

Blaby Baptist Church

The Messenger



December 2016 / January 2017

Senior Leadership Team

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Greetings from Pastor Pauline

Dear Friends

Thank you to everyone who came and celebrated my fifth anniversary here. It was so good to be together to give thanks for His amazing blessings to us. But where have the last five years gone to? I still have a list of places that I was going to visit when I arrived! I really must get to the Space Centre!

It has been an amazing time for us at Blaby Baptist Church and I certainly have never been in a church that has grown so much both spiritually and numerically and I still love every part of my calling here. It is a privilege for all of us to share in God's ministry here and it is one that we must not take lightly. As we go into the next stage of our journey with Him there will be challengers as we are stretched to become more loving and more Christ-like with unconditional servant hearts. But it will be exciting. Life with Jesus is not boring and we will continue to enjoy His presence among us.

However, like every family we too have our times of sadness and the church community was shaken by the sudden death of Rochelle in South Africa. Rochelle was instrumental in starting the toddlers group, encouraging Rhythm Time and the Men's group. We have much to thank God for in her life and after Christmas we will set aside some time with a memorial service for her. Our prayers are with Justin, SW and all the family.

So in the excitement of Christmas preparations don't let us lose sight of the need to pray-for those in need and for God to work powerfully during this season to build His kingdom here.

May I wish you the joy and peace of Christ this Christmas and into the New Year.

God bless

Pauline

Personal

There are still a lot of our congregation and friends poorly.

Rita has been in hospital a few weeks ago but is now back home and continuing to improve. Janet also has been ill having had a nasty cold and cough but is looking forward to being with us soon. Elizabeth has been in hospital as well, she is now at home recovering. All still need our continuous prayers. We must not forget our friends who are housebound, Hilda, Dorothy and Ann, all still need our prayers.

Please remember Mick and Ann who have had a family bereavement, Mick's dad passed away in hospital and may they be comforted by our prayers.

I want to wish you all a very Happy Christmas, a peaceful and healthy New Year.

God Bless you all.

Wynne



Rochelle came into the Blaby Baptist family quietly but made an immense impact, the legacy of which is still being felt to this day. Rochelle brought a bundle of energy to BBC with a head full of ideas to reach out to those in the community with friendship and love. She was a mirror of the love of God. It is hard to believe that we will never see her again but she is with her Father in heaven and so although we miss her we also rejoice for her.



If you ever want a good night out then come to an evening with the Rainbows, Brownies and Guides. As you can see, by looking at all of the smiling faces, as they create their pieces of art and have fun with their friends



The joy of giving!



Dear friends,

Thank you so much for supporting this year's **Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Appeal** and for persuading your relatives, friends and work colleagues to also fill a box. We thank God for inspiring so many people and for their generosity in filling **56 boxes**. Our thanks go to Co-operative Travel (Thomas Cook Ltd), Chris and Rhythm Time, Playtime, all connected with Rainbows, Brownies, Guides, Rangers, Dino for transporting empty boxes, Pauline's Mum for all her knitting of hats and scarves and especially to Pauline, who somehow managed to persuade so many shopkeepers to shower her with gifts that we could use in our own boxes.

A few boxes just arrived, so if I have left you out, thank you whoever you are.

Here is a breakdown of gender/ages of the boxes:

Age	2 – 4	4 boys	6 girls
	5 – 9	15	20
	10 – 14	6	5
Total		25	31

Thank you for sharing God's love and our plenty with those who have so little, especially at Christmas when we remember the coming of Jesus, the greatest gift of all.

Frances





Update on Christian Persecution in India

Recently, Hindu radical forces motivated government officials to demolish the Shalem Prayer house, an independent church in Telangana, India. The prayer house was only a temporary shed made of bamboo and thatch, built to serve as the house of worship around 100 Christians, 11 years ago. Without prior notice, Hindu radicals, in the presence of local media and local police, bulldozed the church to the ground in a few minutes, destroying everything, including fans, musical instruments, tube lights, chairs. Some Christian appealed for the bulldozers to stop as there were around 10 Christians inside holding a prayer meeting.

Officials justified the demolition by saying the church illegally occupied government land. That is true, but the entire village, including more than 500 homes and several Hindu temples are also built on the same government land and none of them are on the list for demolition.

This incident is just one of an increasing list of persecution against Christians in India. The Indian government, now led by the Hindu nationalist party, is turning a blind eye to attacks against any religious minorities.

Please pray for:

- Protection for Christians - especially those who are active in sharing the gospel or have converted from Hinduism, who are frequently targeted.
- Religious freedom in India. Many states have introduced anti-conversion laws, and the Government would like to introduce these on a national level.
- Open Doors supporting persecuted believers with urgent relief aid as well as long-term community development projects.

