

CALENDAR FOR FEBRUARY

The theme for talks in February will be **LIFE IN THE DESERT**

Wednesday 3rd

2.00pm P.A.C.T meeting in the church lounge

Sunday 7th Title of talk - Bread and water

8.00am Holy Communion BCP

10.15am Education Sunday with Family service, Thanksgiving and Church Parade

Tuesday 9th

7.30pm Ladies Fellowship with Maureen and Robert Westwell talking about their holiday in Kenya

Thursday 11th

9.30am Vine Café

2.00pm Whist & Dominoes

Friday 12th

9.15am Tots Praise

7.30pm Deanery planning meeting at St. James

Haslingden for the 'This is our Deanery' Event in May

Sunday 14th Title of talk - Law for Life

8.00am Holy Communion BCP

10.15am Baptism

7.00pm Re-affirmation of marriage vows followed by a candlelit dinner for two

DAY SCHOOL CLOSED FOR HALF TERM

Sunday 21st Title of talk - Moses meets God

8.00am Holy Communion BCP
10.15am Morning Worship

Monday 22nd Day School re-opens

Tuesday 23rd Ladies Fellowship with Alison Whittaker Stewart
talking about Rossendale Hospice

Thursday 25th

9.30am Vine Café
2.00pm Whist & Dominoes

Friday 26th Tots Praise

Sunday 28th Giving to God

8.00am Holy Communion BCP
10.15am Morning Worship & Holy Communion



CALENDAR FOR MARCH

The theme for talks in March will be **LIGHT FOR LIFE**

Wednesday 3rd

2.00pm PACT meeting in the lounge

Thursday 4th

9.30am Vine Café

2.00pm Whist & Dominoes

Friday 5th

9.15am Tots Praise

Sunday 7th Title of talk - Light to live by

8.00am Holy Communion

10.15am Family Service with Thanksgiving and Church Parade

Tuesday 9th

7.30pm Ladies Fellowship with Ernie Hall from Trinity
Community Church

Thursday 11th

9.30am Vine Café

2.00pm Whist & Dominoes

7.30pm Goldilocks and the three bears Pantomime

Friday 12th

9.15am Tots Praise

7.30pm Goldilocks and the three bears Pantomime

Saturday 13th

7.30pm Goldilocks and the three bears Pantomime

Sunday 14th

Mothering Sunday

Title of talk - Is seeing believing?

8.00am

Holy Communion BCP

10.15am

Morning Worship

Monday 15th

7.30pm

PCC meeting in the lounge

Thursday 18th

9.30am

Vine Café

2.00pm

Whist & Dominoes

Friday 19th

9.15am

Tots Praise

Sunday 21st

Title of talk - You are light

8.00am

Holy Communion

10.15am

Holy Communion

Tuesday 23rd

7.30pm

Ladies Fellowship meeting with Evening Prayer led by Joe Fielder

Thursday 25th

9.30am

Vine Café

2.00pm

Whist & Dominoes

Friday 26th

9.15am

Tots Praise

Saturday 27th CLOCKS GO BACK TODAY

Sunday 28th

Palm Sunday

Title of talk - join together to welcome Jesus

8.00am

Holy Communion BCP

10.15am

Morning Worship

The qualifications of a good minister

A good minister must have:

The strength of an ox, the tenacity of a bulldog, the daring of a lion, the wisdom of an owl, the harmlessness of a dove, the industry of a beaver, the gentleness of a lamb, the vision of an eagle, the hide of a rhinoceros, the perspective of a giraffe, the endurance of a camel, the bounce of a kangaroo, the stomach of a horse,

as well as

the loyalty of an apostle, the faithfulness of a prophet, the tenderness of a shepherd, the fervency of an evangelist, the devotion of a mother,

and even then he will not please everybody!



The year ahead

What will it bring?

At least we can be sure of Spring.

What will they hold, the coming hours?

At least we may be sure of flowers.



Blossoms and birds and budding trees, thank God we may be sure of these.

