aldwickbaptistchurch

**Vision:** Loving God, Loving Each Other, Loving Lost People

# ABC NEWS




## ABC ONLINE – TWICE A WEEK – EVERY WEEK

**HIDDEN HEROES - MORDECAI (from the Book of Esther)**

Last Wednesday we began our new series on Hidden Heroes of the Bible – those people of faith who are not the - often studied - "larger than life" characters, but humble followers of God who had a major influence on the world around them. Last Wednesday we considered a special lady, Miriam, who had a major influence on the life of Moses and the escape of the Children of Israel from Egypt and the journey to the Promised Land. Today we are considering another special person – this time a man named Mordecai who also made a significant impact on the story of the Jews. He was of course the cousin of Esther who famously became Queen of Persia and wife to Xerxes 1 (known as Xerxes the Great). But I find that Mordecai is the real "hidden hero" of the story. He once said to Queen Esther in Chapter 4:14 *"who knows but that you have come to your royal position* ***for such a time as this****".* We shall see in this study that this phrase *"for such a time as this"* certainly applied to Mordecai himself. This service will include communion.

**Our online services**

Our Sunday morning service will go "live" at 6pm on a Saturday evening. However, if possible, we would like you to join us on Sunday in prayer at around 10.20am before watching the service at 10.30am as normal. Please pray for your church family and for all the frontline workers who are keeping us going in these difficult times. Please pray too for our prime minister and the cabinet who have the unenviable task gradually easing lockdown. It is becoming clear that, as the lockdown continues, people will become more agitated, so, as we said last week, we need to keep our eyes firmly fixed on Jesus.

You Click here to go directly to the service page.

Simon is having a well-earned holiday from 6th - 22nd August and during this time Clive and Derek have the privilege of leading the services. This weekend we continue with or short series on "Hidden Heroes" of the Bible. This topic has been chosen because we often hear of the many heroes of the faith mentioned in Hebrews 11, such as Abraham, Joseph, and Moses. However, there are many hidden heroes (not necessarily mentioned in Hebrews 11) who were chosen by God to carry out his will and they did so as ordinary human beings (like us) with their God-given strengths - but also with their very human weaknesses. There are many lessons we can learn from some of these men and women and we have chosen just four for us to explore and learn from together:

- Wednesday 12th August: Miriam - Clive
- Sunday 16th August: Mordecai (with Communion) - Clive
- Wednesday 19th August: Dorcas - Derek
- Sunday 23rd August: Enoch -Derek

Don't miss this important series.

If you missed any of earlier services these can be viewed online services by going to http://www.aldwickbaptist.co.uk/latest-news/online-sermons

**JUST TO CLARIFY** – Although the latest advice from the government implied that churches can now open we will not be doing so. We have recently been asked if we could open the church for individual prayer. Unfortunately, this is not possible as the government's guidelines on opening churches impose certain conditions that cannot be safely implemented at ABC and so, for the time being, we will remain closed. We believe most other churches will do the same. Consequently, our message remains - "**NOT YET ABC**".

**SERMON' NOTES** – Over the weekend, we will be emailing the notes from Simon's talk today together with the news sheet. If you don't have an email address, then we will be hand delivering both the news sheet and the notes to you early next week.

**THE DOWNINGS HAVE CUT SHORT THEIR HOLIDAY** – Unfortunately Simon, Nicky and the girls have returned from France very early on Saturday morning (15th August) to avoid the need for 14 days of self-isolation. Even though the family will be back in England, please do not try to contact them as the family remain "on holiday." Please contact one of the leadership team if you have a problem or need anything.

**COLLECTING FOR AN ORPHANAGE IN UGANDA** – Jaycee, a member of Café Connect, is organising a collection of new and second-hand clothes, educational books, pens, pencils etc. for kids aged from 4 – 15 years old. These items will be sent through the Homes of Dreams Ministries, to the orphanage in Kalalu village. Their motto is, "Together we can stop suffering". Can you help? If you can donate anything, please contact Ronnie (07877771366) or me. Ronnie will arrange collection from your home on 18th August 2020. Derek

**FRIDAY NIGHT IS QUIZ NIGHT** –Jon Robinson (my son) organises a quiz through his church website every Friday at 7.15pm and on Facebook. Sadly, it is ending soon (after 20 weeks)and so there are only two quiz nights to go!, If you want to take part then join via www.stjohnssouthbourne.com or through the We Love Southbourne Facebook page (facebook.com/welovesouthbourne). Derek

**THIS WEEK'S POEM**

Both Arthur and Eileen are now back at home and would welcome phone calls and/or visits. Arthur's poem this week as the question, "What kind of man is this?"

**What kind of man is this?**

What kind of man is this,
Who turned water into wine?
They say His face seemed to shine.
He had so much authority and yet He showed humility.
What kind of man is this,
Who five thousand fed with just two fish and five loaves of bread
And raised Lazarus from the dead?
He made the possessed free and the blind to see.
What kind of man is this,
Who calmed the stormy sea?
They say He comes from heaven above
With a message of forgiveness, peace and love.
I know it is true what they say for He is life, the truth and the way.
What kind of man is this?

Arthur McGee

**…and finally**

**URGENT PRAYER REQUESTS** - If you have, or know of, an urgent need for prayer in the coming two weeks then please contact Derek as first responder either by email or phone. He will then activate the prayer chain as appropriate.

**URGENT PRAYER UPDATE** – Michelle's father was buried on Friday 14th August. Michelle would like to thank you for your prayers and asks us to continue to pray for the family over this difficult time.

**GOOD NEWS** - Barbara would also like to thank you for your prayers for her daughter, Carol, who was in urgent need of a job. Well good news Carol had confirmation yesterday that she has now got a very suitable job starting early September. The family are very relieved and thankful for your prayers.

**ERIC SAMPSON HAS MOVED** - His new address is 1 Oakwood Court, Willowhale Avenue, Bognor Regis. PO21 4BG. Tel. 07444638616. Please update your church directory.

**LEADERSHIP TEAM MEETING** – The leadership team will be meeting online on Tuesday 25th August for our delayed monthly meeting. Amongst other things we will be discussing whether it is possible to re-start ant of our monthly activities and allow outside groups to begin using the hall again. We will be following the government's guidelines but would value your prayer support.

**PLEASE CONTINUE TO PRAY FOR** – Arthur and Eileen McGee, Jean Houlston, Marie Stoneham, Bridget Long, Ken Tucker, Pat and Mick Parker, Maureen Jones, Marion Bryant, Chris Grant, Mary Edwards, Kate Moss, Joy Smith, Pam Brown, Stella Filby, Joan Brett, Joy Puffett, Val Collett, Pam Ryan, Tony Brock, George Woods, and for any others in our fellowship who are unwell at this time.

**Contact and Church office information**

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| Head of the Church | Jesus Christ |
| Minister | Simon Downing (Tel. 07508815573) |
| | email: pastor@aldwickbaptist.co.uk |
| Church Secretary: | Clive Bennett (Tel: 263998) |
| | email: secretary@aldwickbaptist.co.uk |
| Treasurer/Elder | Derek Robinson (Tel: 866238) |
| | email: contact@aldwickbaptist.co.uk |
| Deacons | Brenda (265984), Barbara (821789), John (837181) |