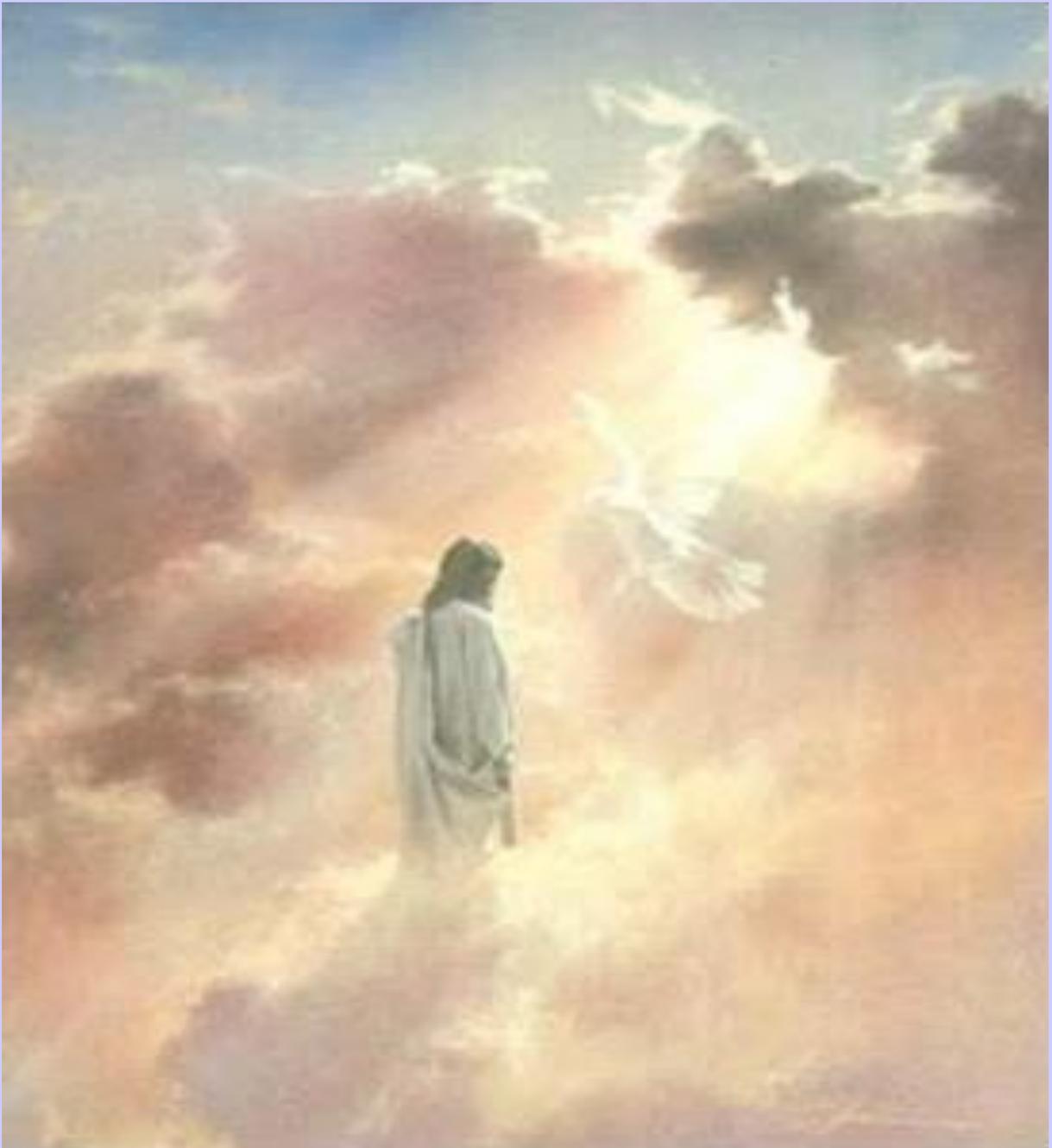


**Blaby Baptist
The Messenger**



**June/July
2017**

Senior Leadership Team

Pastor:

Mrs Pauline Wills
4 Ripon Drive, Blaby, LE8 4AU

Tel: 0116 2477450

Secretary:

Mrs Bette Bolton

Tel: 0116 2775391

Treasurer:

Mr Les Speake

Tel: 0116 2841133

Deacons:

Mrs Ann James

Tel: 07905130525

Mr Nev Taylor

Tel: 07825179417

Mr Michael Dobson

Tel: 0116 3674138

Mrs Karen James

Tel: 0116 2783168

Mrs Di Hillier

Tel: 07960296498

Greetings from Pastor Pauline

Dear Friends

As I looked around the church last Sunday morning I was struck by how much God had blessed us and how much we have to give thanks for. As June and John shared how God had kept them together for 40 years-"there are three in this marriage"-I was reminded that whatever we do is stronger when God is involved and central to our plans.

As a church, we pray without ceasing for ourselves, for our community and for our world. Recently we have seen God answer our requests in what can only be described as miraculous ways. Dino had been told that he could not have another counselling appointment for 18 months. After a week that he described as "dark" we prayed for him during our Easter morning service. That afternoon at 4pm, Dino had a telephone call from the NHS offering him an appointment for the following week! We have to ask the question, "Who works on a Sunday afternoon, let alone Easter Sunday?" Dino did check and she did not work on a Sunday. It was a "one-off" and she chose him for an appointment because his name jumped out at her from her list.

When Tony went to see his consultant about his failing eyesight he was told that they could operate and get him driving again. But then came the shock. His other eye which had been irreparably damaged many years ago could also be operated on to improve his sight there.

When God answers prayers so obviously, it encourages us to keep praying. However, God is not just interested in the big things but every detail of our lives. The smallest seemingly insignificant concern is important to Him. (Friends get fed up when I pray for a parking space in town-and we get one!)

We are God's children and like any good Father, he wants the best for us.

Between Ascension and Pentecost there is a national time of prayer when we are asked to pray for friends, family and our community. There will be a prayer card on which we can write the names of five friends to pray for and a booklet to help us pray. Do pray and be expectant that God will respond.

May you continue to be excited about seeing God at work.

God bless

Pauline



Personal

When I wrote the last column I was hoping it was the start of spring but not at the moment, it has poured with rain all day but I live in hope that tomorrow will be better!

There are still quite a number of members and friends who need our prayers. Hilda Vann has been in hospital for a week but is home now but unfortunately her niece's husband David has passed away, so they all need our prayers. June Hughes hasn't been very well over the past few weeks but is now feeling there is improvement.

Di Hillier is feeling better than she has been but has to go back to the hospital in a few weeks' time.

Your prayers will be appreciated for Jan, Roy Austin and family and also Marilyn Green who is in Woodway House at the moment.

Nev Taylor has also been to hospital for test results, keep the prayers coming for continued progress.

Elizabeth Orton needs our prayers as she has had a flood in her home. She is very concerned about the situation.

God Bless You all.

Wynne



We { Still } Do
and always will.



Congratulations June and John, 40 years strong. God Bless you on the next chapters of your life together.



In Loving Memory
Of
Our brother in Christ
Clifford Hart



1923 - 2017

God's Promise

God never promised a life without pain,
Laughter without tears or sun without rain.
But He did promise strength for the day,
Comfort for the tears and the light for the
way,
And for all who believe In His Heaven above
He rewards their faith In His everlasting love.



Our winter holiday January 22nd - April 26th 2017 Spain & France

Our holiday adventure starts on the ferry from Portsmouth to Bilbao. There were very few passengers this year because for the past two years crossing the Bay of Biscay has been very rough indeed. This year was the smoothest crossing we have ever had going out in the winter.

There was one overnight stop at Zaragoza before continuing on to Alcossebre on the Mediterranean coast where we stayed for six weeks.