Blaby Baptist Church November 2016. The vision for our future.

Blaby Baptist Church has become a real family where there is laughter and fun, sadness and tears, enjoyment of life, disagreements – and misunderstandings to be sorted out-a family whose life is centred on Jesus Christ and His love. People are welcomed in and accepted for who they are.

It is a church that has grown both numerically and spiritually and has a large community now using the building during the week-a community who looks on it as “home.”

On our first vision day, the Rev Dianne Tidball encouraged us by saying we were called to be Blaby Baptist Church with its own character and style. She compared the churches to a bowl of orange fruit-oranges, nectarines, mandarins and satsumas. They all belong to one family but are all different. In the same way, we belong to the family of Christian and Baptist churches but we are not called to be a Whetstone or a Sutton Elms or a Holy Trinity or an All Nations. We are called to be Blaby Baptist Church in this community with a character that is firmly centred on Jesus Christ. All that we are and all that we do comes out of His love for us and our love for Him. We are called to continue to grow a church that is centred on Him and characterised by His love for us and our love for one another.

There are a number of areas where we are called to grow in the future.

Worship

Worship is the offering of the whole of our life sacrificially to God. On a Sunday morning, we come together as a church in corporate worship which includes music, prayer, scripture readings and a talk in a relaxed atmosphere. The overall style is generally informal with a structure that allows it to be accessible to those coming into the church for the first time. This is important so that people feel secure. Therefore, for the immediate future we will generally maintain this structure for our morning service.

In the New Year, we do plan to extend our style of worship by starting a monthly Sunday evening service with a different format. It will include prayers, scripture, a talk and a longer time of music.

Whatever the style of corporate worship it is essential that it is led by the Holy Spirit to take us into times of intimacy with our Lord. For our part, it is important to come ready to give ourselves to Him and expectant to hear from Him.

Discipleship

Discipleship is about learning more about Jesus and becoming more like him. We already have a bible study/prayer group and Alpha where people can ask questions about their faith. In the New Year, we plan to start house groups each of which will have their own flavour but give people an opportunity for fellowship and spiritual growth within a smaller group.

Growing the church spiritually is a shared responsibility.

Mission/Serving our community

At our recent vision day we were given the words-

“Bring my people half-way and I will meet them there.”

The mission of the church is to provide opportunities for people to encounter the love and good news of eternal life that Jesus offers. We do that by loving and serving our community

here in Blaby. We will continue to support the groups that use our building-practically and with prayer- and ensure that they feel welcome here. We need to offer the community a place where they feel secure to be the people they are-accepted and loved as Jesus loves them-and free to ask the big questions of life without feeling judged. We will continue to provide opportunities for this to happen as our relationship with the community grows. "Café-style" services for our Rainbows/Brownies/Guides/Rangers will continue as will Christingles for all groups. Assemblies will continue at Stokes School and we will continue to run a summer holiday club. There will also be other one-off events that will provide an opportunity to serve the community.

On a practical note, we plan to start the building of the new kitchen in the spring-trusting God for the remaining finances.

However, our welcome must go beyond a Sunday morning.

After supper on the night that he was betrayed Jesus took off his outer garment, wrapped a towel around his waist and washed the feet of his disciples. Washing feet was the dirtiest job that one could perform and it was only done by the lowest of slaves. Jesus' act was a symbol of his servanthood. When he had finished, he said to his disciples, "This is my example to you. I have washed your feet. Now go and wash the feet of others."

As a church, we are called to serve as Jesus served and this may take us into places that are difficult and even places that we may not want to go. But wherever these are we must be obedient to God's call to share His love in a practical way.

Jesus commanded us to-

Love one another as I have loved you

Love your neighbour as yourself

This is our call to the community.

Prayer

All of this must be underpinned with prayer. We cannot be God's church without His guidance and His power. We have no power of our own but we do have the power of His Holy Spirit and so must always pray, "Come Holy Spirit. Fill us and equip us to be your church here in Blaby."

It is all about Jesus being the centre of His church so we pray, "Your kingdom come and Your will be done."

We look forward to what God is going to do here in the future.

Celebration!

