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**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

## February 2012

# LENT



bbc  Bourne Baptist Church God within, reaching out

## Minister's Thoughts

### Moving On Together...

There is a story of a group of people who set out on an expedition. Everything was going well until they hit a snowstorm, which just did not stop. They waited a while hoping it would pass, but they realised it may not. So they decided to try and see if they could reach a village. After a hard twenty-four hours, they realised they were back in the same place they had started. The blizzard had kept them from having any sense of direction and they had walked in a big circle. They were growing more aware of their vulnerability.

Then one of the members of the group came up with the idea of throwing snowballs. The idea was that they would aim to travel in a straight line, hoping to reach a village. They started throwing the snowballs a little in front of them. Then one step at a time, they would throw another in a straight line from the previous one, using each person as a marker to ensure that they were always heading straight. They made it to a village and their rescuers said they had done well to survive in such dangerous conditions.

As we look ahead as a church to 2012 and beyond, we also need to ensure that we are heading one step at a time in the right direction together.

Over 2011 we spent time looking at our vision as a church, both in our church members meetings and in leadership meetings. Over recent days we have looked in our house-groups at the draft vision document. Then at the AGM after a presentation and discussion, there was a real sense that this is the right vision for us, and it was adopted as our church vision for the coming years. This is a really exciting start to 2012 and to our moving on together. The vision will be talked about more over the coming weeks.

Alongside this on Sunday mornings we have been looking at some of the events in the life of Moses and reflecting through them on both our individual and church life. We have already seen the amazing way God kept Moses as a baby, and how even in difficult times God works His purposes out. We have seen how Moses tried to do things in his own strength, and how he ended up running for his life. Then we discovered that God had great plans for Moses, plans that result in God's people being set free from Egypt and living life in covenant with God.

The steps Moses had to take were never easy. He often didn't want to take them, or he wanted someone else to take them for him. But as he moved on together with God, and those God provided to help him on the journey, he saw incredible things of the Almighty.

As we look to God's future for us as His church here in Bourne, we need to walk each step with Him, stepping out in prayer and in faith, following His leading and His vision, and as we move on together lets pray that we too may see incredible things of God.

With much love  
in Christ

Andy

Minister of  
Bourne Baptist  
Church.



## Mission Focus by Colin Pratt

2012 has arrived and the world has celebrated in style the coming of a New Year. For Britain 2012 is an important year with the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Celebrations in June and the Olympics and Para-Olympics taking place in the summer. There are also many other worldwide events that cry out for our attention. Already this year events in Afghanistan, Iran, Syria, Egypt, Nigeria, North Korea, Russia, to name only a few, have been in the news. Thank God that He knows each situation and His love reaches to every part of our needy world. Here are just a few items for Praise and Prayer to start off 2012.

*Thanks be to God, who always leads us as captives in Christ's triumphal procession and uses us to spread the aroma of the knowledge of Him everywhere. For we are to God the pleasing aroma of Christ among those who are being saved and those who are perishing (2Cor.2:14-15).*

### NORWAY

The UK's 2011 bestseller lists might have been dominated by cookery, courtesy of Jamie Oliver, and romance courtesy of David Nicholls, but Norwegian readers were plumping for another sort of book last year: the Bible. The first Norwegian translation of the Bible for 30 years topped the country's book charts almost every week between its publication in October and the end of the year, selling almost 80,000 copies so far and hugely exceeding expectations. Its launch in the autumn saw Harry Potter-style overnight queues, with bookshops selling out on the first day as Norwegians rushed to get their hands on the new edition. 'We only printed 25,000 to start with and thought it would last six to nine months, but it was launched mid-October and by the end of the year it had sold 79,000 copies – 'it's just incredible,' said Stine Smemo Strachan, who worked on the project for the Norwegian Bible Society.

### WALES

There is a rising tide of prayer across Wales as His children seek His face for our nation. There seems to be a buzz in the air as stories are arising across Wales of God doing wonderful things in peoples' lives. Beautiful testimonies are emerging, Jesus is being glorified and the Holy Spirit seems to be moving in every corner of the nation. House of Prayer Ffald-y-Brenin cannot cope with the number of visitors coming to pray and has given up trying, so that Bed and Breakfasts are full of those who

come up to pray during the daytime. People are pouring in from around the world and leave carrying increased blessing. Elsewhere across Wales people are suddenly finding that the simplest prayers suddenly lead them into the very presence of our life-changing God. Home-based Houses of Prayer are multiplying, both singly and in networks. 24-hour Prayer is being raised up across the land.

