

**Kay Street
Baptist Church
Rawtenstall**

**Monthly
Newsletter**

FEBRUARY

2018

No.795

Charity No.1129330

Can our worship of God be MAGI-cal ?

At the all-age service in January we explored the visit of the Magi in the Christmas story and looked at how their actions could help us in our approach to worship. I felt the themes were worthy of further reflection as we journey together as a Church, discovering more about who God is and how we can serve Him better. I cannot claim credit for these thoughts; they are based on a blog post by Joel Payne, a Minister of Prayer and Worship in London.

I use the word worship in its very broadest sense ... our worship is all that we offer to God as our response to what He has done for us. Worship isn't just about what we do together on a Sunday morning or a midweek group but about how we live our lives and offer them up to Him.

A familiar reading from Romans took on new meaning recently when we heard it read from The Message:

So here's what I want you to do, God helping you: Take your everyday, ordinary life—your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life—and place it before God as an offering. Embracing what God does for you is the best thing you can do for him.

Romans 12 verse 1 from "The Message"

So returning to the Magi ... They were the first group of people who are recorded as explicitly worshipping Jesus; what can they teach us about our worship of God ?

They made an effort

They travelled many hundreds of miles to worship the new king. This can't have been an easy journey or one that took just a few minutes out of their day ! Their desire to find God and worship Him took over their lives. We have many calls on our time, how strongly does the call to worship God feature on our "to do" list ?

They came prepared

The Magi brought gifts, and not cheap ones either. We're not sure if they fully understood the prophetic significance of what they brought, but they came prepared !

They were full of joy

The chance to meet the newborn child was the highlight of their day, of their year ! The NIV translation said they were **overjoyed** when they saw the star. Our lives are far from perfect, full of ups and downs, of situations that stretch us to the limit. However, God promises us joy and we can find that joy as we encounter Him and let Him take control of our lives.

They saw the child; they bowed down and worshipped

The Magi could have left their presents at the door, but instead they came into the house where Jesus was and their response was simple yet profound: they bowed down and worshipped Him. They knew what to do in the presence of a king. Whether they'd planned to do this or whether they saw something in the child and couldn't do anything but bow down and worship, we're not sure. But like so many in the Bible, when they met God face to face, they bowed down and worshipped. When we meet God in our quiet times, in our services, in our encounters, do we bow down and worship Him ? Do we acknowledge who He really is ?

They opened their treasures

What a wonderful picture of worship ! They opened up what was precious to them and offered it to the newborn child. Do we, honestly and truthfully, offer what we most hold dear to God or do we still hold on to some things ? This could be possessions, but also our attitudes, and even our sin. Are we willing to offer these up to God, to sacrifice them to Him ?

So for 2018, will our worship of our amazing God be **Magi**-cal ? Will we deliberately take our everyday, ordinary life—our sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life—and place it before God as an offering ? If we do, what a **Magi**-cal year it will be !

David Griffith, on behalf of Matt, Jess and the deacons

Prayer Points for February

Christians in the workplace

- Thank God for the blessing of fruitful and rewarding work, both through paid employment and other duties and responsibilities. Pray for those who will embark upon something new in the coming year and ask for God's protection and blessing upon their activities.
- Pray for Christians who are unsure how best to share their faith openly at work, particularly in the public sector: that God's love and truth would shine through their lives. Ask Him to give special wisdom, grace and integrity if an employer expects them to act in ways that compromise their beliefs.
- Thank God for the work of Christian chaplains. Pray that they continue to have freedom to share the gospel sensitively and offer support in universities and schools, the armed forces, hospitals, transport, industry, business and other professional and work environments.
- Pray for Christians working in the arts, media, sport and entertainment worlds, especially those who are 'personalities' with a high profile. Ask God to protect them from attack and grant them opportunities to be a positive witness for Christ in their public and personal lives.
- Pray for safety for those who work in unpleasant, hazardous and stressful jobs: sewage and waste management, emergency and rescue services, construction and demolition work, in combat zones, and amongst people in extreme need and with complex problems.
- Pray for those for whom work is a struggle to maintain faithfulness and integrity.
- Pray for those seeking work and those whose employment is vulnerable.