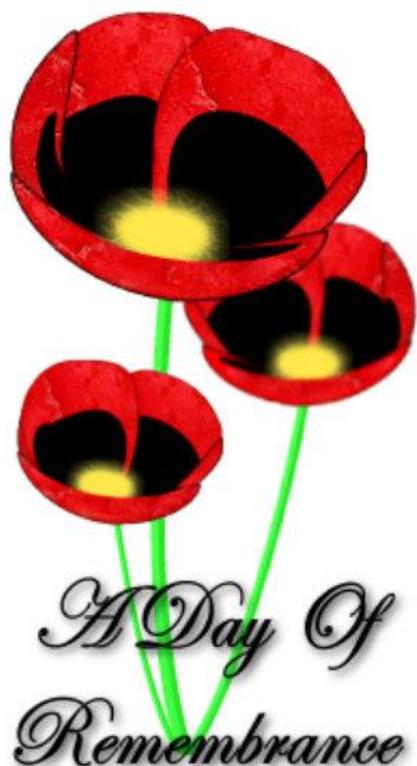


Remembrance Sunday

Remembrance Sunday saw the church full with family and friends coming to remember and give thanks to God for all those who had served in war to give us the freedom that we enjoy today. The Rainbows, Brownies, Guides and Rangers joined us parading from the war memorial on Northfield Park to the church. This year the girls not only brought their standards and their official wreath but also wreaths that they had made from poppies and hand prints. We laid poppies at the foot of the cross to remember all those who had serve in the conflicts of the twentieth century and remembered the fallen with two minutes of silence.

This year Clifford Hart was awarded the Legion d'Honneur-the highest award that France give to those who served in France during the world war and it was a privilege to hear him talk -very humbly-about his time in France. His granddaughter-in-law Lauren sang for us, reducing many to tears with her stunning voice.

It was a very special time.



*A Day Of
Remembrance*

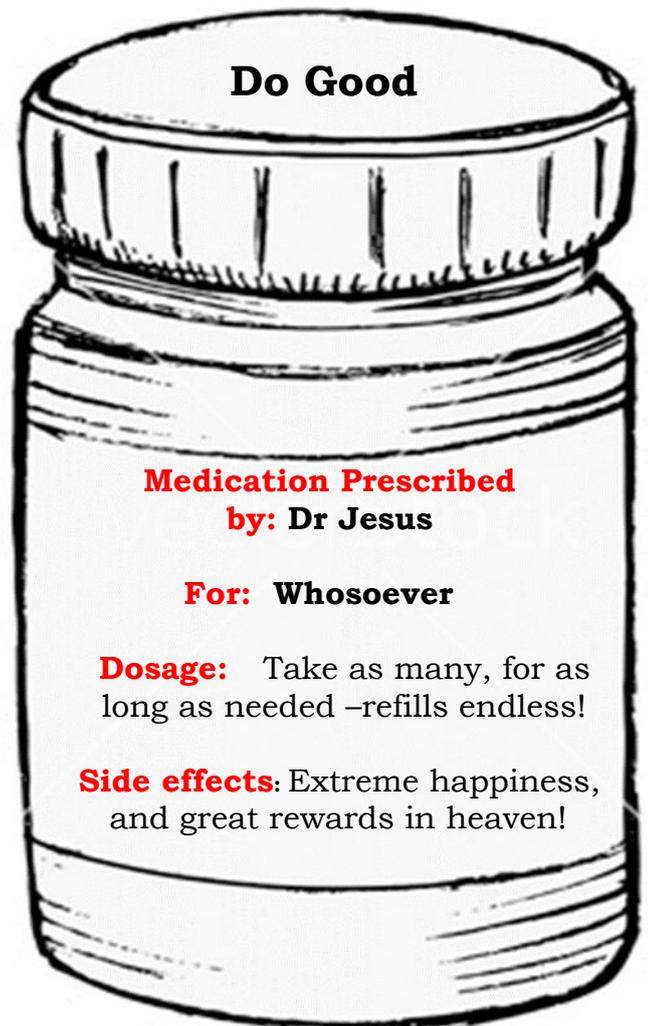
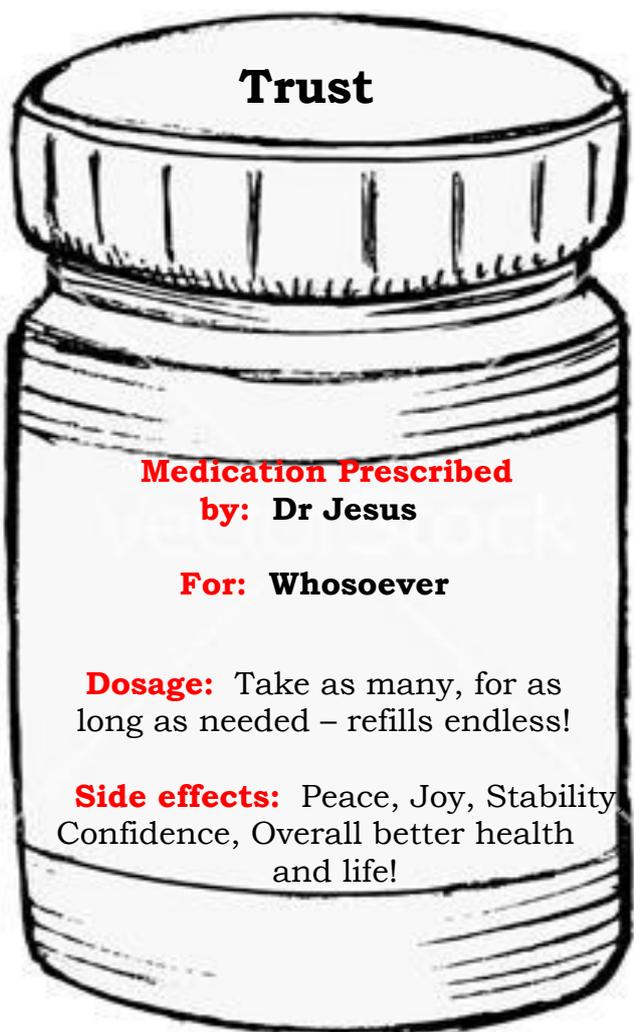