Praise: God and may His Glory cover all of Wales as the waters cover the sea. (Hab.3:2)

### SYRIA:

The campaign of violence launched by President Bashar al-Assad in response to public protests has now resulted in the deaths of 5000+ citizens by the government. Human rights groups say as many as 37,000 are being held in prisons and secret detention centres where torture is routine. At least 617 people have died from torture. As recently as January 5th several activist groups reported deadly violence involving security forces firing on demonstrators and clashes between army and soldiers who had defected to the opposition. We are asked to pray for the salvation of President al-Assad, and for him to stop killing and torturing his own people. (1 Tim.2:1-4) Pray for the Lord to accomplish His plans and purposes for this nation. (Jer. 29:11). For those who have lost friends and family to be comforted. Pray for them to cry out to the Lord to know His love and comfort during this time of grief. (2 Cor.1:3,4)

### NORTH KOREA

Christian groups are among the signatories of an open letter to the new North Korean leader appealing for an end to human rights abuses in the country. 24.5 million people in North Korea are 'living in fear' of arbitrary detention, disappearance, torture or death. The groups condemn the detention of 200,000 men, women and children for political reasons in prison or labour camps; asking for an end to the incarceration of relatives of political prisoners because of 'guilt by association'. They condemn the political elite for living 'like royalty' while millions suffer widespread hunger, malnutrition and a lack of healthcare. President of 'Open North Korea' said, 'Kim Jong-un should look to his legacy. He has the opportunity to be remembered as the leader who restored freedom to the people of North Korea.'

PRAY - that North Korea would meet its obligations under international treaties, and grant access to human rights monitors from the United Nations and the International Committee of the Red Cross. (Ps.45:23-26)

## Monthly Notices

**“Soaking in the presence of God”**- you are warmly invited to the next soaking session on February 5<sup>th</sup> at 7.30pm in the church. Come, soak, listen and receive from our Father. For more info please see Niall or Alison.

**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: January 27<sup>th</sup>, February 10<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>, March 9<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>. Friday live! Could be for you!

### Alternatives Pregnancy Advice Centre, Bourne

We provide help and support to all those who need to talk concerning an unplanned pregnancy or pregnancy loss either because of miscarriage, stillbirth or abortion. All our counselling is free and confidentiality is assured. Statistics reveal that 1 in 3 women will have had an abortion by the time they are 45. We have specialist training in this area. Don't be alone. Ring the centre on 01778 394935 or text Lorrae on 07989 152112.

We are affiliated to CareConfidential. Check out the website on [www.careconfidential.com](http://www.careconfidential.com)

Please find a newsletter from Aid to Bosnia at the Back Hall notice board.

### Birthdays in February

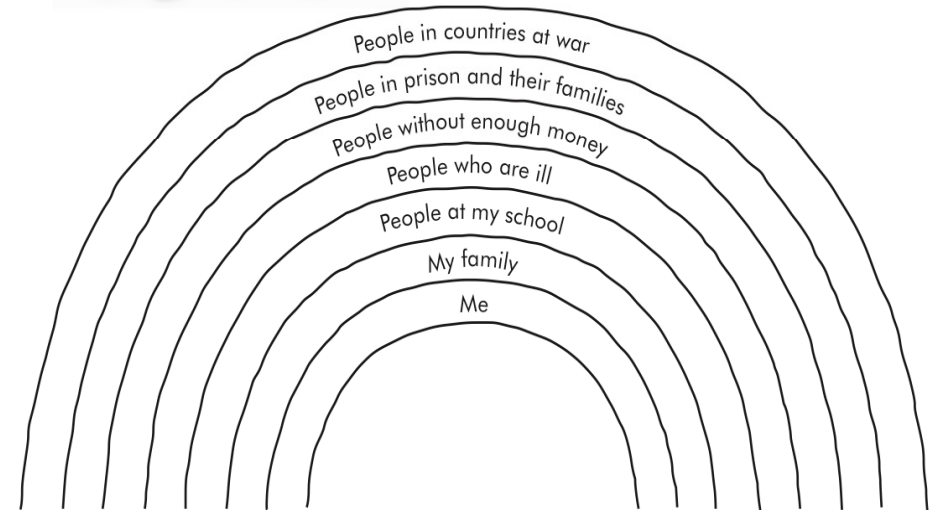
5	Jada Adams	21	Matilda Eagle- Brown
6	Billy McManus	24	Kimberly Abel
9	Stan Roberts	26	Beth Eagle- Brown
10	Rita Wilson	27	Rosemary Gostling
19	Kathy Brown	27	Paul Fitzgerlad
21	Sophie Wilson		



## Fun

### Rainbow prayer

Colour the rainbow and pray for the people as you colour.



