



## **APRIL 2019 Newsletter**

### **Sarah's Message**

Towards the end of this month, we will celebrate our most important festival, Easter; it's a feast of delight and hope because of the resurrection of Jesus, 'first fruits from among the dead', who's rising from the dead guarantees our own. Yet it is preceded by our saddest festival, Good Friday, when we remember the death on a cross of God-made-man, Jesus. This mixture of the bitter with the sweet marks our everyday life too and so we thank God for the saints who have gone before us and offer us hope that we too might persevere right to the end.

One such saint was Joy Williams. Aged 15, Joy was baptised by George Girvan and she was a member of Stafford Street/Green Lane Baptist from 1946 until her death. Dennis and Joy loved and lost baby Janet, but Joy's love for children meant she helped Gwen set up a Mother and Toddler group and she organised the crèche rota for many years. Joy also supplied countless Walsall children with dressing gowns, lovingly made and sold at the Christmas Fair to raise church funds.

Her love for others was expressed practically: she supported Dennis in his service as a deacon, she was a key player in one of the church cleaning teams and in her lunch breaks when she was a home help, she even had a hand in tiling the new toilets, despite not loving the building at Green Lane! Her practical love was matched by her prayerful support of others and how fitting it is that she has now gone to a place where Jesus has made all the preparations, so that it is a welcoming and hospitable place ready for her. She was ready to go and her sure confidence in the love of her Saviour meant she went without fear. May we too have that depth of faith, hope and trust in God.

Another bitter-sweet moment for us is Emma stepping down from the diaconate. She has served faithfully for over a decade and her service has been sweet to us. It is a bitter thing to lose her from the team, but a joy that she will continue to serve our children and young people, despite the increasing demands of her job. Thank you, Emma!

### **Mend-It News**

#### **Lord Bourne, Minister of Faith, MHCLG** **"Walsall for All" programme launch and** **Mend-It Taster**

On Thursday, January 31, 2019 Lord Bourne, Government Minister for Faith, came to Walsall to launch the "Walsall for All" programme. He came to Walsall to see the work taking place to build a fairer and stronger community for all. Mend-It was one of only a handful of projects, chosen by the Council, for him to visit on the day. In addition to our customary warm welcome, for which we are renowned, Lord Bourne was also treated to freshly baked Chinese New Year cookies and a selection of cakes, sandwiches and fruit, as well as tea or coffee. He met and spoke with the ESOL Tutor, Ambika, and all the learners. One student, Annila, recited a poem by Maya Angelou called "Human Family". Considering that she had only started learning English a few short months ago this was a great accomplishment. Several articles have been written about the event.

#### **Easter Holy Week at Green Lane**

**Sunday 14th April** 10:30am Palm Sunday service

**Friday 19th March** - GOOD FRIDAY 10:15am

Walking The Way of The

Cross through Walsall town centre (re-enactment)

3:00pm Movie Church film - God's Not Dead

7:00pm Joint evening Service at Delves Baptist Church

**Saturday 21st April** 11am -1pm

Blue Church reflection

space. The church will be open for quiet

reflection on the confusion

and pain of life. There will be prayer prompts,

with quiet music

playing. Sarah will be available for one to one prayer

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