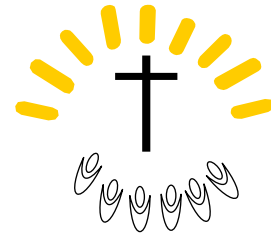


THE MESSENGER

February 2010



From the Minister

We have begun another New Year, and whilst the natural tendency is to start each year with hope, even with resolution(s) this year has perhaps started in a rather more downbeat way. We began, of course, in sadness at the passing of Irene Hitchen, but the intensely cold weather, and the dangerous conditions that produced, did nothing to lift the spirits. People struggling with the cold, being kept indoors, various activities having to be cancelled, heating systems going on the blink, hospital appointments being cancelled because of the pressure on beds, have all conspired to give 2010 a pretty sober start.

Looking further afield does not necessarily lift the gloom. Scenes of devastation and awful suffering from Haiti fill us with sadness and compassion. Continuing casualties from Afghanistan remind us of the price and the difficulty of seeking peace in the world, and we remember the anxiety of families whose members are serving out there. The anniversary of the inauguration of President Obama, which last year was a time of great hope, has prompted reviews and expressions of disappointment that the new dawn has not come quite as was hoped. A coming General Election brings out in us more of the cynic than the optimist.

Yet our gospel continues to be one of hope and good news. The question posed at the start of Psalm 121: 'where does my help come from?' continues to have the same answer: 'my help comes from the Lord.....the Lord is my keeper'. The new covenant, sealed in Christ's blood, is as sure now as it was two thousand years ago. Jesus from time to time was prompted to chide his followers for their lack of faith, and we do well to heed those chidings. Just as signs of spring can already be discerned in our gardens and in the countryside, so we should note and welcome those signs of the continuing work of the Spirit.

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity saw a renewed and a yet firmer commitment amongst the churches of Crewe to do together all that they can. That will include another Good Friday Witness, which was so successful last year. Plans are also being laid for more work between the churches and the primary schools of the town.

The reports for the AGM which are being distributed with this edition of the Messenger give an indication of the work of the Spirit here at Union Street. We do not know what 2010 will hold in store, but we do know that God will hold firmly to his promise and will be with us in all that we do in his name. We praise him for all that is past, and trust him for all that is to come.

Andrew Taylor

UNION STREET BAPTIST CHURCH

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**Find us on the internet:
www.crewebaptist.co.uk**

Secretary's Notes

Firstly let me congratulate our member Ivy Hart on her 90th. Birthday, in December. Her family arranged a surprise party for her and it was a lovely happy occasion. This was in addition to all our Christmas celebrations! We were pleased to welcome the District Guides and Brownies for their Carol Service, Edleston School for their Concert and also for the Churches Together in Crewe Primary Carol Service. Incidentally, Edleston School has been coming to our church for their Christmas Concerts/ Carols for 50 years!

Thank you to the choir for their performance of Roger Jones' 'Sing Good News' which was very enjoyable. Thank you to Rev. Andrew Taylor for all his hard work throughout the Advent Season and to him and Pamela for organizing and taking part in the Scottish Ceilidh in November which was a great evening.

On 18 January, Churches Together in Crewe held a service for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity at which all the churches signed the Covenant and some of us attended the Churches Together in Cheshire service at Chester Cathedral on 24 January. We are looking forward to a concert by the Kipling Singers on Saturday 30 January and a concert by the Lions Youth Brass Band on Saturday 20 February.

We are pleased to have Caroline Greatbanks back worshipping with us after a long hospital stay and wish her better health in 2010. Several friends are not well at the moment and we remember them in our prayers. We were all very shocked at the sudden death of our friend Irene Hitchen and send our condolences and prayers to her family.

I hope all members will try to attend the Church Annual General Meeting on Sunday 21 February after the morning service.

Helen Birtles – Church Secretary

Edna Isherwood would like to say a big thank you for all the cards and Christmas gifts received from her friends at Union Street.

Change of address

Gill Lindop's new address is as follows:
223 Manor Way, Crewe. CW2 6PH.
Thanks for all the help and support!!



