

March 11 to 17

Barton Baptist Church: Elder Brian West

We can give thanks that we have recently been blessed with two new members. We have also been able to restart the "Cuppa & Chat" afternoon meetings twice a month for the sheltered housing in the village. This is supported by friends from the Anglican Church.

We would also ask your prayers for the future of our leadership and what to do about our Church building. The current leader is looking to relinquish some, if not all, of his responsibilities. The building has suffered major subsidence and the current estimated cost of repair is around £30,000. So we are faced with the big questions: do we repair it and how? Or do we consider other options?

March 18 to 24

Little Thetford Baptist Chapel: Pastor Tudor Parsons

As a small fellowship, we continue to trust in the Lord's provision and remain grateful for the many blessings He has given us. 2011 was a year of change: the Lord has blessed us by bringing new members to the fellowship and children's attendance has increased from one to seven most Sundays. Exciting as it is to see a broad age range of new worshippers, we continue to hold up in prayer those elderly few in the congregation who have taught us that they are never too old for change! They are the backbone of the chapel and are a real blessing to us all. Please pray that God would continue to move us forward, united in Him.

March 25 to 31

Waterbeach Baptist Church: Pastor Martin Ensell

We have had a period of change here. We said goodbye to Robin Giles, our minister of 19 years, at the end of October and welcomed Martin Ensell as our new minister in November. We enjoyed two great services and social occasions to mark these happenings when past members and friends joined with us. Martin, having been a member of the fellowship for about 7 years, is well known to us and we look forward to his ministry among us. Our Youth Work continues, encouraged by the week-long visit of the Beyond Belief young people last October.

We were nominated Church of the Year last year and have been so encouraged by the response from churches near and far. We look to the Lord to direct us and eagerly await new experiences of the Holy Spirit as together we seek to know and do his will in this church.

The following churches/organisations/events will be included in the April - June Prayer Call:

Burwell, Bluntisham, Emmanuel Chatteris, Children in Church, Cottenham, the Ecumenical Link with the Diocese of Vellore in South India, Prickwillow, Somersham, Stukeley Meadows, Wisbech, the Baptist Assembly, the EBA Assembly, and Easter.

Please submit copy - 120 words maximum (longer contributions may be edited) - by 4 March 2012 to Revd Robin Giles, 64 Water Street, Chesterton, Cambridge CB4 1PA – 01223 971632 (Please note new address) or by email (preferred) to robin@robingiles.co.uk.

EBA – CAMBRIDGESHIRE PRAYER CALL

A weekly prayer guide for the Cambridgeshire Baptist family

JANUARY to MARCH 2012

Forgetting what is behind and straining towards what is ahead, I press on towards the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenwards in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 3:13-14

A Very Happy and Richly Blessed New Year to all our readers!

"Challenge" is a word we will hear a lot of this New Year! Coping with the financial crisis will be a challenge. Handling public finances will be a challenge. Facing employment issues will be a challenge. Even the weather is likely to be a challenge! Christians will face a challenge, therefore. Firstly, to pray - it is the source of the wisdom and power needed to manage all this. Thanksgiving reminds us God is with us and petition opens our situations to the reality of His love. Secondly, to live and speak Good News - we have been given this and we are experiencing it in Christ's continuing work by the Spirit. Now is the time to share it! Now is the time to support one another in that sharing. So, please, use this prayer diary to help us all meet the undoubted challenge of the New Year.

Revd Paul Hills – Senior Regional Minister

All are invited to the Cbmf New Year Prayer Meeting on Thursday 5 January at 7.30pm at Arbury Road Baptist Church - for worship and most importantly for prayer for the work of Home Mission and BMS World Mission.

January 1 to 7

Cambridge, Arbury Road Baptist Church: Revd Neil Harding

During this past year we have seen an increase in the prayer life of the church, and would pray that his will continue to grow. We also ask for prayer for the strengthening of various house groups that meet and for wisdom in the way we support all the young people who meet on the premises. We reach out through regular lunches and other events - pray that the desire to be involved in mission will continue to grow. Thank you for your support.

January 8 to 14

Harston Baptist Church: Revd Scott Paton

Thanks to God for the recently appointed Deacons and Treasurer; pray that the new team will gel well together when we meet up in the new year. Our Friday night youth table tennis club which includes a short Christian reflection is going well. Please pray for seeds to be sown in hearts that will bear fruit. We will soon be having discussions about outreach activities in the new year. Please pray that God will give us clear direction and bless our service for Him.

January 15 to 21

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

Many churches will be engaging in ecumenical activities during this special week of the year (18 to 25 January), celebrating the essential unity that exists between believers and congregations of God's people. It is good to be able to include a special exclusive contribution in this edition of the Prayer Call from the Lord Jesus himself:

I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. (John 17:20-21)

May we be the answer to his prayer.

