



ONWARD AND OUTWARD.

The early Church had much to celebrate. Jesus' death and resurrection had fulfilled all God's promises to vindicate and bless the people of Israel so it was natural for them to spread this message among their own people.

Other nations were different. They had not been given God's Law and so were outside the scope of His grace. The apostles were reluctant to preach the gospel to them and include them in God's purposes. It took a special revelation to the apostle Peter to realize that this was wrong. His vision had been too narrow. When he began to preach to them (see Acts 10 and 11) he had to defend his actions to the Church. Thankfully his vision and actions were vindicated. Had they not been, the Gospel would never have reached the whole world including Britain.

We are in the same situation. We know that the Gospel is good news for the people of Birchills. Even for the whole of Walsall. Yet God's vision is much wider, even worldwide. We must not be as reluctant as the early Church was to widen our view. If we wish to grow back better we must become more of a worldwide church.

We can start by supporting our linked mission partners. The Mahons in Peru and the Lynches in Bangladesh, better, not forgetting Gemma Leadley, Graham Sansom and the Mills who visited us earlier. This is a challenge but is in our own interests to do this. Oswald Smith, a great preacher, once said, "The church which puts missions first will always prosper". Onward and outward!

Rev. Fred

New Bible Reading Groups

Making time to read and discuss the scriptures together is among the key activities for believers. Available to us currently are the following sessions: A midweek basic study group on Thursdays at 1pm at church featuring drinks, sung worship, led without study guide. Also new, on Wednesdays 7pm: A study led by Adam Bhardwaj in person at - Bilston Neighbourhood Church. This series will be practical and will encourage some personal tasks to help folks explore the text for themselves. Sundays 6.30 via WhatsApp video/audio group call from this month using the Everyday Supernatural book with study guide by Mike Pilavachi & Andy Croft.

BMS Stamp collection fundraising update

Both the Baptist Missionary Society and Home Mission are ceasing stamp collections in aid of fundraising this year. If you have used stamps to donate please leave them on the table in the lobby. Baptist Together thanks donors for contributing stamps over the decades.

English classes return

ESOL is due to return on Monday afternoons in September. Please spread the word to friends in the community who may know second language speakers looking for help to brush up their English. If you're at the building and someone inquires, make a note of their details for our registration list. We'll contact them closer to the time.

July Pulpit Schedule

3rd: Rev. Adrian Argile, HEBA Regional Minister
Team Leader - Communion Service

10th: Jackie Humphries, Tipton Christian Church

17th: John Austin, Central Methodist Church, Walsall

24th: Speaker from BMS World Mission

31st: Simon Bhardwaj, Bilston Resource Centre