With thanks to Hilda Seddon

SOME THOUGHTS ON STEWARDSHIP

Live simply, that others may simply live

Graeme Hodge, Assistant Director of International Development at the Salvation Army, challenged a recent stewardship conference to grasp the bigger picture of the stewardship creation. He gave us some 'food for thought':

- If we have anything other than a dirt floor in our home, we are in the top 50% of wealthy people in the world
- If we have a roof, doors and windows in our home, we are in the top 20%
- If we have a refrigerator, we are in the top 5%
- If we have a car, microwave, and a door on our toilet, we are in the top 1%



What does biblical stewardship require of us?

Gratitude? Certainly, as the antidote to both greed and guilt.

Generosity? Absolutely, for giving acknowledges God's ownership and it releases us from materialism.

Good money management? No question.

But if we believe that God is truly the creator, owner and giver of all good things we must take seriously the interconnectness of His creation. Our actions affect others. Our personal acts of charity and generosity don't absolve us of this responsibility.

In God's abundant world there should be no poor among us (Deuteronomy Ch. 15 v.4). The poverty that contradicts God's creation purpose requires us to have open hands and open hearts. Not only in giving, but in the simple, achievable lifestyle changes that mean we can live more simply, so that others might simply live.

Source: www.stewardship.org.uk



Decide how your tax is spent!



Hi, for the benefit of those who don't know me I am Alison and I have volunteered to boost the church funds by administering Gift Aid.

The majority of us pay tax in one way or another, whether it's on your salary, pension or savings. By completing a Gift Aid declaration form you can determine how your tax is spent and boost the church funds by a further 25%.

Gift Aid is a government scheme that enables registered charities to reclaim the tax paid on donations (you may contribute to St Johns on a regular basis by standing order or by using freewill envelopes or you may have made a one-off donation on Gift Sunday for example). If you are a UK tax payer, we are able to claim 25p for every £1 you donate, so a donation of £10 would actually be increased to **£12.50, at no extra cost to you!** In addition the government will pay the church an additional 3p for every £1 donated from now until April 2011.

If you would like us to claim Gift Aid from your donations or simply inform us that you are not a tax payer, please complete the declaration opposite and return to:
The Gift Aid Secretary, St John the Baptist Church, Baxenden, Accrington, BB5 2RQ.

If you have any queries relating to gift aid, you may contact me on _____ or by email



**St John the Baptist Church, Baxenden
Gift aid Declaration**

Title: _____ Forename: _____ Surname: _____

Home Address:

Town: _____ Postcode: _____

I confirm that I am a UK tax payer and have paid at least an equal amount of Capital Gains/Income Tax to the amount the charity will reclaim (currently 25p in every £1).

I would like St John the Baptist Church to Gift Aid: *(please tick the appropriate box)*

All donations I have made in the previous six years and all future donations that I make from the date of this declaration.

OR

All donations I make in future.

OR

I am not a tax payer.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

LADIES FELLOWSHIP

Tuesday 9th February

Robert and Maureen Westwell will be showing photographs and talking about their holiday in Kenya.

Tuesday 23rd February

Alison Whittaker Stewart will be talking about Rossendale Hospice and answering general questions about the work of a Hospice.

Tuesday 9th March

Rev Ernie Hall Pastor at Trinity Community Church, (formerly Christ Church, Cannon Street Baptist & Woodnook Baptist Churches) Accrington, will be our guest speaker.

Tuesday 23rd March

Rev Joe Fielder will be leading Evening Prayer.

Please turn to pages 16 and 17 to see our full programme for 2010.

All ladies are welcome to attend any of our meetings which start at 7.30pm in the church lounge.



With Christian Love and Fellowship Kath Quinn

IF JESUS CAME?