CAP

Give thanks for:

- Jane as she continues to develop her role
- Good support from the partner churches
- Good relationships with referring agencies
- Good relationships with clients

Please pray for:

- Clients to work through their situation and become debt free
- Good relationships between clients and befrienders
- Clients to come to faith in Jesus and to grow in their faith
- Wisdom for Jane, particularly in the use of time and protection of family life.

Persecuted Church

We will be remembering the persecuted church in particular on Feb 11th.

Please pray for:

Individuals – Pray that they:

- remain strong in faith and trust despite physical and psychological abuse
- will be able to forgive those who persecute them or who fail to support them
- will experience and know love, joy and peace from God (Romans 8:28-39)
- will walk humbly in their identification with Christ's sufferings
- will be fruitful witnesses to others
- will be able to balance standing up for their rights, yet responding in grace and love

Spouses – Pray that they:

- cope with the sense of loss and isolation
- cope with caring and providing for children alone
- remain full of faith and hope
- overcome any intimidation from police or other aggressors

Children – Pray that they:

- are protected from long term psychological/emotional harm and bitterness

- are protected from abduction or the “corrective teaching” some States try to impose
- might know and experience the love of God

Converts – Pray that they:

- receive help to grow spiritually
- are protected and provided for should their family or community turn against them
- will have the courage to lead others to know Christ

Church plant

Alastair Barrie's church, Christ Church Manchester, is planting a new site in the city centre of Manchester. Alastair is taking a lead in male discipleship and running the worship and street evangelism teams as well as being involved in preaching and playing in the worship band. This is under the close oversight of one of the elders of Christ Church Manchester. It is due to launch on Feb 11th.

He has asked for prayer for:

- Provision for the church plant in terms of finances, people and giftings
- Growth through conversions rather than transfers
- Insight and wisdom for those involved in leading and preaching, so that people might grow and thrive, not 'tread water or hear comforting banalities'.
- Time and space for those involved in the preparation and leadership, many of whom are busy in other roles.

♪♪I give thanks to you my Heavenly Father♪♪

Well, we are a month into 2018 – how's it going?

Are you still going to the gym, eating healthily or keeping up with any of the other good intentions you had a month ago? Or has life got in the way?

Already in the church family there have been bereavements, serious illnesses, disappointments, upsets... and more.

There have also been many things, big and small, that are really good.

We often sing songs in church about being thankful to God and one we sometimes sing lists things to give thanks for – it has some interesting ones! Some we may like, some we don't.

seals and squids, great blue whales, slugs and spiders, a bucket of snails, prunes and pizza, Stir-fry, stew, chocolate and jelly

Maybe sometimes life seems to be more slugs and spiders than chocolate and jelly but in all the ups and downs of life there is one certainty – God is with us.

I was recently talking to someone in our congregation who, because of long term health issues, faces many challenges and uncertainties. However her anticipation of 2108 was that it will be a good year.

How can we say that this year, this week, today will be good?

We don't know what lies ahead and experience tells us that it probably won't be all “chocolate and jelly”.

The Bible tells us to be thankful. As we look for the things, however small to thank God for, as we become grateful, thankful people we recognise God at work and as we recognise God at work we become more thankful and joyful.

1 Thessalonians 5:18 (The Message)

Be cheerful no matter what; pray all the time; thank God no matter what happens. This is the way God wants you who belong to Christ Jesus to live.

Whilst we can give thanks for the day to day blessings, the greatest blessing is that we have a God who loves us. He sent His Son Jesus whose life and teachings show us what living as God's children is like, whose death and resurrection secured our salvation from sin and it's consequences and whose presence with us through the Holy Spirit gives us strength, courage, peace, joy and everything we need to live life as disciples, his precious children, his friends.

We live in a world that is often cynical and negative, selfish and ungrateful – but we live in the kingdom of love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness and thankfulness.

Romans 2 v1 (The Message)

So here's what I want you to do, God helping you: Take your everyday, ordinary life (*whether it's chocolate and jelly or slugs and snails*)—your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life—and place it before God as an offering. Embracing what God does for you is the best thing you can do for him. Don't become so well-adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking. Instead, fix your attention on God.

Allyson Jump on behalf of Matt, Jess and the deacons

Green fingered ?

Following the Memory Choir's Christmas lunch at Kay Street, the following was received. If anyone wishes to investigate the offer further (or possibly work as a member of a team, if there is someone willing to lead and organise), please contact Geoff. Skilling.

