



# EASTERN BAPTIST ASSOCIATION



## **ESSEX PRAYER DIARY**

**JANUARY – MARCH 2012**

### **Regional Ministry Team – Revd Paul Hills**

As ever the New Year brings new hope and new challenges. With the return of Richard Lewis from sabbatical the RM team will be up to strength again. Please give thanks for the support the team receives in its work and pray for safety in the travel it undertakes. As we meet to consider plans for the future, please pray for wisdom and insight. Similarly, as ministers and churches look ahead please give thanks for all God has done and pray for clarity of vision for the future. In all things, may God's kingdom come!

### **Regional Ministry Team – Revd Sheila Martin**

A new year, a fresh start, a new beginning. The early days of each New Year are days of hope. As part of our partnership in mission with one another, churches in the EBA are being encouraged to use the “12 for 12” materials in the first 12 weeks of this New Year. These will help us to reconnect with what God is doing among the churches, mainly those supported by Home Mission grants of one kind or another. Please pray that strong relationships will grow out of “12 for 12” and that people will come to living faith in Jesus as a result.

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**1<sup>st</sup> January**

**Ashdon Baptist Church  
Minister: Revd David Doonan**

We praise the Lord for a good year! Attendance at Sunday worship has increased. Two couples have applied for membership. We have adopted the BUGB recommended constitution and become an 'open-membership' church. We have run a successful Y Course with our Anglican friends and seen friends grow in their faith.

Pray for the New Year Lent Groups we will again hold with our Anglican friends. Pray for our outreach through Parent and Toddler Club and monthly Lunch Club.

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**8<sup>th</sup> January**

**Basildon, Kingswood Baptist Church  
Minister: Revd Stuart Woodward**

Praise God for two baptisms following our last Alpha Course and praise Him for continued growth in all ages.

Praise God that change of use permission has been granted on the manse to release it to make more space for our children's work.

Pray for the funding for a new manse and for sufficient leaders at all levels to keep pace with our growth.

Pray that many more will come to faith in Jesus through our ministry.

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**15<sup>th</sup> January**

**Benfleet Baptist Church  
Moderator: Revd Doug Crisp**

We are most grateful to God for His continuing abundant provision and care.

We are blessed with the excellent ministry we receive week by week and thank God for those men who are willing to serve Him and our church in this way.

Our weekly Prayer and Bible study meeting continues to receive good support. Work continues amongst the Mothers and Toddlers Group, the Women's Meeting, and our Sunday Services. Our Sunday School has ceased to meet as we no longer have any children of the appropriate age. We would love to have younger Christian families and children in our fellowship and would value your prayers in this matter. As an aging congregation we are seeing increasing health issues and some members are no longer able to join with us at our meetings.

Please pray with us as we seek to know the Lord's leading in all things and in our witness to Benfleet.

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**22<sup>nd</sup> January**

**Billericay Baptist Church  
Minister: Revd Alasdair Macleod**

Give thanks:

- † For those who faithfully continue to serve the Lord, His church and the community.
- † For our Alpha, Café Church and many other outreach activities.
- † For our expanding work with children and youth and the opportunities for reaching wider families.

Please pray:

- † For our leadership team as, together, they seek the Lord's direction and the empowering of the Holy Spirit in leading the church forward and in reaching the lost for Jesus.
- † For our active engagement with the community of Billericay.
- † For discernment as we seek to build the staff team.
- † For creativity as we seek to equip the congregation for whole life discipleship."xxx

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**29<sup>th</sup> January**

**Bishop's Stortford Baptist Church  
Minister: Revd John Walford**

After 12 years of prayer, planning and waiting we began work on our new church centre in September. It will be open and ready for use by autumn 2012. We are so grateful to God for His faithfulness to us in this. Please pray that we will make the maximum use of these new facilities and the opportunities that they bring. Please also pray that we do not forget the valuable lessons about what being church means, learned during our years without a building. In times of scarce resources we also need God's provision to finance the job. Thank you.

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**29<sup>th</sup> January**

**Blackmore Baptist Church  
Minister: Vacant**

We no longer consider ourselves to be in an interregnum. While we are open to the Lord sending us a new minister in His time, we have now settled into a team ministry leadership style and are being led by our four deacons. Following an exercise during which the deacons prayed through key events of church history, the prophetic voice has been released into our church and we feel God's guiding hand upon us. We are mindful of His calling to hold to the truth of scripture and to love one another and those who visit us.

We feel that God has a new vision for us. Please pray for us we seek to understand His will.

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**5<sup>th</sup> February**

**Braintree Baptist Church  
Minister: Revd Vilma Broadhurst**

On 9th June 2012 Braintree Baptist Church as part of Braintree Area Churches Together will be putting on a 'Party in the Park' in Weaver Park to coincide with the county wide celebrations leading up to the Olympic Games. The Essex County celebrations of which Braintree district is part of is called 'Sparks will Fly'.

'Party in the Park' will play host to several Christian performers as well as give opportunity for testimonies and sharing our faith with many from the area. In preparation for this event Rev Shiela Martin will lead a six week course for Braintree Area Churches Together on evangelism in Feb/March 2012. Please pray the Christians in Braintree will be moved to want to know how to share Jesus and attend the six week course, pray the Holy Spirit will speak through Sheila to inspire everyone to share Jesus, pray the community is blessed through all that is said and done in Jesus' name and pray we may get the financial support to achieve this huge event.