2 Timothy 1:6

For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands.

PRESCRIPTION

In times of distress, worry, anxiety:-



PSALM 37, VERSE 3

“Trust in the Lord and do good, so shall you dwell in the land and feed surely on His faithfulness, and truly you shall be fed”.

PSALM 37, VERSE 11

“But the meek (in the end) shall inherit the earth and shall delight in the abundance of Peace”.

Praise and Worship



SUNDAY EVENING
WORSHIP MEETINGS

Dates are confirmed for our evening meetings, which will be held at 6pm:-

29 January

26 February

19 March

30 April

21 May

25 June

30 July

20 August

24 September

29 October

26 November

No meeting in December

Praise Him!



The format, under Pauline's leadership, will be relaxed, informal, and less structured than our Morning Services.

There will be extended praise and worship time, time for personal prayers, prayers for upcoming church events, prayers for healing, all as the Holy Spirit moves at the time.

If you are seeking a closer, more intimate relationship with the Lord, then come along and join us for these meetings

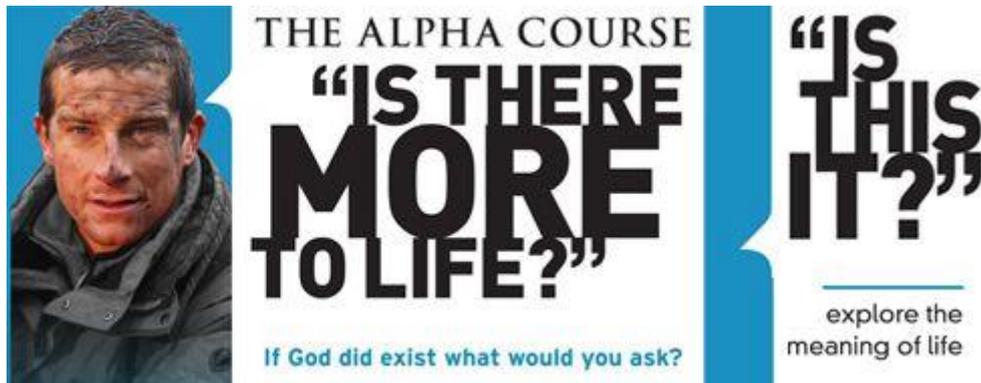
ENCOUNTERS with *Jesus*

Shirley

Baptism

It was such a fabulous spirit filled and lovely love filled day with all three of my 'families' there. My 'blood' family, my Salvation Army family and my Blaby Baptist family. I am so blessed to have all of them in my life and the Lord right in the midst of it all. I felt nervous before being baptised but fabulous when I came out of the water. It was truly amazing and I hope I can live up to being Christ like.





We are now nearly at the end of our second BBC Alpha course. For this Alpha we used new material which proved to be excellent and I can thoroughly recommend this course. This is the fourth Alpha course I have been on and this one was by far the best. Hopefully in the New Year we can run another so if there is anyone you know might be asking questions about Christianity then please recommend Alpha to them and point them in my direction.

We are starting a home group in the New Year which comes out of Alpha as we enjoyed meeting together so much we wanted to continue to meet. The new group will meet in a group member's home fortnightly. It will be a time to worship, study and fellowship together sharing our hearts and praying together. If you are interested in joining us then please let me know.

