

MALBOROUGH
BAPTIST
CHURCH

MINISTER
REV TIM SKILLMAN

Fellowship News

Volume 6 Issue 2

February 2013

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

Being part of The Leprosy Mission family, gives you the wonderful opportunity to show how you are living as a new creation and how you are helping to take the message of reconciliation across the world to some of its poorest people. You are living as Christ lived, showing care and concern for the poor, marginalised, sick and suffering. Because of your support for The Leprosy Mission you are helping to create new beginnings for those affected by leprosy through the provision of health-care, education, decent housing, water, sanitation and small business loans.

Taken from WORLD LEPROSY DAY 2013 sermon notes

Written by Lisa Lewis

New beginnings

Support us on Sunday 27 January

World Leprosy Day 2013



**'The old has passed away;
behold, the new has come.'**

2 Corinthians 5:17 ESV

Services

Feb
3rd Mr Dennis King
10th Rev Tim Skillman
17th Mr Mike Law
24th Rev Tim Skillman
March
3rd Rev Tim Skillman

Flowers

Feb
3rd Mrs M Hallworth
10th Mr R Parsons
17th Mrs E Parsons
24th Mrs S Jones
March
3rd Mrs P Battin



Door Stewards

Feb
3rd Mrs J Tucker
10th Miss S Perring
17th Mrs E Putt
24th Ms J Brown
March
3rd Mrs K King

Hoovering (week ending...)

Feb
2nd Mrs E Putt
9th Mr H Jones
16th Mrs J Tucker
23rd Mrs K King
March
2nd Mrs G Sterry



2 Corinthians 5:16-21

16 'From now on, therefore, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we once regarded Christ according to the flesh, we regard Him thus no longer. 17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away, behold, the new has come. 18 All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to Himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; 19 that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. 20 Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. 21 For our sake he made Him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God.'

Suggested editorial for church newsletter

New beginnings

Many people would hazard a guess that leprosy is a disease that died out soon after Jesus's time on earth. But three million people across the globe today are disabled or blind because of leprosy. It is undeniably a 21st century problem. Leprosy-affected people face a triple blow of disease, disability and discrimination. It is a disease intrinsically linked with poverty. The Leprosy Mission England and Wales is raising awareness of its work to break the cycle of poverty on Sunday 27 January - World Leprosy Day 2013.

Thanks to the generosity of its supporters, The Leprosy Mission England and Wales is able to provide a springboard for a new beginning to thousands each year in the 12 countries in Asia and Africa where it focuses its work. As well as providing opportunities for early diagnosis and treatment, The Leprosy Mission England and Wales offers gifts of healthcare, rehabilitation, education, vocational training, housing and a fresh water supply.

South Sudan - the UN's newest member state having been granted independence in 2011 - is where The Leprosy Mission England and Wales's latest challenge lies. A new country in need of renewed hope. A leprosy-affected community is living in tents having recently been displaced from land on the outskirts of the capital, Juba. These people had very little to begin with but now they are destitute with their only goal being survival. Their healthcare is woefully inadequate and access to education non-existent.

The Leprosy Mission England and Wales is working with the government of South Sudan to set up a programme to diagnose and treat leprosy before it causes irreversible disabilities or robs a person of their eyesight. It plans to improve this community's living conditions and send the children to school.

On Sunday 27 January, please pray for those affected by the devastating consequences of leprosy in South Sudan and around the world. If you can, please give a gift of hope to help The Leprosy Mission England and Wales continue its life-changing work.

For more information ring 01733 370505 or visit
www.worldleprosyday.org.uk



What a great encouragement Paul gives us in **2 Corinthians 5:16-21**, to see our fellow humans not according to the world, but to see them as God sees them.

'From now on, therefore, we regard no one according to the flesh'

verse 16(a)

Paul is telling us to look at people with Godly eyes, it's not easy; we are so used to seeing people according to the world, to maybe looking at their imperfections, to maybe see their skills and talents in human terms and compare ourselves to them. Our human nature is to judge, but here Paul is telling us not to do that.

'Even though we once regarded Christ according to the flesh, we regard Him thus no longer.'

verse 16(b)

As humans we did not even look at Jesus when He was here on earth with Godly eyes. We looked at Him as the world did and the result of that was to crucify Him as a blasphemer; but as Paul reminds us we don't look at Him like that anymore; we now regard Him with Godly eyes and see Him for what He is, the Son of God.

Because of this we are, or at least should be, free of earthly judgments. Paul then gives us one of the most encouraging verses in scripture:

'Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation.'

The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.'

verse 17

How fantastic! If we live in Christ, if we accept Him as our saviour, we are new creations. All the things we've done that we are not proud of; all the words we have spoken that have hurt people; all the times we have been unkind, ignorant or judgmental; those times have passed. We do not live like that anymore.

Now we live in Christ we are new; new beings that live as Christ lived. So how did Christ live? We can be sure from reading the accounts of His life in the gospels, that Jesus lived as a person concerned for the poor and the marginalised, a person committed to healing the sick and caring for the outcasts, a person who did not look at others according to the flesh but who saw them as God did. We must apply this in our own lives.

Paul tells us where this message comes from, and reminds us of the reason that Christ came to earth:

'All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to Himself, and gave us the ministry of reconciliation'

verse 18

Jesus came to reconcile all people back to God. We had strayed, turned to our own way of doing things and

almost abandoned God along the way. We were reconciled back to God through Jesus dying on the cross to take away our sins so that we would be able to take the ministry of reconciliation into the world. We are clearly not supposed to keep that wonderful reconciliation to ourselves but we are to share it with others, so that all may live in Christ and all be made new in Him.

Continued on the back page....

Pastor's Comment ...

Having commented that "I'd love to see some snow", it seems as though there are many that either love it or hate it (a bit like Marmite) ... it made me realise that I'm just a big kid at heart! Anyway, I'm sure many of you are quite relieved that we're not skating around Higher town (and that's without skates!) The pantomime this year was brilliant! The Sterry's performed admirably (I never knew that Charlie was such a talented actress). Probably the best production we've seen so far, well done!!

Our sincere gratitude goes to Peggy's family, Della, Stephen and Ann, for their very generous donation of £500 from Peggy's legacy. Peggy continues to live in our hearts having put so much into the life of our Chapel.

In other news, the Unity meeting at Kingsbridge Family Church was well attended with excellent singing from the Salcombe Gospel choir. Rev Daniel spoke of living in a day of agnosticism and that we should be prepared with the Word and to demonstrate God's love. Marjorie has been in hospital for a while now and she's not very well – she passes her regards to everyone. Please pray that all will go well with her diagnosis and treatment. Kate and Denis also need our prayers as they struggle with health issues.

Lent courses commence Thursday, February 14th for five weeks and we hope to be joining our Anglican friends. More details to follow soon. As always, last month's fellowship meal was an excellent three course meal with lamb, roast potatoes and veg. There was a surprise cake (made by Jacqui) for Ros and Pauline as we celebrated their birthdays. Once again, well done to all those who put so much effort into making this lunch very special.

Lastly, for you youngsters don't forget Lighthouse on Sunday 27th January at 3-5pm, Kingsbridge Primary School.
Pastor Tim.