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**12<sup>th</sup> February**

**Brentwood Baptist Church  
Minister: Pastoral Vacancy**

For the past year, we have been in a pastoral vacancy and have been wonderfully served with a variety of visiting speakers, bringing God's word to us. We give God thanks that he has given the leadership guidance, wisdom and discernment in seeking our next minister, and we praise God that the membership are in the process of calling a new minister, to continue the ministry in Brentwood, provisionally planned for May 2012.

We thank God for the continuing work amongst our young people and thank God for the commitment of our Children's and Youth worker, Mr James McAdam, along with a number of our members assisting him in this valuable work. We pray that this commitment will bear fruit in the coming months.

We praise God for a successful Alpha Course run in the Autumn, in conjunction with an Anglican Church in the town, and give him thanks that a number of folk have committed their lives to Christ. Please continue to pray for our outreach worker, Michelle Gibbins as she continues to work in a variety of ways with contacts through Mothers and Toddlers, Pre School and other town wide initiatives.

We continue to pray for Lyn Cooke, a member of our fellowship serving in Africa, following a 6 month home assignment, which finished in June this year. Please pray for Lyn as she starts a new work ministering to women in Arua, a rural part of Uganda.

Please pray for our fellowship, that as a Church we will be filled with the Holy Spirit, that we will draw closer to God and radiate and reflect His love in our own lives, and with those whom we come into contact with, especially as we prepare to welcome John in the near future.

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**19<sup>th</sup> February**

**Brentwood, Pilgrims Hatch Baptist Church  
Minister: Revd James Pate**

We are delighted to report that God has brought us back to Larchwood School on Sunday mornings after 10 months away. This was a wonderful answer to prayer and we are delighted to be back.

We are now seeking God's direction as to how to serve the community and lead it to Christ. There's lots of things we could do, but we need the manpower and sometimes the venue.

Quite a few folk in our church have gone through difficult times recently. Please pray for us as we seek to love and support each other.

Please pray for James as chair of BADEF, the local group of evangelical churches.

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**26<sup>th</sup> February**

**Canvey Island, Leigh Beck Baptist Church  
Lay Pastor: John Kennett**

We would ask for your prayers first of all for our Lay Pastor John Kennett as he looks towards completing his studies.

Pray also for our membership as we endeavour to build God's Church here on Canvey Island. We are seeing growth through the Boys Brigade and our youth group, both have been a real blessing, we are now seeing more youngsters joining us and beginning to attend the Sunday Morning Services.

Please pray as we reach out to the communities around us, we will grow together as we continue to serve him here at Canvey Island (Leigh Beck) Baptist Church.

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**4<sup>th</sup> March**

**Canvey Island, Winter Gardens Baptist Church  
Minister-in-Training: Mark Davison**

As Mark Davison comes to the end of his placement from Spurgeon's college, we are seeking to discern the mind of God for the future ministry at Winter Gardens Baptist Church. We are seeing God at work within the fellowship with baptisms and good relationships being built in the local community through the schools and a new 'knitting circle'. Please pray that we will make decisions which honour our Lord Jesus and further his kingdom in this area.

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**11<sup>th</sup> March**

**Chelmsford, Central Baptist Church  
Minister: Revd Dr Paul Beasley-Murray**

'LOOKING FOR LOVE. Want it. Need It. Find it' is a seven-week programme we shall be running from Sunday 12 February – Sunday 1 April involving not just all the Sunday services, morning and evening, but also all the home groups. We dare to believe that God will use this programme which originated in NZ as a means to revitalize the church, not least through the creation of many extra home groups, as also to reach out to many in the community. In our enthusiasm we are praying to see 40 new Christians!! Pray for us in our preparation – as also in the delivery.

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**18<sup>th</sup> March**

**Chelmsford, North Springfield Baptist Church  
Minister: Revd. Peter Thomas**

The church continue to be encouraged as we welcome new folk and rejoice in Impact, our new Saturday group for teenagers. Coming up we have a day “Discovering Prayer” an International Evening and a Barn Dance as well as our seeker’s course “Meet Jesus.” Prayer for the prospect of some baptisms!

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**18<sup>th</sup> March**

**Chelmsford, Springfield Park, Baptist Church  
Minister: Revd Roger Stark**

We have been encouraged by recent baptisms and increases in membership.  
Please pray for future redevelopment of our church buildings.

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**25<sup>th</sup> March**

**Clacton-on-Sea, Pier Avenue Baptist Church  
Minister: Revd Sean Fountain**

We give thanks for:

- † Continued church growth.
- † Grant funding for the final stages of our Welcome Centre.
- † Opportunities presented to us by our local Primary Care Trust to begin a joint project to support homeless people in our community.
- † Continued opportunities for community involvement.

Please pray for:

- † The final completion of the Welcome Centre.
- † The setting up of the Enfold project (to support homeless people in our community)

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**If any of your church details change, (i.e. Minister, contact e-mail etc) or you find them incorrect, could you please let me know so that I can update my records.**

Thank you

Editor:

Mrs Alison Horncastle

[alisonhorncastle@virginmedia.com](mailto:alisonhorncastle@virginmedia.com)

0208 592 4908