

CONTACT DETAILS (area phone code 01778 unless stated)

Web site: www.bournebaptistchurch.org

If you need any information about our Church and activities, or have any enquiries please contact:

Church Administrator: Nadine 424206 (church office)

E-mail: admin@bournebaptistchurch.org

Minister: Andy 424206 (Day off: Thursday)

E-mail: andy@bournebaptistchurch.org

Student Youth Worker: Amy Rotherham (Day off: Friday)

E-mail: amy@bournebaptistchurch.org

Pastoral Care Team: Anyone in need please contact Maureen 07889958905 or Email: mecor@btinternet.com or Ralph 426970.

Prayer Chain: Alison 07977461372

Children's and Youth activities: Paul & Angie 393037

Toddle In – Parents & Toddlers: Catherine 346999

Alternatives Pregnancy Advice Centre: Lorrae 422603

Church Back Hall Bookings: Primary School age Birthday Parties for church members only.

Church Newsletter (weekly) : Nadine (Deadline Wednesday's 4pm)

bbc monthly: Nadine (Deadline 3rd Wednesday of the month)

Bourne Baptist Church, West Street, Bourne PE10 9NE

bbc monthly
December 2011
January 2012



bbc  Bourne Baptist Church God within, reaching out

Minister's Thoughts

The Greatest Gift

One dark night God spoke to a group of shepherds minding their own business.

I've done a bit of camping out on hillsides and have been terrified a few times by thunderstorms directly overhead, yet whatever the shepherds had experienced before on the hillside, nothing had prepared them for this night and the sudden arrival of the angels like a flash out of the blue. They were absolutely terrified.

The accounts of the people who met the baby Jesus have many differences. The Kings go on a long journey following a great star, when Jesus is dedicated in the temple we meet two characters who have spent a long time waiting for this moment and God guides them to Jesus – they had been watching and waiting for God's chosen one to come.

And here we have the shepherds, lowly, poorly paid, menial workers doing a job that meant working seven days a week. As they could hardly take their flock into the temple this meant that on the Jewish social ladder they were at the bottom, and were viewed by many as outcasts. And here on the hillside, the shepherds were watching, watching over their flocks by night, all seated in a ring (apparently), and here God does something that blows their socks off, so there was no washing their socks that night! Suddenly God had their attention, not the sheep, not their socks or whatever else they may have been doing in the middle of the night. In the middle of a field, in the middle of a flock of sheep, they get caught up in the middle of the most important birth the world has ever seen.

As we journey again over the next few weeks into the middle of the Christmas story, as we see again the baby at the heart of the story – may we each get caught up again in this most incredible story of the Greatest Gift.

A birth planned long before Mary was born, a birth that God had planned because He knew we would need someone who could open the way for us to get right with God. In Jesus, God came to earth as a human being, and this birth is the most important birth whether we have spent time watching and waiting, or whether we were lost in a career, or family or lifestyle and were suddenly made aware of it.

The shepherds took action on what they were told, and as they reached Jesus, the Saviour of the World, they responded with worship and praise. A response that I hope we each will make as we here the stories again and reflect on their impact upon our lives.

It's always good to know that wherever we are, even in the middle of a field, God can change our situations, our lives, and gives us as the carol says "the wondrous blessings of His heaven".



As the Christmas advertising says, "Christmas starts with Christ". It's true and Christmas is most full of meaning when we make Christ first.

