

PORTON BAPTIST CHURCH NEWSLETTER

Showing Love, Showing Christ, Showing His Way

July 2022



” For I know the plans I have for you”, declares the Lord,
“plans to prosper you and not to harm you,
plans to give you hope and a future.”
(Jeremiah 29:11)

Dear All,

What a two years it has been, in fact 27 months!! On March 16th 2020, the Prime Minister said 'now is the time for everyone to stop non-essential contact and travel.' In the vast majority of households this meant 'stay at home, work from home.' In the Pike household only the youngest Pike was affected, Harry, who converted to online learning, the rest of us Pikes were considered 'essential workers' and continued as normal!! But what was normal? How was Covid transmitted? How serious was this health scare? So many unknowns, so much anxiety. I remember many tears between myself and colleagues as we navigated the ever-changing rules from NHS England, as a vaccine was desperately being developed. Alongside this was the personal anxiety of keeping my family safe. As many of you know Mum has Parkinson's which makes her very vulnerable, but we kept to ourselves another personal struggle, which I know Dad won't mind me sharing now. December 2020, the week before Christmas, Dad was diagnosed with Alzheimer's, a horrible and difficult diagnosis. Being a Midwife in Covid presented difficulties and challenges, I was scared, women and families were scared, but under the surface, as a family, we were scared.

We kept Dad's diagnosis quiet for several months as we let things sink in, we knew things would change once people knew, Dad hadn't changed, but some people around him changed once they found out. Alzheimer's has robbed Dad of many things, his business, his preaching, many practical skills. As a close knit family we have wrapped around each other and coped as things have developed. As things have become more public we have been surrounded by love and support, which we are so grateful for in this difficult time.

As we continue through uncertain times, as a family, we would like to thank PBC for the continued love and support and we're so grateful for the resilience of our fellowship, we really are a family that supports each other,

With much love,

Michelle xx

Wendy's Spot

There are some changes to our worship times in July and August because of several people being on holiday at the same time.

On July 24th and July 31st Douglas will lead "Morning Prayer" from 10.30 to 11.00 am.

During August there will be no services at Porton, we will resume normal services on Sunday September 4th at 10.30 am.

Please continue to forward me items for the prayer chain. Have a great summer!

For Prayer

Bible A Month – Ukraine and Bible Lands

By coincidence both of the subjects of our 'Bible a Month' this month are places where there is violence, one as the result of warfare, the other, sectarian violence. In both places the Bible Societies are active in bringing help, both practical and spiritual. Pray for them.

Small Baptist

3-9	Sutton-St-James, Spalding, Lincs	Zion, Bradford-on-Avon
10-16	Oakdale, Nr. Caerphilly, South Wales	Stock Green, Worcs
17-23	Windley, Nr. Belper, Derbys	Walton-By-Kimcote, Leics
24-30	Thorverton, Exeter, Devon	West Haddon, Northants.

Worldwide

Ukraine is obviously foremost in our prayers at this time, but do not forget the many other places where there is conflict – Sudan, Ethiopia, Syria and many others.

Pray for the Third World which, as yet, has not received a fraction of the Covid vaccinations they need. Pray that the rich nations may be generous in sharing their stocks of vaccine.

National

For the National Health Service at this time of increased demand and squeezed budgets. For the Government as they seek to deal with rising inflation and increased industrial unrest.

Mission

For our Link Missionary, Mark Greenwood, in his demanding role as an Area Co-ordinator.

Church

For those of our members with long standing medical problems.

For those on holiday this month, that it may be a time of rest and refreshment.

For our children, that it may be possible soon to re-commence Sunday School.

For Brody as he starts school in September, and Joey moving to St, Josephs.

Happy Birthday

2nd Brody Larkham: 27th Mary Blake

Editor's Note

There will be no Newsletter in August. Next edition September 4th.

CHURCH CALENDAR

MAY 2021

Sunday	3 rd		Communion Service -Douglas Parish & Wendy Searle
Sunday	10 th	10.30am	Morning Service – David Folland
Sunday	17 th	10.30am	Communion Service – David Niven
Sunday	24 rd	10.30am	
Sunday	31 th	10.30am	Morning Prayer – Douglas Parish

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