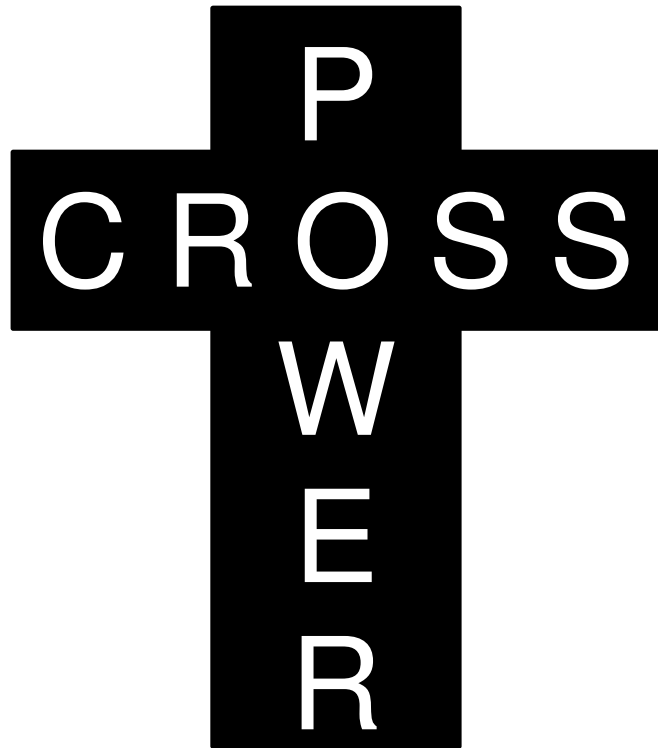




Newsletter

SPRING 2019



*The power of the Cross
Draws people to Jesus*

Jesus is Risen!



ALL THINGS IN MODERATION

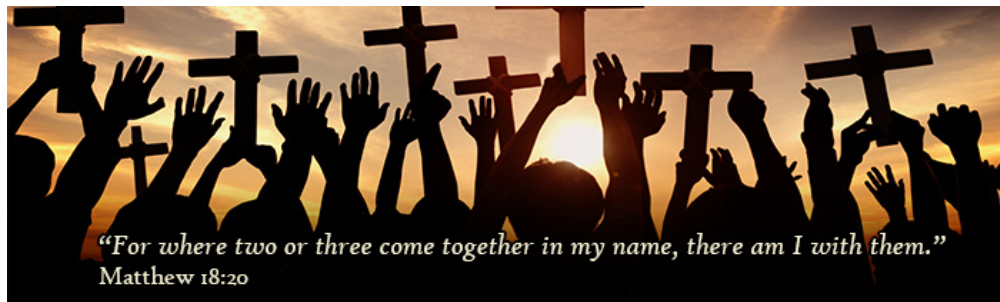
I am so encouraged to see Knaphill Baptist Church in good heart since the last time I was with you in January 2016 for Julia's induction. And although we are all sad to see Julia and Jim move on, they have left the seeds of vision for the future.

Over the coming months we will have opportunity to explore what God is saying and, together, we can discover the next stage on the journey. This will have impact on each of us as individuals, as the church and in the community. It will also focus our attention on the style of ministry we will want the next minister to exercise.

As part of that preparation, I have chosen that as a church we focus on Jesus - firstly looking at the seven "I am..." statements in John's gospel and then we'll work through the letter to the Colossians to discover the impact of Christ on daily living.

As Moderator, I am available to you should you want to talk one-to-one and my contact details are below. I plan being with you, on average, one Sunday a month although not on a regular pattern as I have other commitments some Sundays.

Prayer is the key: so let me close with that. Lord, thank you for this opportunity to work together. Bless each person



associated with Knaphill Baptist Church. May each grow in wisdom and spiritual maturity; may each be bold in sharing their faith with others and slow in criticism or gossip. May this time be a strengthening by your Spirit so that together we may see the purposes of God worked out in our midst. In Jesus' name. Amen

Yours in Christ

Rev'd Mike Stanbrook

FRIENDSHIP

A small boy defined a friend as someone who knows all about you and likes you just the same

A chap called Ralph Waldo Emerson said "A friend may well be reckoned the masterpiece of nature"

Hemy Durbenville made this observation about friendship: "A friend is the first person to come in when the whole world goes out"

I went outside to find a friend but could not find one there,

I went outside to be a friend, and friends were everywhere!

A thought Friend are seldom found, they are made

Anon





Editor's Ramblings

EAGERLY WAITING

It seems a long time since Christmas and hope you all received some great gifts. I look forward to receiving Christmas cards as they come from far and wide. Over the years I have got less and less, but managed seventy this year.

But one was missing and that was from my long time school friend. We met when I had to change schools and found out we were living in the same road, A strong friendship soon evolved. His house was opposite the Baptist church and he took me to the youth club, where we made a lot of new friends. This is where we met our partners and got married in the church being each others "best man".

Eventually we moved to Woking and Eric and his wife to Weston Super Mare. But we kept up the friendships.