With much love in Christ

Andy
Minister of Bourne Baptist Church

Leadership Team Update

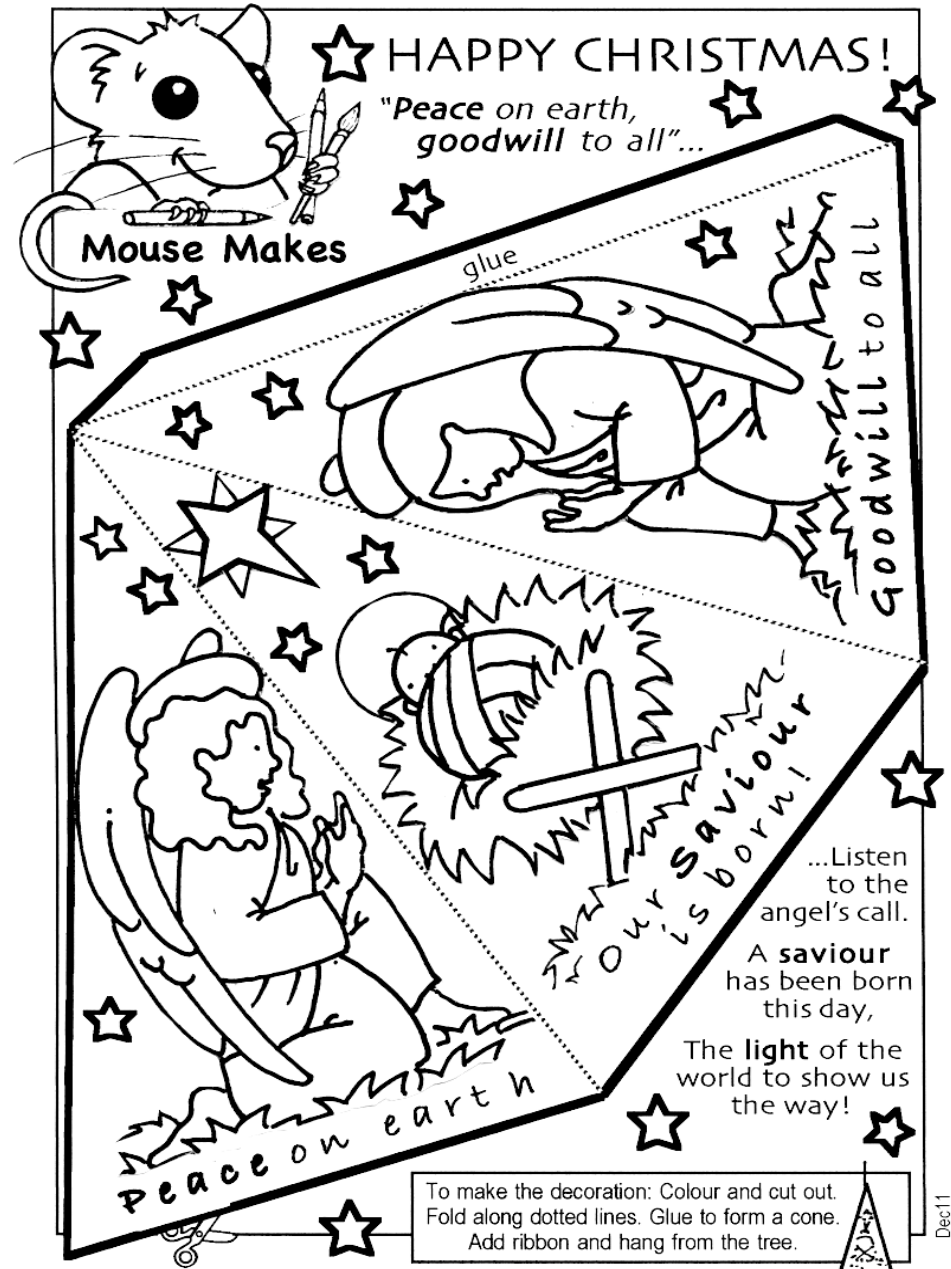
At the forefront of my mind as I write this report is the number of people in the church who are ill, awaiting hospital treatment or are living with some uncertainty. How important it is that we uphold these people in prayer and by our practical help and support. Our minister and some of the leaders together with members of the congregation form what we call our Pastoral Care Team, and it has never been more needed. Our prayer chain seems to be working overtime and the weekly prayer meeting has a growing list of people and situations to pray over. Please make much use of these, as this is the front line of the battle. It is probably no coincidence that we get hit so badly when our outreach at Alpha is going so well.

At the leadership meeting we were very pleased to welcome Roland onto the team. Amongst the exciting things we have been discussing recently have been Cafe Church - can we really meet occasionally in Costa Coffee and what form would that take? This could be a great form of outreach but what about expense? Are we up for it?

