

MALBOROUGH  
BAPTIST  
CHURCH

MINISTER  
REV TIM SKILLMAN

# Fellowship News

Volume 4, Issue 3

March 2011

Morning Service 10:30 am Communion service held on the first Sunday of the month.

## Pastors Comment ...



The February Feast was a real treat for everyone that came! We even had a few rays of sunlight as we watched the waves crashing on the rocks below. It was wonderful to see Bryan and Diana and have several members of the Parish Church join us. The Cottage Hotel was top notch as we were spoiled rotten. Thank you Denis and Kate for organising such a great event.

At the QBM it was agreed to purchase 'stackable' chairs in the near future. It was also agreed to install kitchen units with oven, fridge and microwave. All these improvements will expand the usability of the church. Many thanks to all who have donated funds, given items and offered their skills to make this happen.

Lent meetings will be upon us and may be at the Parish Church. Denis will let us know soon. Lastly, please pray for Ros & Kate who aren't well and remember each other throughout the church. God bless you—*Pastor Tim*.

## Services

### March

6th Mr. Mike Law  
13th Mr. M. Young  
20th Rev. Tim Skillman  
27th Rev. Tim Skillman

### April

3rd Rev. Tim Skillman

## Flowers

### March

6th Mrs. K. King  
13th Mrs. E. Parsons  
20th Mrs. E. Putt  
27th Mr. R. Parsons

### April

3rd Mrs. D. Laphorn



## Hoovering (week ending...)

### March

5th Mrs. K. King  
12th Mrs. G. Sterry  
19th Mrs. S. Jones  
26th Ms. J. Brown

### April

2nd Mrs. E. Putt



"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. <sup>12</sup> Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you.

*Jeremiah 29:11-12*

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## Who Was Saint Patrick?

Even though Saint Patrick the patron saint of Ireland is one of the most celebrated religious figures around the world, the factual information about his life and times is quite vague. Most information about St. Patrick has been twisted, embellished, or simply made up over centuries by storytellers, causing much ambiguity about the real life of St. Patrick. However, there are some elements of his story about which most scholars accept to be true.

According to Colin Owens, Irish literature expert and Professor Emeritus of English at George Mason University, Saint Patrick is traditionally thought to have lived "between 432-461 A.D. At the age of sixteen he was kidnapped from his native land of the Roman British Isles by a band of pirates, and sold into slavery in Ireland. Saint Patrick worked as a shepherd and turned to religion for solace. After six years of slavery he escaped to the Irish coast and fled home to Britain.

While back in his homeland, Patrick decided to become a priest and then decided to return to Ireland after dreaming that the voices of the Irish people were calling him to convert them to Christianity.

After studying and preparing for several years, Patrick travelled back to Ireland as a Christian missionary. Although there were already some Christians living in Ireland, St. Patrick was able to bring upon a massive religious shift to Christianity by converting people of power. Says Prof. Owens, "St. Patrick is credited with converting the nobles; who set an example which the people followed."

But Patrick's desire to spread of Christianity was not met without mighty opposition. Prof. Owens explains, "Patrick ran into trouble with the local pagan priesthood, the druids: and there are many stories about his arguments with them as well as his survival of plots against them." He laid the groundwork for the establishment of hundreds of monasteries and churches that eventually popped up across the Irish country to promote Christianity. Saint Patrick is also credited with bringing written word to Ireland through the promotion of the study of legal texts and the Bible, says Prof. Owens. Previous to Patrick, storytelling and history were reliant on memory and orally passing down stories.

Patrick's mission in Ireland is said to have lasted for thirty years. It is believed he died in the 5th century on March 17, which is the day St. Patrick's Day is commemorated each year.

The first year St. Patrick's Day was celebrated in America in 1737 in Boston, Massachusetts. The first official St. Patrick's Day parade was held in New York City in 1766. As the saying goes, on this day "everybody is Irish!" Over 100 U.S. cities now hold Saint Patrick's Day parades.

St. Patrick's work is an example to us all, so don't forget to celebrate...

## From the Lord

"And Jesus said unto them ... , "If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible to you."

Romans 1:17

Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the LORD your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you."

Deuteronomy 31:6

The LORD gave this command to Joshua son of Nun: "Be strong and courageous, for you will bring the Israelites into the land I promised them on oath, and I myself will be with you."Deuteronomy 31:23

Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go." Joshua 1:9

Immediately he spoke to them and said, "Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid." Then he climbed into the boat with them, and the wind died down. They were completely amazed.

Mark 6:51

"The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me. Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever."

Psalms 23

Communion for the first Sunday in March will be led by Mr Mike Law, who will be assisted by Jacqui Brown and Enid Parsons.

For all those who love the Lord are welcome to join us for communion. It is our practice to eat the bread singly, but to drink the wine as one fellowship.



For you to colour in, cut out and stick on the wall to remind you about St. Patrick

Please thank in your prayers the Fellowship for being exactly that—a Fellowship that provides support and help when we need it most.

*Love must be sincere.  
Hate what is evil;  
cling to what is good.  
Be devoted to one another ... Honour one another above yourselves.*

Romans 12:9,10