If Jesus came to your house to spend a day or two,
If He came unexpectedly, I wonder what you'd do?
Oh I know you'd give your nicest room to such an honored guest,
And all the food you'd serve to Him would be the very best.
And you'd keep assuring Him you're glad to have Him there,
That serving Him in your own home is joy beyond compare.
But – when you saw Him coming, would you meet Him at the door,
With arms outstretched to welcome your heavenly visitor.
Or would you have to change your clothes before you let Him in,
Or hide some magazines, and put the Bible where they'd been.
Would you turn off that video, and hope He hadn't heard,
And wish you hadn't uttered that last loud hasty word?
Would you hide your worldly music and put some hymn books out?
Could you let Jesus walk right in or would you rush about?
And I wonder if the Saviour spent a day or two with you,
Would you continue doing the things you always do?
Would you keep right on saying the things you always say?
Would life for you continue as it does from day to day?
Would you take Jesus with you everywhere you planned to go?
Or would you maybe change your plans, for just a day or so?
Would your family conversation keep up its usual pace?
And would you find it hard each meal to say a table grace?
Would you sing the songs you always sing, and read the books you always read?
And let Him know the things on which your mind and spirit feeds?
Would you be glad to have Him meet your very closest friends?
Or would you hope they'd stay away until His visit ends?
Would you be glad to have Him stay for ever on and on?
Or would you sigh with great relief, when He at last was gone?

It might be interesting to know the things that you would do,
If Jesus Christ in person came to spend some time with you.

With thanks to Freda Clarke for finding this poem

February and March 2010

BAXENDEN LADIES FELLOWSHIP 2010

TRIPS OUT SPEAKERS

12th January		Cancelled due to bad	
26th January		A.G.M.	
		Robert & Maureen	
9th February		Westwell	Holiday in Kenya
23rd February		Alison Whittaker Stewart	Rossendale Hospice
9th March		Ernie Hall Christ Church	
23rd March		Rev Joe Fielder Evening	
13th April		Deborah Clarke	Help Direct
27th April		Jean Emmett	
11th May		Claire Wall	Baxenden Beat
25th May		Rev Gerald & Val Higham	Scargill
8th June		Roy Lockwood	Royal British Legion
Saturday 5th June	Day trip to Cleveleys		
22nd June		Anne Fielder	
13th July		Linda Bracewell	
27th July		Joyce & Dorothy	Puppet Show
10th August		Auction Night	

Saturday 21st

Country Run &

24th August	Jean Holden	Time & Tide
14th September	Roger & Maureen Cunliffe	
28th September	Hilary Murphy	
12th October	Eric Stephenson	
26th October	Maureen Cunliffe	Baxenden Jubilee
9th November	Barbara Ward	
23rd November	Sheila Beech	
7th December	CHRISTMAS PARTY	



Gardening for February



Clematis pruning.

These are classified into groups based on flowering.

Group 1. Clematis such as clematis Montana, flower in winter or early spring.

These only need pruning if they have out grown their allotted space.

They can be cut right back if necessary, but this should not be repeated for at least three years. Prune only after flowering.

Group 2. These Clematis are the large flowered cultivars which have two flushes of flowering: the first in early summer, on the previous season's growth; the second in late summer on new shoots. Prune in late winter or early spring, before they start growing again.

Group 3. Such as Clematis viticella flower late in the summer on growth made in the current season. They can be pruned when the buds show signs of new growth. Cut back, every year, to a strong pair of buds 6"-12" above ground level.

Slugs are troublesome in spring. Start to control now. Surround vulnerable plants with a coarse acidic grit as calcareous grit may encourage snails. Place traps, such as upturned orange or grapefruit skins, where severe damage occurs. Remember to check and empty regularly.

Dahlia tubers can be planted in pots. Put into moist compost in warm, humid environment, within 3 weeks growth should appear. Take 3" cuttings as close to the tuber as possible. Cover cuttings with a plastic bag and place in a propagator.

Spring flowering bulbs that have finished flowering in the house, can be placed outside to die back naturally the either re-potted or naturalised in the garden.

Bootstrap at the Park

We have now settled in at Gatty Park. All the plants are back in order after they had to be transported rather quickly. Clients and staff had a great Christmas party, inviting past employees and volunteers. It was lovely to see them all again.

Last but not least, can I thank Mrs Ashburner for the holly I used for the wreath making.



Sheila Beech

St John's Pantomime

This year the drama group will be presenting Goldilocks and the Three Bears in church on Thursday 11th, Friday 12th, and Saturday 13th March, starting at 7.15pm.

Tickets cost £5.50 for adults and £4.50 for children and senior citizens. There will be a 10% discount available for bookings of 10 or more.

Tickets are available from Sandersons Confectioners (Shirleys), Baxenden Pharmacy, Vine Café, or from Joyce Teasdale (tel.).