Admittedly less exciting but nevertheless important are the issues of building and finance, headed up by Jonathan. Our building loan repayments are running to schedule and the current bank balance looks good at £30,000-£40,000. I frequently put a slight dampener on this at meetings by asking "But what big expenditures are coming our way?" Apart from our regular outgoings there are boilers in the church and manse that need to be checked & maintained, the steps and safety rail at the front of church need to be fixed, there is a chimney that needs to come down before it does so of its own accord, plastering inside the church and the wall at the front need attention. The Treasurer's job is a very busy one and needs our support and encouragement.

Leaders have set aside another day away in January for prayer, reflection and strategic thinking. The Vision for the church that has been discussed by the Leadership is now being shared with the church as a whole.

Fun



Children's/Youth work report

Welcome to the new Children's/Youth work article!

I'm going to be giving a little overview of what has been happening in children's and youth work at Bourne Baptist Church over the past few weeks.

Bourne Baptist Church held the Light Party for children and young people, at which they had the chance to play games in light up balloons (they were as amazing as they sound!), to make various light-themed crafts and to eat lots of food, including homemade biscuits that they could decorate with anything sugary! (We had a lot of fun filling children with lots of E numbers and then sending them home!) Many thanks to those who organised the event and to all who volunteered, and thank you to all the children and young people who came along dressed in their best neon outfits!

'Tuesday club' has been very busy making lots of exciting crafts, including homemade bird feeders, which was very messy and smelly, but a lot of fun! We are now beginning to look at the Nativity story in a fun and exciting way as we build up to Christmas.

At 'young youth' we've been looking the importance of the Bible in our personal relationships with God. We have also begun to sponsor a new child from 'Kids Alive' organisation, called Shiva who is from Nepal and we are praying together for him (and a lot of other important stuff) weekly. We are also beginning to get excited about the nativity and rehearsing what we shall be performing!

At the older youth group, held on a Tuesday evening, we have been looking at the Gospels, how we can spend time with God in our own lives and how we listen to God. These are really important and so key for us to be exploring as we look to grow in our relationships with God.

Thank you for all the prayers for our children and young people. And a massive thanks you to everyone who gives up their time to help in Sunday school and the weekly groups.

God bless,

Amy



At Bourne Baptist Church we have a wonderful fellowship. There is really nothing at all like Christian fellowship anywhere else, no matter where you look. We have a depth of sharing and support that the rest of society cannot match, and we thank God for it.

We are also in the position of being able to welcome lots of newcomers into the church at the moment, and have the opportunity to include them in our fellowship.

So this is a plea: however inadequate you might feel, please do make the effort to speak to new people (just walk across the room!) and include them in conversation. No-one, newcomer or not, should be standing alone during "after worship coffee time". Each one of us is part of the public face of Bourne Baptist Church.

It would also be good to invite newcomers (and existing worshippers who we don't know very well) into our homes on a regular basis. It doesn't have to be a slap up meal – just coffee and a real welcome go a long way. Our homes are gifts from God, let's use them to His glory.

Whatever our specific calling might be, we can all be welcomers, particularly to those who are wondering whether Bourne Baptist Church might be their spiritual home for the future.

Neville Hydes



Book review by Angela Higgs

EPIC - The Story God is Telling by John Eldredge

I am never disappointed with a John Eldredge book and this beautiful little book is one that I read regularly. I find myself delighted by each wonderful page.

I love reading and devour novels as well as Christian books at an incredible rate. In this book John Eldredge talks about some of the beautiful books and films that we have enjoyed in the last few decades e.g. "The Lord of the Rings," "Star Wars," "Titanic," "The Matrix" and "The Chronicles of Narnia". Each of these stories has a common theme and Eldredge shows how they are similar to the Greatest Story Ever Told.

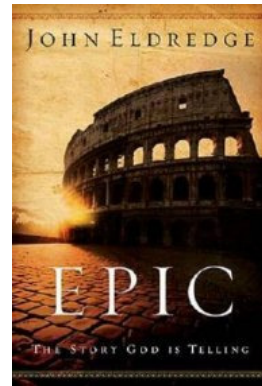
These stories have become popular because there is something in them that we want to be true -the courageousness of heroes winning against evil, and we wish that they were true for ourselves. Eldredge points out that the possibility is there and that we can live happily ever after upon completion of a heroic deed. Jesus lived a simple life and is a friend to so many but He was put to death. That is not the end of the story, as we know but the beginning of Real Life. Our lives are not just meaningless accidents - a result of a weird chemical reaction, and no matter how wonderful or horrible our circumstances are around us, we are here for a purpose and that does not reach its fulfilment until we are reconciled with the Son of God.

