



December 2017 Newsletter

Message from Sarah Bingham

The Gift of Giving...

I wonder if you are the same as me at Christmas? When I was a child, I loved getting presents and couldn't wait until after lunch, when we were allowed to open the proper, wrapped up gifts from family, as opposed to the little, silly things in our stocking. I did try to think about what others might like for Christmas, but often they were generic choices like socks or hankies.

As I've got older, I do still like presents and unwrapping them, but get as much joy from seeing family and friends unwrap gifts that I chose carefully just for them. In fact, I buy presents all through the year if I see something that I know will really suit a particular person! Sometimes, they don't even need to say anything – the look on their face says it all.

We give gifts at Christmas prompted by the gift-giving wise men. Their reaction to the message they discerned in the heavens was to come and give appropriate gifts to the one 'born to be King of the Jews'. The call on us now, though, as those seeking to follow that King, is not just to give nice presents to our nearest and dearest at Christmas.

God calls us, and provides for us, exactly as he did with His people in Corinth: "He will always make you rich enough to be generous at all times, so that many will thank God for your gifts which they receive from us." (2 Cor 9:11) As you look forward to receiving again the greatest gift God has ever given – Himself made flesh and blood – perhaps you might also look forward to blessing others through the work of the church by reviewing your giving?

Jesus was born into poverty, never had a home of His own and was a refugee who fled violence and persecution as a child. As you see echoes of His story in the lives of those around you, let God stir your heart into love and action, so that in receiving blessing, you might also pour it out. Peace and good cheer to you all!

Rev. Sarah Bingham

Valerie Graydon-Scott

The funeral service for Valerie is on Thursday 30th November 2017 1pm at Green Lane Baptist Church, then onto Sutton Coldfield crematorium for 2:30pm, and back to Green Lane Church for refreshments.

When Valerie returned to Green Lane church I felt that she was sent by God to stand with me in pray through the storm that was on the horizon for me and my family.

It was a very difficult time but with such an angelic loving and Godly person, she helped to stabilise the ferocious attacks on me and my family.

Valerie was a strength to anyone she ever met,
She was loved and respected by my grandchildren and family.

I am truly blessed to say that she was a part of my life and it has left me richer as a Christian for knowing Valerie.

Others FIRST every time
and a wonderful warm loving person.

Her last words were that Jesus should
bless me.

By Guddhi

Mend-It Christmas day meal

If you would like to attend the free Christmas Day 3 course meal, please add your name and the number of people to cater for, on the list on the board in the hall. Also if you would like to support the meal with a donation of a food item, please see the list on the board of items required for the meal. If it's a cash donation, please see Natalie or Robert to discuss your donation. Thank You..