Each Sunday there was a small group of people who gathered in the 'Mini Club' for a mini service. A few prayers, a reading and a couple of hymns.

Every Sunday at 11am I attended the church in Alcossebre, it is a Catholic church which is shared with the Church of England.

On Friday 3rd of March it was Women's World Day of Prayer and ten ladies did the prayers and readings for the service. The theme was 'Am I being Unfair to you?' prepared by the women from the Philippines. Everyone was given a small bag of rice.

We continued our holiday by staying on other sites in Spain & France, on one of which we had magnificent views of the snow-capped Pyrenees and another on the edge of a cliff overlooking the beach and bay at Zarautz.

On the last Sunday before catching the boat home we visited a private collection of Rolls Royce's and various other exotic cars deep in the Basque countryside.

The journey back across the Bay of Biscay was very calm. We had a leisurely night at Chichester Camping Club site before returning home on Wednesday 26th of April.

Gwen Norman & Mike Payne

Li Heping is released



2015 before his arrest.



16th May 2017 when released.

The 46 year old devout Christian Chinese Human Rights Lawyer who 'disappeared' in July 2015, has been released after 2 years of suspected torture and abuse. *"Li has been sentenced to three years' imprisonment, suspended for four years, and deprived of political rights for four years,"* read a court statement, after a trial was conducted in secret. This effectively prevents him from practicing law in the near future. Amnesty International's China researcher, Patrick Poon, said that holding the trial in secret showed allegations against Li were "groundless and weak".

Li and his family remain under intense surveillance after his release and it is reported that he has been fitted with an electronic device tracking his location.

Please continue to pray for China:

- Give thanks to God for Li's release.
- For protection for him, his wife and family.
- For all Human Rights lawyers targeted by the Chinese Government for their work in defending religious freedom.
- For the release of church leaders, unjustly imprisoned.

Persecution in Afghanistan



- Afghanistan is the third most difficult country in the world to live as a Christian.
- Baptism is a crime punishable by death.
- It is illegal for an Afghan person to be anything other than a Muslim.
- Leaving Islam is seen as treason.
- Persecution is from Islamic extremism and Ethnic antagonism.
- The Taliban, a radical Islamist group, remains active in Afghanistan and targets those who leave Islam.
- Christianity is viewed as a Western religion which is hostile to Afghan culture and society.
- Converts will keep their faith completely secret – simply meeting in small groups can be dangerous even the internet is closely monitored.
- Living the gospel can result in facing beatings, abuse, imprisonment and discrimination.

Please continue to pray for Afghanistan:

- For courage and protection for secret Afghan believers.
- For stability and peace in Afghanistan.



WHEN ALL ELSE FAILS TRUST GOD!

We all face difficulties, and painful seasons in our lives, yet we have the most amazing God who just cries out to love us, heal us, guide us, and help us. We just simply need to come to Him, and above all else, trust Him!

Trust in God - ***“My trust and assured reliance and confident hope is fixed in Him”*** (Hebrews 2:13)

Refuse to succumb to fear - ***“God has not given me a spirit of fear and timidity, but of power, love, and self-discipline”***
(2 Timothy 1:7)

Understand God always watches over you - ***“I am with you and will watch over you wherever you go”*** (GENESIS 28:15)

Strengthen your spirit with God’s promises - ***“But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint”*** (ISAIAH 40:31)

Thank God for His promised protection - ***“The Lord is my refuge and high tower when I am oppressed, a refuge and stronghold in my time of trouble”***
(PSALM 9:9)

Evening Praise Services

6:00 – 7:00pm

| | | |
|-----------|---|----------------------------|
| June | - | 11 th June |
| July | - | 30 th July |
| August | - | 20 th August |
| September | - | 24 th September |
| October | - | 29 th October |
| November | - | 26 th November |
| December | - | No Service |

Everyone is welcome to the evening services.

and Worship + a short message.

Blaby Baptist Church

77th year

Women's Own

June 7th

Watch Charlotte decorate a cake and then have a go at decorating your own cupcake.

