

Fellowship News

February 2017

www.malboroughbaptist.co.uk

Malborough
Baptist
Church

Morning Service 10.30 a.m.

Communion Service held on
the first Sunday of the month



*The
Season
of
Lent*



Spread the Message

What do we wish for during 2017, not only for our personal and family lives but for our Church? What are our individual hopes and aspirations as we worship together seeking the will of God? Our fellowship has seen a decrease in numbers over the last two years because we all realize that we are an ageing congregation. We may feel that it is very difficult to attract people through our doors because Christianity seems to be less important to our present day society than in the past.

We may be depressed and feel that materialism is more important to

to our society than Christian worship but when I look around the world there is a lot of hope for the future. In 1949, in China, there were just one million Protestants in the country. By 2010, this had increased to 58 million. Professor Yang, a leading expert on religion in China, believes that this number will swell to around 160 million by 2025. That would put China ahead of the United States which did have around 159 million Protestants in 2010 but since then, congregations are declining. According to the U.K. 2011 census, approximately 33 million people declared themselves as Christian. From that figure only around 3 million attend church on a regular weekly basis. A recent U.K. Christianity Survey (2005-2015) indicated that Anglicanism is declining faster than any other denomination and, at the current rate of decline, would be set to disappear by 2033.

Communism has not been able to blunt the desire and belief of people who wish to follow Jesus in either Russia or China. In 1886 William Edward Soothill, a Yorkshire born missionary, founded a Church in Liushi 200 miles from Shanghai. The church was forced to close during the 1950s after Mao's anti-Christian campaigns. It reopened in 1978 and is now one of China's officially sanctioned Christian churches, which is monitored by the regime. The sermons must not diverge from the acceptable opinion of the Party. Today this church has 2700 regular worshipers and holds up to 70 baptisms a year. There are also millions of people who worship in "house churches" which are unsupervised by the communist authorities. Despite the danger, Chinese Christians are now going into North Korea to bring the gospel to the people. This a time of great change excitement and hope in China.

We must pray, as a church, that we too can deliver our message to the population of Malborough and the wider community. We should pray that ears and hearts will be opened to hear the Good News of Jesus and they will want to join in worship with us. HPJ

Forty Days-Forty Items

Spring Dates

Wednesday 1st March is the first day of Lent. Instead of giving something up this year why not do something positive to help others and declutter your home at the same time? Each day of Lent, take one item from your home that you no longer need (clean or nearly new clothing, toys, books, household items in good condition or a £1 coin) and put it in a bag. At the end of forty days, take your items (coins) to the Cornelius Shop at 6 Mill Street, Kingsbridge (01548 857313) to be sold to help local people with housing needs.

Roger Tyler

The Cornelius Fund

Prayer meeting every
Wednesday in the
Chapel 2.15 – 3.00 pm.

Next Lunch Thursday
February 16th at 12.30
p.m.

The Tuesday Drop-In
10.30 a.m. -12.00 p.m.

Deacons meeting
Friday February 3rd at
1.30 p.m.

QBM Tuesday 7th
February at 7.30 p.m.

Women's World Day
of Prayer 3rd March

News about our fellowship members

We pray for Dennis and Kate King who are both suffering from ill health. Denis is now at home recovering from a recent operation. We also remember Johanna and Judie Diamond.

Enid

Hoovering (w/e)

February

4th Mrs K Young
11th Mrs D Crocker
18th Mr F Allen
25th Mr H Jones

March

4th Mrs J Tucker

Flowers

February

5th Mr R Parsons
12th Mrs D Crocker
19th Mrs R Taylor
26th Mrs D Laphorn

March

1st Mrs G Sterry

Services

February

5th Miss A Edgecombe
12th Mr M Law
19th Collective worship
26th Mr G Snoock

March

5th Mr R Tyler

Communion

February 5th Miss S Perring and
Mrs E Parsons

March 5th Mr and Mrs R
Sanders

God of life, help us to
remember that
Jesus' journey to the cross was
to save a world in need.

When you call us to take up
your cross, you invite us into
that mission.

Give us ready hearts filled with
compassion that we are always
ready to serve those in need.

In Jesus' name we pray. Amen