There are just 6 chapters where God's plan of salvation is presented; there are appropriate Bible quotes but no theological terminology. Every page aims at your heart and it is an incredible gospel presentation. This is a little gem of a book - Don't miss out by not reading it. New in the library now, or treat yourself to a copy as a special Christmas present to yourself.

New Book Group

A number of people have approached me about starting a Church Book Group.

The books we will read will not be heavy theological tomes. There are now a number of Christian novel writers such as Francine Rivers, Beverly Lewis etc, and I know that many of you enjoy these books but feel that you would like to discuss them as part of a group. If you would like to join us please e-mail me angela.higgs2@btinternet.com or text me on 07972496490.



Monthly Notices

"Soaking in the presence of God"- you are warmly invited to the next soaking session on December 4th and January 8th at 7.30pm in the church. Come, soak, listen and receive from our Father. More info - see Niall or Alison.

CHRISTMAS CAROLS at THE CEDARS

We have been approached by the staff at The Cedars Nursing Home to take a Carol Service. The date this will take place is Monday 19th December at 3.00pm. All are welcomed to come along and add their voices to make this a special event for the residents. We shall also be taking mince pies.



Friday Live! - Not enough hours in the day? Short on time to read your Bible? You are not alone! Calling all ladies!

Come and relax with a ladies' Bible study led by Kate Hydes. Fridays, every two weeks at Jeans Café from 10 – 11.30am. Dates are: December 9th, January 13th and 27th, February 10th and 24th, March 9th and 23rd. Friday live! Could be for you!



DIGBY COURT SERVICE SUNDAY 29

January It is our turn to take a short service for the residents of Digby Court. The service will begin at 4.00pm and last approximately 35 minutes. We will be taking cakes in and chatting to the residents after the service as they have their cake along with a cup of "rosy lee". If you are free we would love you to come along and add your voice to making a joyful noise to the King of Kings. If you can make it please let Roland know ASAP.



Fresh Christmas Holly Wreaths for sale £9.50.

Please order from Leigh on 421866 or Lorrae on 422603. Proceeds in aid of Jeans Youth Cafe.

DOWSBY COURT SERVICE SUNDAY 27 November

We will be taking a short service for the residents of Yew Tree Residential Home. The service will begin at 3.00pm and last approximately 35 minutes. We will be taking cakes in and chatting to the residents after the service as they have their cake along with a cup of "rosy lee". If you are free we would love you to come along and add your voice to making a joyful noise to the King of Kings. They really appreciate us visiting them. If you can make it please let Roland know ASAP.



Evergreen Annual Open Meeting will be held on Thursday, 8th December at 7.30pm at Christ Church, Green Lane, Stamford. This will be an opportunity to be updated on all the activities of the Trust.

bbc's AGM will be held Tuesday, 17th January at 7.45pm at our church.

bbc's Christmas services: December 11th Nativity Family Service at 10.30am, December 18th Carol Services at 4pm and 7pm (there will be no morning service), December 25th Christmas Day Service at 10am.

bbc monthly February 2012. For any inserts - deadline will be January 18th.

A Christmas Prayer

Loving Father, help us to remember the birth of Jesus, that we may share in the song of the angels, the gladness of the shepherds, and the worship of the wise men.

Close the door of hate and open the door of love all over the world.

Let kindness come with every gift and good desires with every greeting.

Deliver us from evil by the blessing which Christ brings, and teach us to be merry with clear hearts.

May the Christmas morning make us happy to be Thy children, and the Christmas evening bring us to our beds with grateful thoughts, forgiving and forgiven, for Jesus' sake. Amen!

[Robert Louis Stevenson]

Birthdays

Birthdays in December

3	Sue Gascoigne
7	Andrew Greaves
11	Jack Knowles
13	Ralph Eaton
14	Sally Knowles
23	Dylan Godfrey
26	Jonathan Palmer
26	Henry Smith
28	Vanessa Johnson
29	Ben Randall