July 5th

Cream Tea



Bring a friend - she will be glad you did

Friendship Group

Meets every Wednesday evening

June 7th 6:30pm Share a Meal

June 14th 6:00pm Movie Makers

June 21st 6:00pm Garden Visit

June 28th 6:30pm Walk

July 5th 7:00pm Fish & Chips Supper

July 12th 7:00pm BBQ/Potato Evening

July 19th 6:00pm Garden Visit





**BIRTHDAY
SCHEME**



*Do something wonderful on your birthday.
Share the gift of life.*



June 21st
Ann James

July 11th
Joyce Chantry



Get involved in this worthy cause please volunteer to
keep this worthy work going.

Men's Fellowship

Upcoming Men's Fellowship Events

June 12th

Movie Night

What's on?

Come and find out, ice cream and popcorn will be on the menu

July 15th

Canal Boat Trip

Cruise the rivers of Leicestershire. Start in Melton Mowbray and boat to Foxton Locks. Bring your packed lunch and enjoy as we park up for a picnic

For more information speak to Mick Dobson.



Men's fellowship

Thank-you

The ladies of the flower arranging group would like to say a big Thank-you to Bette, for her patience, help, guidance and encouragement on Monday evenings, when teaching us this art. We hope to do a display in October, so that people can see what we have learned from our teacher. Anyone interested in flower arranging do come along and join us. Classes resume in September, Mondays 6pm-7:30pm. Come and join a relaxed group lead by a talented teacher who will guide you to create art with flowers.

Thank – you Bette



The Old Railway Tracks

By Peter Barber

A gentle breeze makes the tall grasses sway
A dandelion clock blows its minutes away
Trains still do pass through this station
Except here.

At Platform 7 the tracks lie hidden under
Nature's power

A covering of green with wild flower colours
Of white, yellow and purple.

Empty beer tins, paint pots and free
newspapers

Are scattered, rusting and rotting slowly.

Trains passed along them, took us to work
Brought us gratefully home, we did not think
then that one day this line would lead to
nowhere

Leaving only memories of those far off times
Hidden deep within the tracks for evermore.

Offertory

Offering totals for March and April

| | | |
|--------------|----------------|----------------|
| March | 4th | £504.25 |
| | 11th | £460.23 |
| | 19th | £475.08 |
| | 26th | £478.00 |
| | Average | £479.39 |

Gift Day £2310.00

| | | |
|--------------|-------------|----------------|
| April | 2nd | £407.70 |
| | 9th | £432.65 |
| | 16th | £559.34 |
| | 23rd | £431.15 |
| | 30th | £427.21 |

Average £451.61

There is no real update to the Kitchen, I am awaiting firm figures for the estimated areas of the quote.

This is taking a while due to the Easter holidays and the fact that the builder has also been on holiday.