'Each morning you listen to my prayer, as I bring my requests to you and wait for your reply.'  
(Psalm 5:3)

Reproduced with permission from *Messy Crafts* published by BRF 2011 (978 1 84101 816 4) £6.99 [www.messychurch.org.uk](http://www.messychurch.org.uk)

## Leadership Team Focus

### Was there really a Moses?

Usually I write in the Leadership Team reports about the activities and discussions on the team. Today I thought I would do something different.

All of us on the Leadership Team have our own particular areas of interest. For some it is preaching, for others working with youth, playing in the music group or maybe attending to buildings or finance (the last two may be better described as tasks rather than interests - nobody really has an interest in paying bills or fixing leaky pipes do they?). I have to confess that for over 40 years I have had a growing interest in Christian apologetics - that is 'Why we have confidence to believe what we believe'. In this respect, I have just completed a course on Biblical Archaeology, hence the comments below.

At the start of this year, Andy will be focussing the life of Moses. So what are we to make of this ancient character? I well remember as a teenager being confidently told that Moses could not have written the Pentateuch because writing was not invented at that time. Today we have many examples of writing from well before Moses' time, some of which are displayed in the British Museum in London. But bible critics do not give up that easily, so we were told there was no King David, no Belshazzar, no census under King Herod etc. Discoveries in the last century have put many such theories into the recycle bin to such an extent that I completed my Archaeology studies with a firmer respect for the truth of the Old Testament than ever before.

One happy hunting ground for critics has been Moses and the Exodus. Did it occur? Well here's an interesting statistic...Professor James K Hoffmeier, an Egyptologist originally of Toronto University but now with Trinity International University in the USA, recently conducted a survey among world leading Egyptologists in which he asked if the respondents believed that the Exodus really happened. Ninety-six percent of respondents said 'yes'. Hoffmeier commented that the result was much better than he would have expected from today's theologians.

Liverpool University's Brunner Professor Emeritus of Egyptology, Kenneth Kitchen, is highly critical of those who take a low opinion of the Old Testament and he delivers a 640 page evidence-based response. He shows case-by-case how critical theories arise from 'dogmatism, dead-end guesswork and 'shabby treatment of evidence'.

He reminds us that one well-known author who cast doubt on Moses etc actually hated Egyptologists and in formulating his views referred to "the God-forsaken dreariness of certain modern Egyptologists". So if your clever new theory doesn't fit the facts, you can always bury your head in the proverbial Egyptian sand and ignore reality.

Right from the Patriarchs, through Moses and up to the time of King David, we do not find little brass plaques with the inscription "Moses (David, Joshua etc) slept here!" but what we find consistently are artefacts that show that the times and culture are exactly as described in the Bible and could not have been imagined by a later generation. My favourite example is the brick of Ramesses II displayed in the British Museum bearing the seal of Ramesses and showing clear straw marks, which dates to 1279-1212 BC, the time of Israelite enslavement in Egypt (recall Exodus 5:6-9).

So rich is the evidence of Old Testament history that T. C. Mitchell, former keeper of Antiquities at the British Museum wrote a whole book on biblical artefacts housed just in the UK (let alone those kept in France, Germany, Egypt, Israel and USA!).

As new discoveries push aside old doubts, I am reminded of the words of John Bowring based on Galatians 6:14

In the Cross of Christ I glory  
Towering o'er the wrecks of time  
All the light of sacred story  
Gathers round its head sublime.

Ralph

### THANK YOU!

Thank you to all who helped Tim and Debbie move into Bourne on New Years Day. We really appreciate the fantastic way in which so many from the Bourne Baptist Church showed true Christian love unloading the van for them.

Love in Jesus to a great church, Geoff (the van driver)

## People Profile

In 1971 I went to Crewe Teachers College to become a teacher and it was there that my life was changed. I went to a Christian Union meeting and made friends with several Christians. One of the Christians, Roy Smith, spent time with me talking about what it was to be a Christian. On the 23rd April 1972 I became a Christian, fully accepting Jesus Christ as my Saviour. I started on my life's journey with Him and attended the Railway Mission.



The Mission was friendly and evangelical, fully preaching Gods Word, teaching us to read the Bible and good Christian literature, and the vital importance of prayer. I remember the Tuesday prayer meetings, which often took place in people's homes with thirty plus people being in one room packed like sardines.

One day in the summer of 1972 I had walked into Roy's study room which he shared with two other Christians, when suddenly a young lady hidden by a curtain jumped down from the window sill and imitated a chicken! This was my first meeting with Jan (Janet), who three years later became my wife. Jan also became a Christian at college and we were both baptised with our friend Bob at West Street Baptist Church Crewe.