June



Are you part
of the Inn
crowd, or are
you one of the
Stable few

Blaby Baptist Church

79th year

Women's Own

Meetings held in Church Lounge on the first Wednesday of each month at 2:30pm - 4:30pm

December 7th

Carols, Candles and Christian Fellowship

January

No meeting scheduled

Bring a Friend - She will be glad you did

Friendship Group

Meets every Wednesday evening

7:40 pm

December

7th Heritage - AGM

14th Christmas Celebration

January

Planning the coming years itinerary



Men's Fellowship

The Men's Fellowship hosted a Quiz Night in October. It was a raging success, a fun night enjoyed so much that there must be another in the coming year. Pastor Pauline's team reigned supreme on the night (rigged), while Roy Hummel's team won the booby prize.

December 3rd, the Enderby Wind Band concert will take place. It will be a good night of music so get your tickets now.

Come January Steve Allen will take on the role of Men's Fellowship Coordinator. So as the New Year arrives men come out and enjoy fun and fellowship.

Roy



Men's fellowship

Flower Arranging Class

Just some examples of the beautiful pieces being created in class.

If you too would like to learn to art of floral arrangement you are welcome to join in on Monday evenings at 6:00 pm.

Bette



Thoughts from the Reluctant Editor

I don't know where to start. We are in the throes of winter and again people in this country are dealing with flooding just before Christmas. There are people who have loved ones who are critically ill. We as a church family are experiencing grief at the passing of a family member. So many people are uncertain about the future and what it holds for them.

We come into the Christmas Season and so many people want to celebrate but do they know what they are celebrating or is it just some generic celebration? It is disheartening to see that the message people see about Christmas is consumerism, spend your way to happiness. Is Christmas just one more stress that people have to endure?

We at Blaby Baptist Church are called to be beacons of light and love to our world. Christmas is an ideal time to show that God loves us all so much that he sent his son to save us. Christmas celebrates that love so let us be that reflection of light that envelopes and warms those who come to celebrate with us and then leads them to a personal relationship with the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year Karen



"The spirit of giving gifts has been present in the mind of each Christian as he or she commemorates the Christmas season. Our Heavenly Father gave to us His Son, Jesus Christ. That precious Son gave to us His life, the Atonement, and victory over the grave.

"What will you and I give for Christmas this year? Let us in our lives give to our Lord and Savior the gift of gratitude by living His teachings and following in His footsteps. It was said of Him that He 'went about doing good.' As we do likewise, the Christmas spirit will be ours."

* President Thomas S. Monson "What is Christmas?" Ensign, December 1998, 5

Offertory

September

4th £380

11th £439

18th £557

25th £489

Average £466

October

2nd £453

9th £468

16th £347

23rd £341

30th £527

Average £427

Kitchen update

There is no real progress with the kitchen, other than waiting for replies to applications for grants. We need in the region of £10,000, in order to start the build. But this figure would not give us enough to cover any items of equipment, crockery etc., it would only cover the building of the shell and a basic fit out of the kitchen.

Les



Blaby Baptist Church Calendar 2016

- November 27th** **3:30 pm Dianne Tidball's farewell service at Melton Mowbray Baptist Church**
- November 29th** **Bible Study: Philadelphia - Di**
- December 3rd** **7pm Enderby Wind Band Christmas concert**
- December 7th** **Brownies Christingle 6pm**
- December 11th** **Nativity**
- December 12th** **School Christingle 9:30am**
- December 13th** **Bible Study: Laodicea - Frances**
- December 15th** **Rhythm Time Christingle**
- December 18th** **Carol Service**



Church Services

Sunday Service: 10:45 am

Communion: The third Sunday of every month.

Groups

Monday

Men's Fellowship: 7:30pm every second Monday of the month.

Contact Steve 0116 2990266

Wednesday

Playtime: 10am-11:30 an informal drop-in session for babies and toddlers. £1 per session.

Contact Pauline 0116 2477450

Friendship Group: 7:30pm-9pm every Wednesday.

Contact Pauline 0116 2477450

Women's Own: 2:30-4pm every first Wednesday.

Contact Eileen 0116 2772108

Friday

Rhythm Time: morning classes (babies and toddlers)

Contact Chris 0116 2773239

Rainbows/ Brownies/ Guides/ Rangers

Contact Beryl 07891689841

And the angel said unto them, Fear not:
for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy,
which shall be to all people. For unto you is born
this day in the city of David a Saviour,
which is Christ the Lord.

Luke 2:10 & 11