We hope to see you there.



Joyce Teasdale

Dear Friends

This comes with warm **Christmas greetings** from a very hot and humid Asunción. At least it makes a change from the very cold, unusual winter that we had! Today is a national holiday for the Virgin of Caacupe and, traditionally, it's one of the biggest holidays here.

We are happy to have a day off to sort things out round the house as the last few weeks have been very hectic as we finished off the school year. We actually went out into the garden at 8am to start mowing and trimming before the sun got up. So much rain lately has meant that the garden has flourished and needs constant attention but at least we are no longer in drought in the city. The Chaco had rain a few months ago and they were able to fill their water tanks but then very little had fallen there since, even though we were flooded out at times here. We now hear they have had rain this last weekend and the tanks are filling again. So, thank you to all who prayed for that.

The last few months have flown by **in school**. **Gwen** took on an extra class whilst Caroline Venables was on maternity leave. Gwen went in each day for oral time and enjoyed getting to know the children she will have in her class next year. She then prepared her class and the extra one for their Christmas show which took place at the end of December. Sally Bartlett came to give a talk to the parents in that one. The children also did some dances with their Spanish teacher and the whole evening went down very well. With that the children finished and it was sad to see them leave us all ready for 1st grade next year. In recent months they had celebrated Children's day, Friendship day, and had a visit to the farm; a beautiful ranch out in the countryside.

Mags managed a few more trips out taking the older pupils to the Chaco to dig a well in September and also taking her 9th grade class to visit children who have HIV and are orphaned. Her class took these children on as their special project. Mags then organized the 9th grade church service marking the end of their official primary education. It was a very moving service as the pupils talked about how they had met God through the year. The highlight was the surprise at the end where the children from the home came in to sing to them. There weren't many dry eyes around. The bishop came to speak in that service.

In fact we have kept **the bishop and his wife** busy for the past few weeks as they have spoken also in the primary service and at all the 6th form leavers' events. We had the special leavers' service on Monday last week. This is for the pupils and their parents. Each pupil is prayed for individually and many were very touched and so were their parents. This was followed by a supper in school for them and their parents. The next day was their official graduation service to which the Vice Minister of Education also came. We were all invited. We'd quite a formal affair but there are a number of speeches from pupils, parents and staff. It was lovely to listen to as each one talked about the Lord and what He had done for them. They had a big party on Friday night. We've also been to the 6th grade party and the 9th grade party given by their parents.

The annexe school also finished when we did and we were able to go to all their events; the infant show, the primary service and the 9th grade leavers' service and supper. In fact, that night we had two suppers!! Sadly, over the last few months we had to make a few cutbacks at the annexe school as their canteen; built to bring in an income, it was actually costing money to run and so we have had to close it.

Looking back over the school year, it has gone well on the whole but we know we are not as up to date as we should be and there is far more competition now for schools like ours. Recently at our heads' meeting we were all in agreement in inviting someone to join us and in the choice of candidate. We chose someone who is involved in teacher training and education on a national level as well as having a Masters degree from Glasgow. He is, of course, a strong Christian and his wife already works with us, she's English. Anyway, he declined the offer to come full time but will be with us part time next year and his job will be to see how we are doing and train the staff, introducing new ideas and generally helping us. I think he felt a bit overwhelmed yesterday when we bombarded him with the things we think need looking at!! He asked for our ideas! **Please pray for Nelson** that the Lord might use him in his time with us and that he might be a real blessing to the school.

The parents are still pushing for **more sports** in school and after school. The topic seems to take up a disproportionate amount of time compared to the number of lessons allotted to it each week. We have met with PE staff and a group of parents and now will meet to see what changes we might make. Technology has also arrived here and we are hoping to make a small order for SMART boards in the next few days. We certainly won't be having them in each classroom yet but we hope to make a small start!!

Our guest room has been well used this year. In August Simon Dowland came for 3 weeks to help Mags teach IGCSE maths and was very much appreciated. In October we had Steve and Janet Millwood staying for 3 weeks as they returned to Paraguay as part of a world tour. It was the first time back for Janet since they'd left in the early 1990's and it was great to see them again. They reckoned Paraguay was hotter than ever and far more expensive!! Claire Holmes regularly uses our spare room when she comes in from Concepcion. We usually see her at least once a month but her last visit here will be tomorrow as she returns to Ireland next week after being here for the most part of the last 15 years. We will miss her.

