

PORTON BAPTIST CHURCH NEWSLETTER

Showing Love, Showing Christ, Showing His Way

January 2022



AT THE GATE OF THE YEAR

I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year
'Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown'

And he replied,

'Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the hand of God
That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way'

A New One Just Begun

The actual line that John Lennon sang was “Another year over, a new one just begun”. I never thought I would sit here and write about Covid restrictions and Chapel closure at Christmas 2021. The latest version of this nasty little virus has hit everyone in some form or other and whilst disappointed and a little depressed that we had to close again because of the high infection rate of the Omicron variant, it was the correct thing to do. I have just stood down from bell ringing (we have a small ringing chamber) because we cannot ventilate or wear masks whilst ringing. So, disappointment all round.

Here we are at the start of a new year. We do not know what this year will hold for any of us but I hope that we will have a less onerous time. No matter what each of us may feel at the start of 2022, there are others who are still at “the coal face” as it were in the fight against Covid. Please remember them all in your prayers and include all the volunteers and Military that are stepping up to the mark once again.

I hope and pray that this year will be a good one, not just for the Fellowship, but for everyone that we know. I pray for our Government and the scientific community as they do their best in the face of ongoing threats. I pray that our Fellowship will soon be able to meet again in God’s House and to sing his praises.

“Another year over” A positive one from many respects. Eileen was baptised (the first since my own 17 years ago) and what a joyous day that was. Sirius and Siena were dedicated, with Obi Searle waiting in the wings for his dedication.

“A new one just begun”. As with any new year, we don’t know what the future holds, but with faith, strength and the power of prayer, we can only grow stronger.

Your friend’

David

Wendy’s Spot

At the beginning of a New Year we can look back, and once again we have to admit that 2021 was not a "normal " year. At the beginning of the year PBC was closed due to the current Pandemic but one of my happiest memories was Easter Sunday when we were able to worship properly again and sing praises to our God. OK an elbow nudge is not the same as a hug but the thoughts were there. It was sad that we couldn't worship together again at Christmas but the leaders felt that keeping our congregation safe, many of whom are vulnerable was the right thing to do.

As we enter 2022 we are again closed for the same reasons, we will remain closed on January 2nd, and the following week the leaders will review the current situation, listen to any updates from the government and then prayerfully decide the correct way ahead for the fellowship.

Wishing you all a very Happy and Blessed New Year.

For Prayer

Bible A Month

This month we are asked to pray for work among the Ngabe people in Costa Rica. This indigenous tribe has recently received copies of the Gospel of Mark in their own language. The translation was funded by gifts from Bible a Month.

Small Baptist

2-8	West Haddon, Northants	Stock Green, Worcester
9-15	Beckington, Nr, Frome, Somerset	Rishton, Blackburn, Lancs
16-22	Milton Acton Bridge, Cheshire	Barton-in-the Beans, Leics.
23-29	Corporation Road, Newport, Wales	Zion. Bradford-on-Avon, Wilts

Worldwide

Pray that, in this new year many of the world's conflicts will be resolved, and the tensions between nations reduced.

The continuing conflicts in the Middle East and Africa; for international mediators seeking to resolve situations; and for the over one million refugees who have arrived in Europe since 2014.

National

The Government as they continue to try to balance the rising challenges produced by the Covid pandemic, with the economic needs of the country.

The National Health Service and the Welfare Authorities as they struggle to cope with the upsurge of demand in winter.

Mission

For the Leaders of all the churches in UK, that they may be fearless in proclaiming the truth.

Local

Those suffering hardship as the result of the economic and health situation.

The work of the Trussel Trust, Alabare and similar organisations.

The Porton establishments and those who work there.

Our local schools

Ourselves

For the Leadership as they when we can re-start services, having regard to the safety of us all.

Happy Birthday

6th Noah

CHURCH CALENDAR

MAY 2021

Sunday	2 nd		No Service
Sunday	9 th	10.30am	TBA
Sunday	16 th	10.30am	TBA
Sunday	23 rd	10.30am	TBA
Sunday	30 th	10.30am	TBA

Church Administrator

Wendy Searle

Tel. 01722 442621

Web Site www.portonbaptist.org.uk

Church Postcode SP4 0LH