In 1974 I started teaching in Crewe. In August 1975 Jan and I were married at the Railway Mission, where both of us became involved with Covenanter youth work. I also became a deacon. The Railway Mission became Crewe Evangelical Church. We then converted a cheese warehouse into a church, yes we did really believe in converting for the Lord. In January 1979 our first son John was born. We left Crewe in October 1981 to Warrington where I had taken a job at a new school.

Our second son Peter was born in Warrington on June 1982. We had started going to Lymm Evangelical Church. I was made a deacon and we stayed there until 1992 when we moved to Bourne.

When we came to Bourne I was the treasurer for the 350th anniversary year and for several years was a deacon, I gave these positions up to give more time to the work that I started here in Bourne called Baltic Aid.

While I have been on my journey with the Lord there was the preparation for a future task and that was the formation of Baltic Aid. To explain about this I must give a bit of historical background. My father was Latvian, a farmer son with a Lutheran Church background; he survived the first Soviet occupation 1940 to 1941, which in Latvian history is known as 'The Year of Terror'. On 14 June 1941, over 35,000 Latvians were killed or deported to Siberia. Over 70% were women and children and only 2% survived. On one day 1,470 children between 5 and 16 years old were deported to Siberia often taken from their schools without their parents knowledge. Nearly all of these children died, most on the rail journey in cattle wagons.

Then came the Nazi occupation, and my father and his two brothers were taken by the Nazi SS. At the end of the war my father was fortunate to end up in a Displaced Persons camp. A return to Latvia would have meant him being killed by the Soviets - not only was he a farmer's son but had been to the West. During WW2 Latvia lost over 38% of its population and was under Soviet occupation until 1991.

In 1947 my father came to the UK to train as a miner. In that year my grandfathers farm was collectivised by the Soviets. During this collectivisation period over 175,000 Latvians mainly farmers and their families were deported to Siberia. Less than 10,000 returned.

In 1949 my father married my mother who was English. My father had letters from his family via the Red Cross. I remember seeing them when I was about 10 years old, and it was then I found out about censorship - about 80% of the letter was blacked out. The Soviets allowed one ship to take parcels to Latvia. Each parcel had to weigh no more than seven pounds and contain no printed matter. In less than a year the censored letters stopped coming from Latvia, but my father continued writing, we never knew if the letters or parcels reached the family.

When I became a Christian at Crewe I supported the work of Underground Evangelism and Open Doors, both helping Christians behind the Iron Curtain. If you have read the book 'God's Smuggler' it tells of the specially made small flexible Bibles made to smuggle behind the Iron Curtain. While at Crewe at a home within sight of the Jodrell Bank telescope, I first handled these Bibles. These were hidden in a car going out to Russia. While I was at Warrington a large estate car was filled with nearly 7,000 of these special made Bibles to go to Russia. On 21st August 1991 Latvia regained its independence, there was no more need to smuggle aid in for the Christians. So when I came to

Bourne I was able to contact Christians directly and at first sent 20kg parcels to pastors for their families and church members. It was the start of Baltic Aid, which sends aid to Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania. I could not have done what followed in Crewe or Warrington because the churches had no storage for what was to come over the next 21 years.

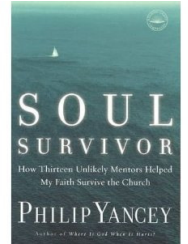
Bourne Baptist Church did have the storage room for aid and for loading the aid onto containers. Our first container was a real jigsaw of different sized boxes, which was sorted out in future loads by using banana boxes. Our record for loading a 40-foot container is 1 hour and 20 mins, there was a Manchester United and Liverpool replay that night! Over 20 years we have sent what is equal to twenty-three 40-foot containers of aid. We have sent aid to churches, pastors, Latvian Army chaplains, Christian workers and missionaries who directed us to the needs of hospitals, doctors, special medical centres, orphanages, schools, specific families and the Salvation Army.

David Grikis



## Book review by Angela Higgs

The full title of this book is **Soul Survivor: How Thirteen Unlikely Mentors Helped My Faith Survive the Church.** I like Philip Yancey. I reviewed his book **'The Jesus I never knew'** last year which is in our library and for sale together with **'Soul Survivor'** on our new book table- what a great idea and a new book to read is one temptation I never feel too guilty about!