Most of the **English staff** leave for England this week. Elaine Black, who has been with us for 2 ½ years is leaving to have more time with her family in England. Sophie, our latest volunteer leaves us after 6 months here and prepares for university in September. We are looking forward to the arrival of Nicky (nee Venables) and Ronnie Irene with their family as they come to Paraguay from Bolivia to work here. Nicky will be teaching with us in the New Year.

We are staying here this summer and hoping to potter round the house and get jobs done that we never have time for in term time. We also hope to go to Northern Argentina for a week or so to see the hills and salt flats but have nothing actually booked yet. We will spend Christmas day here. We will be doing the Christmas day service in the English church and then having lunch with those of us who are still here! Our animals are all doing well...except the fish!! We have had a few deaths in the aquarium lately! The dogs are all fine but feeling the heat. The cats are doing well too. The kitten is still naughty but very cute. Sassy, the middle cat, has gained in confidence since moving and the oldest cat, Poppy, is still a baby and very cuddly. We are hoping that, Munchie, the youngest of the dogs is pregnant. If so, the puppies will be due in mid January. She was mated with another blue roan dog so the puppies should be lovely!!

This comes to thank you all for your support of us and for all your prayers. They are all very much appreciated by us. We pray that you will know the Joy of Christmas and wish you every Blessing in the New year.

With lots of love from Gwen

HAPPY 2010, MAY THE PEACE OF GOD BLESS YOU IN THE NAME OF JESUS ! WE THANK YOU FOR BLESSING HIS BELOVED PEOPLE

30 MILLION PEOPLE IN Sub Saharan Africa have died from AIDS

12 MILLION CHILDREN are orphans because of AIDS

As the evil of Herod killed all the male children – AIDS and poverty kills the children's parents and makes them orphans. But there is hope..... in the love of Jesus.



Here are Emily and Caroline working out how to run a small business selling food in order to make a living and survive. Emily has five children, four who she needs to provide for herself, as her husband is father only to the youngest and will only provide for him. He has just lost his job. Emily has HIV and is on treatment..... her main worry is how to provide for her children. We are very thankful to God for Caroline who gave up her Christmas to come out and help us.

This is our first venture in helping people become self sufficient, please pray for Emily.



A child at the children's hospice on Christmas day enjoying a gift of juice. Joy is found in what seems the darkest of places.



Patrick and David wearing their new clothes we gave them for Christmas.
Thank you.



Baby David with his new shoes and toy we gave him for Christmas – this child has just started to begin to smile after visiting for 5 months – he lives in extreme poverty with his brother Patrick and mother Sara.



David's mother Sara with her one ring paraffin stove, and only pan to cook in. We were able to provide a new stove, pans and other utensils and food. She is to make 'fat cookies' which are like doughnuts to sell, and raise a little money. Thank you.



We value people's support. The Anglican Women's Fellowship from the Cathedral came out to visit the people in the township and give them blankets which they made.

We are ministering to more and more women and children who live in extreme poverty. Donations of food which we normally receive to give out have been stopped, due to poor harvests of mealie meal. One young girl said today ' Pastor I have not eaten for 2 days, I am so thankful that you have come to us.' Another young mother had nothing to give her 4 children and on Christmas Day was so desperate that she tried to take her own life by drinking paraffin. We prayed with her today and she held me tight and just cried.



Walter and Dorah, have 5 children – here so thankful for their home rebuilt after a fire which was caused by a paraffin stove which exploded. We were able to buy a new stove for them, and provide clothes, bedding and pots and pans. Thank you.

Prayer Requests

Thanks for help and links with St Michael's School and Anglican Women's fellowship at the Cathedral, for their donations and care.

For more people to help and for a support group.

For Emily, and for more people to become self sufficient through the ministry.

More provision locally.

Protection for Gladys and myself.

For Paddy who continues to get stronger and hopes to visit the township soon.

For encouragement.