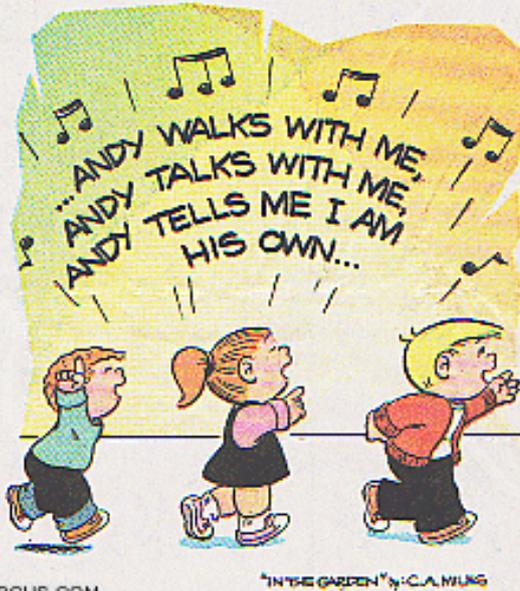
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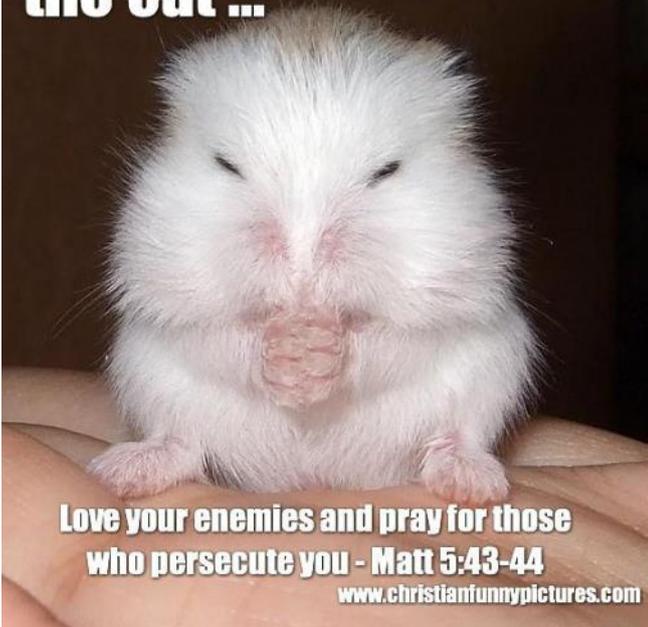


THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By BIL KEANE



Dear Lord, I pray for the cat ...



Words Will Flow From You

Do not plan or plot
What you will say or do
On My behalf,
However well intended.
Do not even seek
To imitate what I
Might say or do

Live rather in the perfection
Of each present moment
As it unfolds for you,
And I will meet you there
In my eternal present,
To quicken and enliven
With My Spirit.

Words will flow from you,
Deeds so naturally,
Leading unselfconsciously
To your sanctity.

Thought From the Reluctant Editor

As I sit and write this with the news on the television my heart breaks as I see all of the pain that people are enduring, especially children who are caught in conflict not of their making. It seems like conflict is spreading like a virus, infecting the world.

On the one hand we can look around and see the beauty of the world around us and in some ways we are a world away from the conflicts that go on around the world and then terrorism comes to Manchester.

I know that we are all praying for peace and reconciliation for all of those caught in conflicts around the world and I also know that God is working in these situations and there are Christian people working hard to bring help and comfort to people all around the world.

We must keep praying for peace, and for God's love to shine through.

God Bless the Peace makers

Blaby Baptist Church Calendar

| | |
|--|--|
| June 4th | Pentecost: Florence Mackenzie to Preach |
| June 6th | Prayer workshop with Ellen Price 7:00pm all welcome |
| June 7th | Women's Own 2:30pm |
| June 7th | Friendship Group 6:30pm |
| June 11th | Evening Praise Service 6:00pm |
| June 12th | Men's Fellowship Movie Night |
| June 14th | Friendship Group Movie Makers 6:00pm |
| June 20th | Bible Study 7:00pm |
| June 21st | Friendship Group Garden Visit 6pm |
| June 25th | Shirley and Nev to renew wedding Vows |
| June 28th | Friendship Group Walk 6:30pm |
| July 2nd – 12th | Pauline on holiday |
| July 5th | Women's Own Cream Tea 2:30pm |
| July 5th | Friendship Group Fish & Chip Supper 7:00pm |
| July 11th | Bible Study 7:00pm |
| July 12th | Friendship Group BBQ 7:00pm |
| July 15th | Boat Trip |
| July 19th | Friendship Group Garden Visit 6pm |
| July 25th | Bible Study 7:00 pm |
| October 8th | Harvest |
| November 12th | Remembrance Sunday |
| December 8th | Enderby Wind Band concert |

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 PauCommunion: 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 Pauline 0116 2477450

Friday

Rhythm Time: morning classes (babies and toddlers)

Contact Chris 0116 2773239

Rainbows/ Brownies/ Guides/ Rangers

Contact Beryl 07891689841

When you turn
your worry into
worship,
God will turn
your battles into
blessings!

