



Eastwood Baptist Church

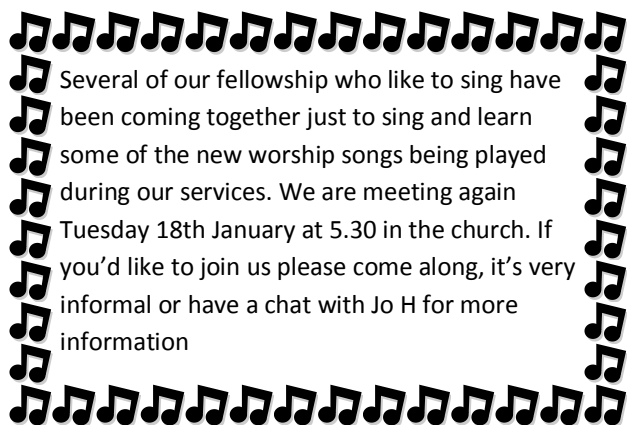
Weekly News Update

Sunday 16th January 2022

We are very pleased to welcome Rev Darren and Rev Melanie Pike and their family this morning.

The theme of the service is: **"Be Encouraged"** The reading is: **Acts chapter 4 verses 32-36**

Our planned celebratory lunch will follow the service.



Several of our fellowship who like to sing have been coming together just to sing and learn some of the new worship songs being played during our services. We are meeting again Tuesday 18th January at 5.30 in the church. If you'd like to join us please come along, it's very informal or have a chat with Jo H for more information

We have a Prayer Board in the Lower Hall displaying Eastern Baptist Association churches prayer requests plus an opportunity to place our own prayers. These will be regularly prayed for by the Leadership Team and Prayer Team. We encourage you to make use of it.

Advance Notice for Members: our next meeting will be held at **12.30 on Sunday February 6th** following the morning service. Coffee and teas are served but bring your own lunch

Please NOTE the next **Men's Breakfast** is now hopefully to be held in March, the January date of the 22nd being postponed due to continued Covid problems.

Contact Details

Minister : Rev. Jo Hellenbrand: 07810713415
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Val Statt: Church Secretary
secretary@eastwoodbaptist.org.uk

Church Address: Nobles Green Road,
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answerphone 01702 520618

If you would like prayer or for any pastoral request, please contact.

Graham and Val Back: gandvback@gmail.com
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Church Website: www.eastwoodbaptist.org.uk
Email: enquiries@eastwoodbaptist.org.uk

To find out about room use please email
bookings@eastwoodbaptist.org.uk
See us on our Facebook page too

Weekly Prayer Meetings via Zoom. To join these please see the email sent out by Val Statt giving the Zoom joining link.

Telephone joining details are:-

0330 088 5830 followed by:

Meeting ID: 894 0385 0127 Passcode: 123456.

If you have any difficulties please call me.

Thank you Jo Hellenbrand.

Using our church for WORSHIP:

Covid precautions are still being taken: you can choose where to sit but are required to wear a face covering. The Sanctuary will be well ventilated. The heating is on but please do bring something warm and consider wearing a hat. We would ask that you do not attend church if you have any Covid symptoms or have been requested to self-isolate. Please continue to use the hand sanitisers. **WELCOME TO YOU ALL**

Original Hand Made Cards by Carole Collier

Lovely hand-made cards by Carole are available to purchase with proceeds going to EBC. See selection in the vestibule. Carole can be contacted on 01702 511895 to discuss your requirements and also arrange delivery to any of our EBC family



FOR OUR PRAYER TIMES

Let's be persistent in our prayers. Pray hard and long. Pray for your brothers and sisters. Keep your eyes open. Keep each other's spirits up so that no one falls behind or drops out (Ephesians 6:18-The Message)

Our prayers may be awkward. Our attempts may be feeble. But since the power of prayer is in the One who hears it and not in the one who says it, our prayers do make a difference (Max Lucado).