January 22 to 28

Great Shelford Free Church (Baptist): Revd Mike McDade

Our Youth Leader, Paul Joel, moved on in August to follow God's call to Baptist Ministry. He is currently studying at Spurgeons whilst in Student Pastorsip at Cotton End Baptist Church near Bedford. Diana Parr has been appointed as Ministerial Assistant with responsibility for Children, Youth and Families, as well as assisting the minister in the day to day business of the church.

We rejoice to see growing numbers in our Under 1s, Toddlers and Children's groups. We still hold our Thursday Youth Group, reaching out to 11-14yr olds. We also rejoice about our Family Tea Service, held monthly on Sunday afternoons. It was aimed originally at the families of our Under 1s group, but has now been extended to include all family groups.

Our Minister, Mike, is currently on long term sick leave. We ask for your prayers for him and his wife, Pat, as they adjust to this extended period of sickness, and for the church as we continue to reach out into the community with the gospel.

January 29 to February 4

Cambridge, Barnwell Baptist Church: Revd Stuart Wood

We have again known God's blessing through another year with amazing answers to prayer especially regarding our Manse situation, which is still not yet resolved, but we are learning much on the journey. We have been encouraged to see new folk from the local community come along and find the Church to be a place where they can belong and explore what we believe.

Looking ahead, two of the many challenges – financially - our support from St Andrew's Street Baptist Church, which has been such a blessing, is entering the final year of 5; continuing to build strong and healthy relationships with our local community. It promises to be another exciting year – please continue to stand with us. Many thanks.

February 5 to 11

Home Mission

For the first 12 weeks of 2012 we are encouraging all the EBA churches to find out more about Home Mission. A visit to the EBA website will reveal a tab for "12 for 12" which contains 12 ideas of ways that churches can get more information. Also, watch out in your church for postcards for each member with this information on too. One suggestion is that at 12 noon each day, for the first 12 weeks of 2012, we pause and pray for a church that has a grant from Home Mission. There will be stories on the website each week. Please pray that these 12 weeks will get people excited about people coming to know Jesus because of our partnership in mission through Home Mission.

Revd Sheila Martin – Regional Minister

February 12 to 18

Trinity Village Baptist Church (Perry and Offord): Revd Paul Williams

The congregation at Perry has been especially encouraged during recent months to welcome new friends. First there were mother and son, Lara and Aron, who started to attend in May, and more recently James and Sarah came to share worship with us. We also had the first baptismal service in several years when Lara and Aron witnessed to their faith in the Lord Jesus during November.

We continue to meet at Offord on the 1st and 3rd Sunday evenings of the month, and have also enjoyed joint "Songs of Praise" sessions there with our Anglican friends.

The growth in attendance at the fortnightly Prayer and Bible Study meeting has also proved a blessing. We regularly circulate the homes in Perry with invitations to special events, and Paul has many opportunities in local schools. Please pray for us.

February 19 to 25

Lode Chapel - RE:NEW: Revd Simon Goddard

On 1 January Lode Chapel entered into partnership with the nearby Great Wilbraham Chapel. That same day we welcomed seven new members into the RE:NEW congregation, which continues to meet every Sunday morning in Bottisham Primary School. On second Sundays we still provide a Kids Club and Café Church, which attracts a number of different people from the local community. We also have a programme of evening services across the two chapel venues, and offer weekly services at Queen's Court, the local residential care home.

We continue to express ourselves ecumenically and thank God for the strong sense of partnership between ourselves and the local Anglican churches. We particularly praise God for the pioneer ministry student from Ridley Hall who will be on placement with us until June 2013. Do pray for us in the financial challenges we face, but believe with us that God is faithful and will continue to provide the necessary resources as we act in obedience to his call to be missionary disciples.

February 26 to March 3

Girton Baptist Church: Revd Steve Holland

We thank God for his continued blessing. We have had the joy of several new members and a baptism. We ask that God might continue to grow his kingdom and praise him for the part we can play. We also ask for prayers for the renovation work that will take place on the church in March, especially for the witness we are able to give as we worship elsewhere in the village.

March 4 to 10

Gamlingay Baptist Church: Revd James Gilbert

2011 was busy and eventful: God is answering our prayers and we now have a number of families within the congregation. We have a Sunday Club for the first time in some years and have begun 'Messy Church' once a month. This has meant some changes and, although we welcome it and are delighted to see God at work amongst us, it is considerable extra work for the same small number of people. We long to see this work develop and would appreciate prayer that God will raise up new workers among us to help carry it. The congregation is growing, so please pray that this continues and that God will establish and grow us together into one unified body.