aldwickbaptistchurch

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

ABC NEWS

Aldwick Baptist Church



Sunday 1st January 2023

Our New Year's Day Worship service

"What do you want me to do for you"

Mark 10:46-52

Derek Robinson

TODAY'S MORNING SERVICE – Welcome to our New Year's Day worship service. This morning Clive will be leading the worship and I will be bringing you the message as Simon will be away on family duty! Our message is based on a question Jesus asked Bartimaeus when he said, "What do you want me to do for you?" As well as looking at how the story of Bartimaeus unwinds in Mark 10:46-52, I will be asking you how you would respond if Jesus were to ask you the same question. Exactly what are your own priorities as we start a new year? Or, perhaps a better question, what should they be? Derek.

Next week Simon will be following on with the New Year theme with his message entitled, "New Year Focus – resilient faith, not fear." This will be based on 2 Timothy 1:7 and Joshua 1:9.

Of course, we do hope you can join us for the service in the church but if you can't actually join us, you will be able to access this service from 10.30am by **going to: http://www.aldwickbaptist.co.uk/category/current-sermons.**

LOOKING BACK AT OUR CHRISTMAS PROGRAMME – Thank you all for making our Christmas programme so successful this year and for inviting your friends, family and neighbours to join us. Thank you too for the wonderful array of homemade cakes that encouraged everyone to stay after the midweek carol service. We certainly met a lot of new people with many promising to come back again in the new year.

ESSENTIAL TOILETRIES – Did you know that as part of West Sussex's support for vulnerable people, essential toiletry kits are available free of charge from West Sussex libraries for a limited time while stocks last? Well done West Sussex!

NEW PREACHING SERIES FOR 2023 – Simon starting two new series in January which will intertwine over the next three months. The first is entitled "The Grandeur of God." The second is entitled, "Walk in obedience" based on the Book of Deuteronomy.

HOME GROUP CHALLENGE 1 – Are you a member of a homegroup? If not, why not? Homegroups are where we can meet and talk about the Bible and our individual Christian journeys. They are also a place to share, pray, laugh and generally eat cake. If you would like to join a homegroup, do let me know and we will explain more! Derek

HOME GROUP CHALLENGE 2 – Simon has challenged the homegroups to be a little bit more adventurous with our outreach. Why not discuss within your groups how you can reach out to friends, neighbours and even family members? Remember the Gospel is Good News and everyone needs to know about it!

THIS YEAR'S MOTTO CARD – "For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline. 2 Timothy 1:7.

JOY TO THE WORLD – Eh? You kidding? (Taken from the Baptists Times)

Now if we're honest, joy doesn't seem to be a dominant note across the world these days. In fact, the world is so lacking in joy that the Tesco Christmas advert is based around a joy shortage. The reassuring voice tells us they can sort it by offering affordable goodies.

I don't think so. Joy isn't created by buying more stuff. Joy comes from the deep places of love and being loved; joy needs charged batteries of hope; human joy is the response of the heart to good things happening.

Earth's deepest joy is that once in human history, on this green planet, on the ground we stand on, God came to us in the fragility of human birth, "Emmanuel, God with us". Of course, Christmas is about celebration, and singing, and parties, and food, and friends and family. And we'll do our best to share in that and be part of the joy-making. The birth of Jesus is a global event after all.

"Joy to the world! The Lord is come!" But what about the realities of our world, though? We don't need to be told there is a joy shortage, a joy deficit, even a joy recession. You can hear it relentlessly in the tone of voice of news readers, the angry arguments of politicians, the calls for strikes and the denials there's any money, and behind all this a cultural anxiety that something has changed for the worse.

When you put it like that, Christians going on about joy seems a bit tone deaf to people who are struggling with the cost of eating and heating. Not to mention that world out there, where there is so much suffering, loss, anxiety about the future. And the fear that maybe the big problems are running beyond our human capacity to control.

"The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light." Isaiah understood that joy is rooted in hope, and grows out of faith in God the Creator and Redeemer. "For unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given, and his name shall be called wonderful Counsellor, mighty God, everlasting Father, prince of Peace."

Christian joy is not a denial of darkness; it is an affirmation of the light of God in Christ. Advent joy celebrates the always truth that God is in control, that "the government is upon his shoulders."

Jim Gordon (Former principal of the Scottish Baptist College)

LET'S CELEBRATE YOUR BIRTHDAY –if you want to be included in our birthday list, and receive a celebratory slot in the news sheet, please contact Lynne Allard (265360). If you want details of the BMS birthday scheme, then please contact Brenda.

FIRST RESPONDER - As Simon is currently having to curtail his movement and, as he is still waiting for his scan, I will be acting as first responder for the time being. Please contact me if you have any prayer requests or need of care. Derek

JACK WILLS - Angela Harvey's brother (Sue Applin's uncle) Jack passed away peacefully on Tuesday evening at St Richards Hospital with the family around him. Angela and family thank you for your prayers and kind thoughts.

MARION BRYANT - Marion would like us to pray for her. She has a nasty virus which has caused all her joints to swell, they are extremely painful. The doctor is keeping in close contact with Marion and more blood tests have been taken. Please do pray for healing, patience and peace of mind for Marion.

EMILY BROWN – Emily is now back at home. She would like to thank you for your prayers but do continue to pray for ongoing healing. Emily will be in a wheelchair for a while as she most not put much weight on her foot and ankle.

HEATHER GAUDOIN – Good news! Heather is now back home and needs to rest for the next two weeks. Thank you for your prayers but do please continue to pray for her ongoing healing.

SANDRA FIELD - Simon has also been in touch with Sandra Field and reports she is making a slow but steady recovery following her recent operation, Sandra will need at least 3 months of rehabilitation and also needs our support and prayers as this will be a long and painful journey.

MORE PRAYER POINTERS – Please continue to pray for Jon Crane, Mary Bullock, Mavis Eede, Kay Tucker (now in Arun Lodge), Bob Hobart, Katrina Gould, David Hanchard, Janet Cowley. Please also pray for Keith Scott, Val Collett and Pam Brown. Pray too for others in the congregation who are in need prayer.

- **Contact and Church office information**

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