Still no card or letter, perhaps he has gone away or not well or moved. I waited until the New Year and still no card or letter. I tried 'phoning his home, hoping that one of his daughters would be in the house, but still nothing. Something was obviously wrong, then I had a brain wave to ring his church. A friend got the number for me, I rang the number only to be told the office was closed for a week. So I decided to ring Sunday morning with some success. "I'm asking after my old school friend who is a member of your church, Eric and Margaret Darling". (His wife died two years ago).

Then came the sad news, Eric had passed away in mid November. I gave him my details and he said he would let Eric's daughter Ruth know that I was asking after him.

I had a lovely letter a week later from Ruth saying that Eric had passed away peacefully in his sleep.

The end of a long lasting friendship, we spent many weekends together with the Youth Group we grew up with. This Youth Group was started up by a group of young Christians in the 1940's where many long lasting friendships were made.



It seems a long time since Christmas but thanks to all those who organised and took part in the many services.

The Nativity - thanks to Susan and Jigsaw who helped to put this together.

Also to Eric and helpers who decorated the church for the Carols by Candle-light service, and various other services.

Our thanks to Graham for organising the speakers for Sunday services.

Our thanks also to Margaret and Linda for opening their homes for house groups on Monday evenings and

Thursday afternoons. These are times for "mid week" fellowship and friendship, all part of our well being!

Fellowship News

For Your Prayers

Please see the weekly news sheet for those in need of prayer, but please pray for Eileen Webber who I am told is not at all well at the moment.

Also remember Ellen Goode in your prayers, it was good to see her in church on Sunday and out thanks to Sohan who kindly brought her.

Some good news - it was good to hear that Craig and Debbie have found new jobs and please remember Susan who is looking for a new job.

Sunday School



THE teacher stood her scholars in a row,
To ask them all the things they didn't know:
She said: " Now, children, who first made the flowers?
Who brings the sunshine and who brings the
showers?
Who makes the snowdrop come in early Spring ?
Who taught the robin redbreast how to sing ?
Who brings the swallows and who helps the bees
To give us honey from the linden trees ?"

The teacher paused, and when the list was done,

A small voice answered: " Mr. Middleton."



He trod the road to Calvary,
A hard and uphill road,
Men's tongues a scourge of bitterness
A cross for heavy load.

He trod the road in loneliness,
His only word a Prayer.
Men spat upon, reviled Him
And laughed and did not care.

O Lord of understanding,
Forgive me if this day,
I add a weight unto Thy Cross
Upon the Kings Highway.



Small is Beautiful

One story of Valentine who was a monk recalls that he was sorry he had little ability and could not do more to help people. One day while at prayer he heard the voice of God saying to him, "Do the little things, Valentine, for therein lies greatness." He began to Watch for chances to do small deeds of helpfulness and found many every day.

If GOD should go on STRIKE

How good it is that God above has never
gone on strike
Because he was not treated fair in things
He didn't like
If only once he'd given up and said, that's
it, I'm through
I've had enough of those on earth, so this is what I'll do.

I'll give my orders to the sun - cut off the heat supply
and to the moon - give no more light, and run the ocean dry
Then, just to make things really tough and put the pressure on,
Turn off the vital oxygen till every breath is gone.

Men say they want a better deal, and so on strike they go
But what a deal we've given God to whom all things we owe
We don't care who we hurt to gain the things we would like
But what a mess we'd all be in, if GOD should go on strike.

A man may go to Heaven
without health, without
riches, without honours,
without friends, but he
can never go there without
the Lord Jesus Christ.



"HE WAS THERE"

(Exodus 33. 14)

Jesus heard when you prayed last night,
He talked with God about you;
Jesus was there when you fought that fight,
He is going to bring you through.

Jesus knew when you shed those tears,
But you did not weep alone;
For the burden you thought too heavy to bear,
He made His very own.

Jesus Himself was touched by that trial,
Which you could not understand;
Jesus stood by as you almost fell,
And lovingly grasped your hand. -

Jesus cared when you bore that pain;
Indeed, He bore it too;
He felt each pang, each ache in your heart,
Because of His love for you.

Jesus was grieved when you doubted His love,
But He gave you grace to go on;
Jesus' rejoiced as you trusted Him,
The only trustworthy One.

His Presence shall ever be with you,
- No need to be anxious or fret;
Wonderful Lord! He was there all the time,
He has never forsaken you yet.

NEIL HAWKINS,
80 Ronald Street,
Liverpool L13 2AB.

Ruth's Page

Over the twenty years or so that I worked as a secretary I must have typed many thousands of letters. In a way, I was just following on in a long line of scribes and secretaries dating back to Bible times when a great many letters were also written. This quiz is all about the letters written in Bible times –how many can you answer?

