



Easter
of
HOPE



March 2018 Newsletter

Sarah's message

By the time March starts, we will be two weeks into Lent. I wonder if you noticed Ash Wednesday this year – it coincided with Valentine's Day and the advertisers and social media were much more focussed on the latter than the former. Many Baptists don't really follow the Church Calendar much, other than marking Christmas, Easter and Pentecost. However, the purpose of Lent is a useful one.

Lent is a time reflecting the 40 days Jesus spent in the desert before he began his ministry. It is a time for pause and reflection, not with a focus of waiting (as with Advent) but of self-examination. At the end of the 40 days, Jesus was tested or tempted by the devil, but he resisted and went on into ministry. His ministry culminated in his death and resurrection, which we will celebrate right at the end of the month.

Traditionally, to aid personal reflection in Lent, Christians have denied themselves some of the more basic comforts of life – giving up rich foods (hence Shrove Tuesday and a chance to use up eggs and milk) and sometimes wearing plainer clothes or, in monastic communities, denying themselves sleep. I wonder if this year you 'gave up' something for Lent, perhaps to put the money saved to a good cause?

More recently, some Christians have chosen instead to be more actively involved through Lent, aiming to serve others in small ways across the 40 days. It's not too late to sign up to something like '40 Acts', run by Stewardship, and join in focussing on serving others as fruit of demonstrating your repentant life. You can find details online.

"So I run straight toward the goal in order to win the prize, which is God's call through Christ Jesus to the life above." Phil 3:14

Christmas Fayre News

Our thanks to all those who contributed in any way to the success of last year's Christmas Fayre in November. The final total was £1336 (inc. £104 copper coins collected throughout the year) for the church Development fund. If you do not already save 1p and 2p coins for us please think about starting now so that we can increase the amount saved this way by the time of the Christmas Fayre 2018. When you have saved £1 of 1ps or £1 of 2ps please hand them to Jean White for banking.

Thank you, John Jenkinson

Prayer Breakfasts will now be held on the first Saturday of the month until further notice. The first one is on Saturday 3rd March 8:30am
If anyone would like to assist with preparation please see someone on the leadership team. Please be reminded that the Quiet Room is open from 10am for those who want to spend time in prayer before the Sunday service.

The Diaconate

EASTER HOLY WEEK at GREEN LANE

Saturday 24th March - **Clocks go Forward**

Sunday 25th March - 10:30am **Palm Sunday.**

Wednesday 26th March - 11:30am Holy Week Prayer Meeting

Thursday 29th **Maundy Thursday**

Friday 30th March - GOOD FRIDAY

10:15am Walking the way of the cross through Walsall town centre. (re-enactment)

1:30pm Movie Church at Green Lane, film **The Gospel of Mark**

7:00pm Joint evening service at Delves Baptist Church

Saturday 31st March - 12noon - 2pm

Blue Reflections.

Space to reflect on the pain anguish and confusion of life.

EASTER SUNDAY "HE IS RISEN"

10:30am Easter Morning Service