This week, as well as your normal prayers for people and situations, we ask you to concentrate your prayers on two things, persecution of our sisters and brothers in many countries, and loneliness.

The Persecuted Church. In Matthew 10:22 (NIV) it says "You will be hated by everyone because of me, but the one who stands firm to the end will be saved". India, is the second most populated country in the world, expected in that respect to overtake China in just a few years. There is an 80% Hindu majority, and a Christian minority approaching 4%. Hinduism is strongly connected to Indian identity and extreme Hindu nationalism under the ruling Bharatiya Janarta Party (BJP) is growing. Persecution and anti-Christian violence has worsened since Narendra Modi became Prime Minister in 2014. The police response to anti-Christian violence is often dismissive. During strict Covid lockdowns, in certain states where the BJP hold power, Christian families and especially pastors were refused government food aid by the distributors. Lockdown also saw a marked increase in targeted hate and violence against Christians, and some have been killed.

Since 1978, Freedom of Religion Laws have been introduced in several states. Despite their name, these are in effect anti-conversion laws banning the use of force, fraud or persuasion in conversion. Their vague terms are leading to Christians often being falsely accused of using such methods.

The Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Amendment act 2020 was passed by Parliament in September 2020. This could adversely affect religious minorities who receive funding from outside India including many Christian organisations.

Ask God to protect Indian Christians against discrimination and violence, and comfort those who have lost loved ones. Pray that rising Hindu extremism will be quelled, and that political leaders will pursue peace rather than division.

Loneliness. Many people at this time, especially with the effects of Covid on lockdown and isolation, are feeling lonely, and the length of the pandemic has worsened those feelings. But where does loneliness start? For some, certain life events may make people feel lonely, such as experiencing a bereavement or living alone after a spouse/partner has died; going through a relationship break-up; retiring and losing the social contact you had at work; changing jobs and/or feeling isolated from your co-workers; starting at university or a new school; or moving to a new area or country without family, friends or community networks (think especially about refugees). Some people may be more vulnerable to loneliness, for example, if you have no friends or family; are estranged from your family; are a single parent or care for someone else-you may find it hard to maintain a social life; belong to a minority group and live in an area without others from a similar background; are excluded from social activities due to mobility problems or a shortage of money; experience discrimination and stigma because of a disability or long-term health problem (including mental health problems), or because of your gender, race or sexual orientation; have experienced sexual or physical abuse making it harder to form close relationships with other people.

Pray for all these and other situations and, if you yourself are feeling lonely or isolated at the moment, please know that a member of the pastoral team would be pleased to speak with you and to pray for you.

We still have a good range of Christmas Goodies to give out to treat our guests. This weeks request from the Warehouse is for

Mashed Potato

Box tea (80 tea bags)

Porridge

Meat meals -other than chilli con carne

Coffee/hot chocolate

Thank you Sharon and the Team

THIS WEEK 'S ACTIVITIES

Monday 17th January: 10.00-11.30 Pinocchio 's

14.30 Women's Fellowship

15.00-16.00 open to receive Food Bank donations

Tuesday 18th:10.00 Green FISH Bible study

17.30 Singing [see notice]

19.30 Blue Fish

Wednesday 19th: Food Bank open 09.30-11.00 for guests with vouchers to collect goods .

19.00 for 19.30 Zoom prayer meeting

Friday 21st :10.00-11.30 Pinocchio 's

11.30 –12.30 open to receive Food Bank donations

18.30-19.30 Friday Club

19.45-21.00 Energise

Next week January 23rd at 10.30

Our morning worship service will be led

Rev Jo Hellenbrand and Richard Leadley from CAP
(Christians Against Poverty)

After service refreshments: please add your name to the rota in the vestibule if you can help with these.

Milk and biscuits are supplied .Thank you.

These newssheets are online but if you would like a hard copy please ask Rosie or Graham. Thank you.

Please save all **used stamps** for **RNIB** and place in box in vestibule. Thank you.