1. Where did Paul ask for his letter to be read after it was read to "the holy and faithful brothers in Christ at Colosse"?
2. Who sent a letter to Joab, instructing him to put Uriah in the front line of battle?
3. Which king received a letter from Elijah predicting judgement on his sinful reign?
4. Who wrote a letter "To those who through the righteousness of our God and Saviour Jesus Christ have received a faith as precious as ours"?
5. Which queen wrote to the leaders of Jezreel instigating plans to kill Naboth in order to obtain his vineyard?
6. Who asked the high priest for letters of introduction to the synagogues in Damascus so that he could seek out followers of Jesus?
7. Who, with Paul, penned the first Letter to the Corinthians?
8. Who, using John as a scribe, wrote to the seven churches in Asia?
9. Who did Paul write to concerning Onesimus?
10. What disease was Naaman suffering from when he was sent with a letter of commendation by the King of Aram to the King of Israel?
11. Who wrote a letter recommending Apollos to the Corinthian church?
12. Who did Sanballat send a threatening letter to trying to discourage plans to rebuild Jerusalem?
13. Which Church in the Book of Revelation was criticised in a letter as being "lukewarm"?
14. How many letters did Paul address to Timothy?
15. Who wrote a short letter to "my dear friend Gaius"?
16. How many books of the New Testament contain letters attributed to the Apostle Peter?

1. The church of the Laodiceans (Colossians Ch4:v16); 2. David (2 Samuel Ch11:vs14-15); 3. King Jehoram (2 Chronicles Ch21:vs12-15); 4. Simon Peter (2 Peter Ch1:v1); 5. Jezebel (1 Kings Ch21:8-10); 6. Saul (Acts Ch9:v2); 7. Sosthenes (1 Corinthians Ch1:v1); 8. Jesus (Revelation Ch1:vs1-3); 9. Philemon (Philemon Ch1:v10); 10. Leprosy (2 Kings Ch5:vs4-6); 11. The Ephesian church (Acts Ch18:v27); 12. Nehemiah (Nehemiah Ch6:vs5-7); 13. Loadicea (Revelation Ch3:vs14-16); 14. Two (1 Timothy & 2 Timothy); 15. The apostle John (3John Ch1); 16. Two (1 Peter & 2 Peter).

From The Treasurer's Calculator

There have not been many matters financial on which to report from the past three months; we agreed a budget for 2019 based on the offering figure that would be needed to sustain a full time minister, but that will likely give us a healthy surplus for the year to store away ready for when God guides us to "what next"; we closed 2018 in a healthy position and will review and hopefully accept the Accounts at the AGM on 24th.

Of more note has been the work on the buildings. We made the decision in February to let the manse rather than leave it empty for an extended period. Martin and Co have been appointed to let and manage the property, and whilst it looks like little has happened, all the preparation work including safety inspections and boiler service have now taken place and there have been several viewings. I remain hopeful that there will be a tenant before too long.

We had a great Spring Cleaning morning earlier this month – thanks again to all who gave up their time to given the place a really good clean, not quite from top to bottom, as the weather prevented probably the most visible external job happening – cleaning the high level paintwork on the front of the church. We'll go back to that later in the Spring.

Probably the biggest new occupier of my time – far more than I expected – has been the preparation each week for worship. Graham is doing a fabulous job filling the diary each week – thank you, and Mike has set a great program of teaching that all our speakers are adopting willingly. But I've never realised just how much work Julia did preparing the material for the screen and coordinating the other participants. Ruth gets all the hymns ready, but it's surprising how

long it takes to prepare the rest and get all the music ready for Stephen, Judy and I.

Following our set of studies / reflections from Renew Wellbeing on what it means for a church to be a Renew Centre, there's been a focus on building ourselves into a fellowship – "Stronger Together" to borrow somebody else's slogan. The things we've tried don't come without a price to be paid; coffee each week before the service does make the church more welcoming as well as giving the fellowship a excuse to gather early and gossip (sorry – inquire earnestly about how each other are!) But it does place a burden on those who prepare and serve it – so could you help spread the workload around a little more?

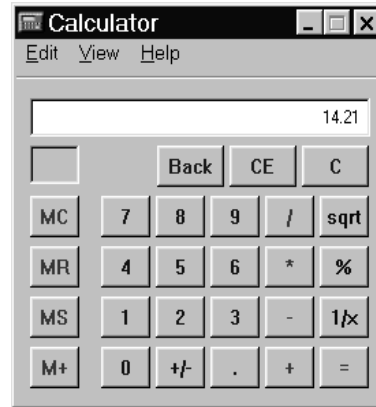
And we thoroughly enjoyed our "Flipping Marvellous Pancake Evening" in support for Christians Against Poverty. Well done Sue for organising and Craig and Ian for cooking. Next up is a Quiz and Cream Tea afternoon that Ruth is organizing. There will be wide mix of topics

covered, from General Knowledge through to the plain ridiculous. And FOOD!

Following the AGM this week, the Deacons are very keen to get back to the question of "vision", so look out for dates for prayer meetings, discussions and similar, as we aim as one church to seek His will and guidance for the church.

Finally, I'd be failing as a treasurer if I didn't close with some more thoughts about finances. Below you will see the offering figures over the past few months. We need to pray that the steep downward trend doesn't continue.

Eric



Our recent offering figures...Thank you.

	Aug. 18	Sep. 18	Oct. 18	Nov 18	Dec. 18	Jan. 19	Feb. 19
Actual	£795	£862	£722	£631	£695	£641	£567
Target	£843	£843	£843	£843	£843	£850	£850