Flower Rota

FEBRUARY

- 7 Mr & Mrs M Riley
- 14 Mrs R Johnson
- 21 In memory of Joan Tilbrook
- 28 In memory of Mr & Mrs S Maddocks

MARCH

- 7 Mrs A Grocott
- 14 In memory of Mr & Mrs H Greatbanks and Mrs M Smith
- 21 Mrs E Isherwood
- 28 Mr & Mrs Luxford

Regular activities at Union Street Baptist Church

Sunday

Breakfast and Prayers 8.45 for 9.15 (first Sunday)

Morning Worship & J-Club for children 10.30

Monday

Playaway - Parents & Toddlers 9.15 - 11.15
Age Concern T-Club 13.30 (on 2nd and 4th Mondays)

Rainbows, Brownies from 17.00

Tuesday

Bible Study 14.30 (on 1st & 3rd Tuesdays)

Choir 19.00

Wednesday

Contact Club 19.30 (on the last Wednesday each month)

Thursday

Coffee and Refreshments 10.30 - 12 noon

Oasis Midweek Worship 12.15

Friday

Beavers, Cubs, Scouts from 17.00

Saturday

Social/Other Events as announced



BMS Birthdays

Remembering your birthday with a gift to the BMS medical missions

MARCH

20th Paul Boskett

31st Sheila Allcock

BMS World Mission

February is our month for focusing our Mission outreach on the BMS Relief Appeal.

This special fund enables BMS World Mission to respond quickly and effectively to emergencies and disasters anywhere in the world. And this year it has been able to support the people of Haiti immediately. Please pray that out of the disaster an increasing awareness might emerge of the needs of this troubled country. Disaster keeps no schedule, knows no borders and obeys no political agenda. When it strikes, the poorest of the poor and those with no means of rebuilding their lives are often the first to suffer. Christians must be equipped to respond quickly and in a way that will make a genuine difference. There are leaflets available showing how the fund has been used in the past. Please give generously to this vital mission work.

The 2010 BMS Day of Prayer will be on Monday 1 March when BMS staff in the UK and mission personnel and partners around the world will be joining together to pray for the work of world mission. It's the third year that there has been a Day of Prayer and this will be the biggest yet as it links in with several prayer initiatives across the preceding weekend – like a global wave of prayer.

The wave will start quietly on Friday 26 February with small groups of twos and threes praying in countries such as Bangladesh and Afghanistan where Friday is the traditional day of worship. It will be picked up that day by BMS staff in Didcot at their early morning prayer time and in morning worship at IMC, Birmingham.

On Saturday 27 February, the wave will swell with churches in the Baptist Union of Great Britain responding to President Kingsley Appiagyei's call to prayer which will include a focus on world mission and the work of BMS.

Sunday 28 February will see it gathering momentum with prayers being offered in church services throughout Scotland and England and in Wales where a national day of prayer for Baptist life, work and witness will also include prayer for BMS.

On Monday 1 March, the specific day set aside for prayer by BMS, imagine the wave rolling right around the globe, starting some seven or eight hours ahead of GMT in places such as China and Thailand. From there it moves on through India, Nepal and on to the Middle East; rolling on through Africa and Europe, across the Atlantic to Brazil and on to Peru and Ecuador, some five hours behind GMT. Imagine the power of a mighty rolling wave. Imagine the power of our mighty God responding to the prayers of his people.

Be a part of the wave. Here at church or at home, join BMS in prayer on the day or during the weekend.

Please continue to pray for our link Missionary Judy Cook, her latest news from Thailand is on the Notice Board.

Thank you for your continued support in prayers, donations and stamp collecting for BMS. If you would like to give regularly to BMS World Mission using monthly envelopes, a Mission box or joining the BMS Birthday Scheme; or just want to know more about BMS World Mission, please have a word with Pamela Taylor.

Pamela Taylor

NEXT MESSENGER DEADLINE will be the end of March. Who's done something new/exciting recently? We want to hear from you! All contributions to the next edition please, to Dena Goodrich.