For some rest and retreat time.

For Agnes who tried to take her own life and for her children.

For Baby David, his brother Patrick and their mother Sara.

We give thanks to God for taking us into the darkest places and situations.

We thank God for the privilege of serving Him in the poorest, darkest places.

We thank God for your support both prayerfully and in donations that make this work possible.



Haiti Earthquake Update



THE BIBLE NETWORK

The World Needs God's Word

20th January



Jean Bilda Robert, The Bible Network's National Director for Haiti has had two meetings with the President of Haiti and is making Bibles and tracts freely available to the survivors of the earthquake. A container of additional material is being prepared for shipment to neighbouring Dominican Republic to maintain supplies of Bibles and Bible resources. The Bible Network is committed to helping the Church recover spiritually, and to equip it to shine the light of God during this dark time.

19th January



According to Alfredo Vallellanes, The Bible Network's Director of Caribbean Ministries, over 700 of the 1,200 churches in the city of Port-au-Prince were totally or partially destroyed. Many pastors lost their lives during the earthquake. Alfredo estimates that over 100 church planters trained by The Bible Network have lost their wives or one of their children. Please continue praying!

17th January



Haiti's people appreciate your continued prayers. Several of our staff members suffered head or leg injuries but all are mourning the loss of loved ones. Vladimir, our Ministry Coordinator in Haiti, lost his wife, daughter of three months, mother and father-in-law. He pulled his 8-year-old son (who sustained severe injuries) from the rubble. Currently, approximately 50,000 homeless survivors are camped outside our office; structural damage has not yet been assessed.

16th January



The Bible Network's staff in Haiti frantically work to regroup and recover from a massive earthquake that is said to be the worst quake in 200 years. Hundreds are feared dead, thousands are missing and many more are totally devastated. "Haiti is no more," says Jean Bilda Robert, The Bible Network's National Director for Haiti. This is a time for people of all walks of life, regardless of colour or religion, to come together and aid this nation.

CANDLEMAS – 2 FEBRUARY

Candlemas celebrates both the presentation of Jesus in the temple, and also the ritual purification of Mary 40 days after his birth. Both these events were rooted in Jewish law – see Exodus ch.13 v 2, 12 concerning the presentation, and Leviticus Ch.12 for the purification. Following childbirth, mothers were believed to be unclean, and could not enter the temple to worship until they had been purified. After the birth of a boy this took place 40 days later, and in the case of a girl 60 days.

The presentation of the young Jesus was witnessed by Simeon and Anna, and is well documented in Luke Ch.2 v 21 – 38.

Many centuries ago, and long before electricity and earlier forms of lighting, candles were very important to Christians. Jesus was seen as the 'light of the world', and candles were seen as guiding lights in the darkness. This led to the ceremony of Candlemass, when all the candles to be used in the coming year were brought into the church to be blessed in what was the Mass of the Candles.

Candlemas is also significant because its origins go back to pre-Christian, pagan times. It falls during the annual cycle between winter and spring, at the half way point between the winter solstice on the shortest day of the year, and the spring equinox. This would have been a time when ancient people began to think once more about the increasing daylight, about growth, fertility and the birth of animals – all of which sustained life.

Candlemas abounds with folklore and superstitions, many of which are based on the belief that Candlemas weather could predict the weather for the rest of the winter. Many readers will already know of the rhyme:



If Candlemas Day be fair and bright,
Winter will have another fight.
If Candlemas Day brings cloud and rain,
Winter won't come again.



There is no shortage of other superstitions about Candlemas, one of which concerns Christmas decorations. According to this, any decorations not taken down by 12th night (5th January) should be left until Candlemas Day and then taken down on that day.

In the United States 2 February is Groundhog Day which, like Candlemas, is believed to foretell the weather. The tradition was brought by immigrant German farmers, who originally on 2 February observed badgers emerging from their dens. If the badgers saw their own shadows they would be frightened and run back into their dens, foretelling another 6 weeks of winter. If they saw no shadows, this meant Spring was on its way. In America, not being able to observe badgers, the farmers watched groundhogs instead (the groundhog is a rodent in the marmot family) and so Groundhog Day came into being.

Paul Brown