'Hi I'm from Helmshore and I have re-started helping with the Memory Choir on Wednesdays. I have just been listening to a radio 4 programme about poverty and food banks. I have a very large allotment that I can't use myself - too old and too stiff. There are 2 poly tunnels, water and about 17 raised beds and a fruit garden. I tried to use it with my husband last year but it over came us really. I hate waste so, I wondered if it could be of use to some of your congregation to produce food for your congregation and lunch clubs. There is such a warm and inclusive atmosphere at your church'.



Church Family News

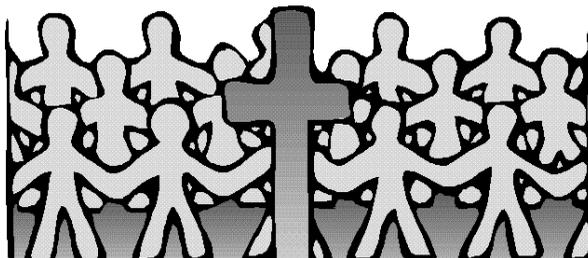
It was decided at the January Church meeting to hold members' meetings bimonthly - this means that the next members' meeting will be in March.

Bereavements - with sadness we report that **Roz Coleman's** mother has passed away after a lengthy illness and **Fiona Hull's** brother has died suddenly and unexpectedly. To both families we extend our sympathy.



Sunday Worship in February

Feb 4 AM



**Sunday, February 4
Rawtenstall Churches
United Service at
Longholme Methodist Church at 10.30 am**

Feb 4 PM Communion and Prayer led by Janet Barrie

Feb 11 AM Preacher Ben Huxtable
Coordinator Di Isherwood **Persecuted Church Sunday**
PM DVD led by Allyson jump

Feb 18 AM Preacher Mrs G Reeves Communion
Coordinator Jane Jackson *Seeing the wind - Matt 14:30-32*
PM Preacher Rev J Prior

Feb 25 AM Preacher Rev M Hirst
Coordinator David Isherwood *That sinking feeling - Matt*
PM Café Church led by Janet Barrie



Diary for February

Sat Feb 3	Safeguarding levels 2 & 3 - upstairs
Sat Feb 3	Asda Prayer Breakfast 8 am.
Sat Feb 3	Torch Fellowship 2 pm.
Mon Feb 5	Deacons' Meeting
Sun Feb 11	Visit to Holme Manor
Sat Feb 17	Coffee Morning at Trinity Baptist Church, Bacup with the Ovenden family
Sat Feb 17	Prayer Walk 4.30pm.
Mon Feb 19	Tearfund Prayer and Support 7.30 pm. at Holcombe Brook Methodist Church
Sat Feb 24	Striders Monthly Walk – Royton and Chadderton 5½ Miles
Sun Feb 25	Visit to Cherry Tree Lodge
Wed Feb 28	Get together evening with ?

Looking back to February 1993

.....and the newsletter of February 1993

The Church meeting in January agreed that the church heating and lighting systems would be replaced in June 1993.

A 'March for Jesus' through Rawtenstall was being arranged for June 12.

A series of 'Singles evenings' was being arranged.

Rotas for February

Stewards

Coordinator David Pilling

	Porch	Up left	Up Right
Feb 4	United Service at Longholme Methodist Church		
Feb 11	Carol Hargreaves Richard Hargreaves	Robin Coulston	Pat Coulston
Feb 18	Thelma Hitch David Pilling	Margaret Robinson	Tom Pickup
Feb 25	Michael Wells Paul Webb-Sear	Stuart Brown	Peter Leonard

Coffee

Coordinator Sandy Rushton

- Feb 4 United Service at Longholme Methodist Church
 Feb 11 Stuart Brown, Jenny Brunskill, Peter Leonard
 Feb 18 June Worsley, Gill Wills, Pauline Stephenson
 Feb 25 June Worsley, Jim Barrie, Anne Fielder

Crèche

Coordinator Gwen Haworth

Changes in organising the crèche and Tiddlywinks (Primary first group) are taking place. Please make enquiries re rota to Gwen or Jess.

Flowers

Coordinator Carol Hargreaves

- Feb 4 Vacant
 Feb 11 Sheila Wild
 Feb 18 Vacant
 Feb 25 Vacant



Please note that material for the March issue should reach the Editor Joyce Barnes joyce.barnes563@btinternet.com by Feb 18 for publication on Feb 28.