us in your tithe giving. We are very grateful. Currently, we are creating a big push to provide more for children and young people on the estate and this donation will really help.

### **THE GOOD SHEPHERD**

A poem by Marjorie Dixon:

Little children come to me  
I'll teach you all My ways.  
To live in hope and joy  
To last you all your days.

To love one another and be at peace  
And listen to Christ the Lord.  
For He is the answer to all your prayers  
You can always trust in the Lord.



## **NEWS FROM EDUCAID**

Happy New Year everyone!

We're looking forward to an exciting 2019. EducAid began as a scholarship fund in 1994, making this our 25th anniversary year. We are hoping to celebrate this achievement throughout 2019, so please do let us know if you have any ideas for how we might do this.

It's been an eventful 2018 at EducAid -

- The new Minister of Education visited EducAid and our QEP teacher training programme in October.
- Miriam attended the Opportunity Collaboration Global 2018 event for global leaders working to end poverty.
- EducAid joined the Global Schools Forum and welcomed 12 new students into the its BAM course, a degree course in its 2nd year in collaboration with the University of Makeni Department of Business Administration & Management.
- EducAid also continued to provide free, high quality education to over 1,600 vulnerable children in Sierra Leone
- EducAid trained teachers at more than 100 schools, raising the standard of education for more than 25,000 children and young people.



**Meet Nnamdi John Esemé,  
EducAid's New Education Programme Officer**

**Where are you from?**

I am from Nigeria

**Is this your first time in Sierra Leone?**

Yes, it is!

**How are you finding Sierra Leone? How is it different from other places you have been?**

I am finding Sierra Leone to be a very beautiful country! It is one of those dream destinations with beautiful beaches overlooking the Atlantic Ocean and wonderful scenery. The people are very accommodating and against media reports, Sierra Leone is safe for both locals and foreigners.

Sierra Leone is different from other places I have been because of her rich history and deposit of minerals such as diamonds and gold.

**What are the best things about EducAid so far?**

EducAid is one of those innovative development-led organisations tackling key issues affecting the poorest of the poor and raising democratic citizens through education. I have found EducAid to be a family of like-minded individuals with a common vision of supporting children in Africa to dream and see their dreams come true

**What are you looking forward to achieving at EducAid?**

I am looking forward to supporting EducAid in repositioning as a leading education provider across the West African sub-region. I look forward to contributing towards achieving the shared visions of the organisation in providing holistic education and creating opportunities to vulnerable young people in Sierra Leone.



### **DATES FOR THE DIARY**

**Monthly Midweek Communion – Thursday, 7<sup>th</sup> February at 10.30am** followed by coffee & cakes.

**Joint Songs of Praise at 10.30 am on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> March.** Hymns and worship songs for this special joint service will be selected by parishioners.

**The 2019 Confirmation Service, with Bishop Julian, is the 28th March at 7:30 pm** here at Christ Church.



### **CHRIST CHURCH PARBOLD HISTORY**

I am a historian from Brindle, nr. Chorley and Rev. Owen-Smith was scheduled to become Rector of Brindle St. James' Church prior to his death in 1909. I have found the following....



Boards in Brindle St. James' CofE Church record the Rectors there since c1190 to present day. However, in early 1909 Rev. H.P. Owen-Smith was appointed but died before he could take up the post, so is not on the board.

Born Henry Powell Smith in Colchester in 1851, he was the son of Rev. Smith of Christ Church, St. Albans, Hertfordshire. He entered Magdalene College at Cambridge in 1868, achieving a BA in 1871 and a MA in 1875. He became an Assistant Manager at Rossall School on the Fylde Coast in 1873, serving there until 1885. He was ordained a Deacon in Manchester in 1876 and became a Priest in 1878; Henry Smith changed his name to Owen-Smith at that time (Owen being his mother's maiden name).

Whilst at University, Henry Smith formed St. Albans Pilgrims Football Club in 1870, serving as Secretary as well as playing as Left-winger. **In 1885, Rev. Owen-Smith took up the post as Vicar of Christ Church at Douglas-in-Parbold, near Wigan, serving there until accepting the position at Brindle in January 1909.** Unfortunately, Rev. Owen-Smith did not take up his post. In January 1909 he travelled to Southampton to officiate at the wedding of a fellow Cleric, spending a few days in London where he caught a chill. He elected to travel back North but died of double pneumonia a few hours after arriving home on the 19th February; he is buried in the graveyard there

### **PAUSE FOR THOUGHT:**

Lord, grant us simplicity of faith  
and a generosity of service  
that gives without counting cost.  
A life overflowing with Grace  
poured out from the One  
who gave everything,  
that we might show  
the power of love  
to a broken world,  
and share the truth  
from a living Word.  
Lord, grant us simplicity of faith,  
and a yearning to share it



Read more at: [http://www.faithandworship.com/prayers\\_Lent.htm#ixzz5eGT9pSAj](http://www.faithandworship.com/prayers_Lent.htm#ixzz5eGT9pSAj)

## WENDY'S PRAYER THOUGHTS FOR FEBRUARY

Wendy writes ....

The 17th December is a day I will never forget. I was driven down a narrow lane on the Island of Anglesey to Penmon Priory. The weather was blustery and showery, yet it in no way detracted from the idyllic scenery, and the sense of being miles away from anywhere. It was isolated and so peaceful. The view was breath taking as one looked across the Menai Straits to Snowdonia. Yes, and snow was capping the mountains, glimpsed when the clouds lifted intermittently. Standing and gazing in awe the words from one of our nation's favourite hymns came flooding into my mind:

- Dear Lord and father of mankind, forgive our foolish ways!'

The writer was the 19th century poet John Greenleaf Whittier. He actually wrote, "Forgive our feverish ways!" and as he continued he wanted God to "re -clothe us in our rightful minds". Whittier was a Quaker who valued the rural setting of Massachusetts where he lived, and the quietness, stillness and silence of their form of worship.

Two of the verses of the hymn made a fresh impact on me.

O Sabbath rest of Galilee!  
O calm of hills above,  
Where Jesus knelt to share with Thee  
The silence of eternity  
Interpreted by love!

It is when we rest that Jesus has the opportunity to meet with us. He organised His life, so finding time to turn aside from all activity, and the noises of everyday life, to kneel in prayer in God's presence. The Scriptures advocate we do this for our benefit. For example there is the text "Be still and know that I am God." (Psalm 46:10). Peace is therapeutic. Peace has its own power, a power in which we find a deeper peace within, which enables us to re-align our lives and bring them into tune with God. The stillness is not empty. It is filled with God's love.

The next verse speaks of how our soul communes with God in the peace and quiet.

With that deep peace subduing all  
Our words and works that drown  
The tender whisper of Thy call,  
As noiseless let Thy blessing fall,  
As fell Thy manna down.

Just as the manna fell silently in the night to give sustenance to the Israelites as they travelled in the wilderness, (Exodus 16) so we receive the blessings He is waiting to bestow on us.

**Cultivating an inner stillness is a form of prayer.** Let us practise it when we have the opportunity.

February 2019.