Yancey is not afraid to ask the hard questions. In the book **'The Jesus I never knew'** he discusses the reasons why he was put off church. We often blame our prodigals for turning away from the church but Yancey shows how often the church not the prodigal is to blame for people moving away from faith. BUT **Soul Survivor** (how my faith survived the church) is a book written about 'unlikely mentors', and he does mean unlikely. The thirteen are not examples of perfect Christians. However, Yancey discusses their lives and shows where you can find extraordinary lessons about God in each one of them. He begins with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and his absolute commitment to non-violence, which exposed racism for the hateful, disgusting thing that it is. Yancey's heart was turned, as were millions of others.

He discusses Mahatma Gandhi, who led India to freedom from colonial rule through absolute non-violent civil disobedience. Gandhi changed the way India, and much of the world, thought about the poor, the downtrodden, and the 'untouchable'. Gandhi rejected Christianity but tried hard to embody many of Christ's teachings.

Another chapter is about Dr. Paul Brand, whose work dramatically furthered the field of leprosy treatment; he was driven by a Christ-given love and compassion for those whom he served. There's Tolstoy and Dostoevsky, whose controversial, tortured works and lives represent a struggle for redemption from which we can all learn. There's English writer GK Chesterton, whose absent-minded scribbles still managed to convey profound truths. There's C. Everett Koop, the reluctant surgeon general who struggled to maintain his faith and integrity in a difficult period in American social history.

There's Annie Dillard, the Pulitzer Prize winner whose writings inspired a nation, but whose fame took a massive toll. In each of the chapters Yancey discusses the church's reaction to these mentors, and the deep and frightening flaws apparent within the church system today. At the end of each chapter there is a bibliography so that you can find out more about the life of the person Yancey has been discussing.

Yancey's books are a pleasure to read because he is clear and wonderfully concise but he also gives fantastic little details that draw you in. He's not an easy read because he discusses problems within the Christian church, particularly about how imperfect people having a huge impact on someone's faith, especially if they're someone who has been vilified within the church. It is challenging to read about the flaws in both our church systems, and us because Yancey doesn't simply say, "you're imperfect, but God loves you anyway so don't worry about it." Yancey asks us to move beyond that in this book he wants us to take the lessons from the imperfect lives and faiths in order to try and perfect our own. Be warned he does not allow for mediocrity or apathy!

Women's World Day of Prayer  
 – Let Justice Prevail  
 will take place at the Methodist  
 Church on March 2nd at 2pm.

Need a weekly/fortnightly clean or just a one-off spring clean? Call Vanessa on 07852815751

**Bournehair** - Mobile hairdressing for ladies and children in Bourne and surrounding villages. Please call Rachel on 07905 799346 or visit [www.bournehair.co.uk](http://www.bournehair.co.uk)



 Lorraine Rimington. General garden maintenance, clearing, planting, pruning, grass cutting, containers, beds and borders. No hard landscaping. Hourly rate. For further details contact 01778 425822, 07745820338 or [lrigardening@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:lrigardening@hotmail.co.uk)

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# Greetings from the Pastoral Team

*I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. Be completely humble and gentle, be patient bearing with one another in love. (Ephesians 4: 1-2)*

Engage, care  
and share

As members of the Pastoral team we believe God has called us to have a servant heart, to act in humility, with gentleness and patience as we seek to bless and build others up in Christ's love and through the power of the Holy Spirit.

The current team members are Maureen Cornell (Team leader), Andy McManus, Barbara Roberts, Pat Warwood, Kathy Brown, Jan Grikis, Angela Higgs, Roland Smith, Ralph Eaton, Kate Hyde and Angie & Paul Sexton, We are delighted that Karen Smith has agreed to join the team this year.

If you're not sure who we are, you will find our faces in the Who's Who guide recently produced. Naturally Pastor Andy oversees the group. The team meet regularly, for sharing and prayer. Last year we were blessed with some enlightened training by Alan Hoare from New Life, Lincoln. Some members also attended the Listening course at St George's in Stamford, which Angela helped to lead.

The services we aim to provide are:

- Listening and prayer
- Visiting
- Offering lifts
- Befriending
- Collect shopping, prescriptions
- Gardening
- Decorating
- Cleaning
- Welcoming new faces

With God's grace, there is a large number of the congregation being blessed and shepherded through belonging to a house-group. It is so encouraging to learn of the selfless acts of kindness that our church family show towards each other, and to others in need. As a team we are seeking to pastorally support and encourage leaders of different groups within the church, working together to be effective. We also seek to support others who are unable, or don't currently feel led, to attend a house group.

If you have a need or would like to know more about the team, contact details can be found in the weekly notices and on the back of bbc monthly.

Yours in Christ

Maureen x

