



Welcome to all the CBC Fellowship.

Here is the CBC Newsletter/diary for January 2014. If you have any comments or contributions, feel free to contact me,

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Looking back at last year's January Newsletter, I could just repeat the message. Conflict in Ukraine continues added to by the devastating situation in Palestine and Israel and hostilities around the globe we hear little of in the news. Earthquakes and volcanic eruptions, floods and droughts affecting some of the poorest countries least able to deal with them leading to refugees seeking help and support. In this country, the struggle goes on for many with inflation, lack of adequate housing and a National Health Service seemingly, on its knees.

How do we approach such issues which can seem overwhelming? During a radio interview this week, Justin Welby did not give glib platitudes but said that rather than 'optimistic', he was "hopeful" of good choices being made between individuals and nations. His message was one of reconciliation, of being able to disagree without destruction, never seeing an opponent as an enemy but as a human being. How the World needs to hear and take note. As we read God's word, we see that all that time ago, much was out of kilter with God's message of love and peace. The Apostles and Paul particularly wrote to the fledgling churches who were facing opposition, danger, foreign occupation and a corrupt society, urging them to faithfully follow Christ in such difficult times – because of the hope that was within them. This hope still burns bright today because Jesus is alive, real and present in our every-day situations. A quote from Bishop Tutu:

"Dear Child of God, I write these words because we all experience sadness, we all come at times to despair, and we all lose hope that the suffering in our lives and in the world will ever end. I want to share with you my faith and my understanding that this suffering can be transformed and redeemed. There is no such thing as a totally hopeless case. Our God is an expert at dealing with chaos, with brokenness, with all the worst that we can imagine. God created order out of disorder, cosmos out of chaos, and God can do so always, can do so now--in our personal lives and in our lives as nations, globally. ... Indeed, God is transforming the world now--through us--because God loves us." — Desmond Tutu, [God Has a Dream: A Vision of Hope for Our Time](#)

As we move forward into a new year, we look to Jesus and hold on to God's word in Hebrews: "Let us keep our eyes fixed on Jesus on whom our faith depends from beginning to end. He did not give up because of the cross! On the contrary, because of the joy that was waiting for him, he thought nothing of the disgrace of dying on the cross and he is now seated at the right-hand side of God's throne" (Heb. 12.2)

Thank you to all who helped in any way towards the Christmas celebrations. The Carol service was particularly well attended and much enjoyed. Four of us took the nativity story

to Fynamore school. The Rise Trust were very grateful to receive vouchers for Calne families in particular need – a substantial amount was raised.

The 20/20 Vision group have been particularly busy with preparations for the demolition and re-build of the church. Some trees have been cut down on the boundary with Castlefield Park and some lopped between the church and Castle House. Also, piling work has been carried out to test the ground. More information as soon as we are able to provide it from the next 2020 Group meeting. There is much to do – please pray for God’s leading as we move forward into unknown territory.

Wayne Lawther will be preaching this coming Sunday and following the service, we will share lunch together after which Wayne will be responding to our questions. On Monday 8th January, there will be a Special Church Meeting to consider and vote whether to appoint Wayne as Minister of Calne Baptist Church. If you need a lift to this important meeting, please let me know. **ALSO – we shall be meeting for prayer on Thursday, 4th January at Church, 7.00 pm to ask for God’s wisdom and discernment.**

After the Christmas break, we resume the usual weekly meetings –

Living Room – every Monday 10.30 am – 2.00 pm
(Note: 22nd Jan. 11.00 – 12.00 Violin Duo – all welcome)

Coffee Morning - every Wednesday 10.30 am – 12 noon

Evening Prayer - 1st and 3rd Sunday of each month at 6.00 pm.

Home Groups - every Monday and Thursday evening. (Ask for more information)

January Dates

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| 4 th January 7.00 pm | - Special Prayer Meeting at church |
| 7 th January 10.30 am | - Wayne Lawther leading and preaching Family Service |
| 8 th January 7.00 pm | - Special Church Meeting |
| 11 th January | - Partnership of Churches Meeting and AGM |
| 14 th January , 3.00 pm | - Messy Church, Methodist Church |
| 18 th – 25 th January | - Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (21 st - Joint service – venue and time tbc) |
| 21 st January 6.00 pm | - Evening Prayer 14 th January 3.00 pm |
| 28 th January | - Church Meeting following Morning Service |

Please continue to pray for all aspects of the work at CBC, as we move forward under the banner of Christ.

The Deacons are always grateful for help and support.

Speakers during January: Wayne Lawther, Gary Woodall, Martin Smith, Nigel Cole.