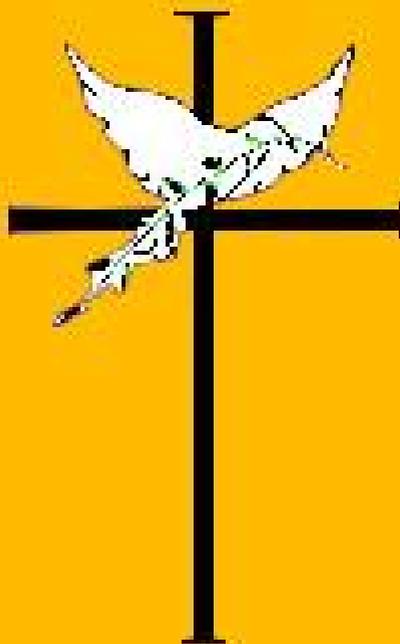


**The
Messenger**

STAFFORD BAPTIST CHURCH

The Green, Bailey Street, Stafford



June—August 2018



**God
has perfect timing;
never early, never late.
It takes a little
patience and faith,
but it's
worth the wait.**

Message from the Associate Minister

Since working our way through the book of Luke from Christmas to Easter, during our Sunday morning worship services at The Green we are now working through Luke's sequel – the book of Acts.

At this time of year the church remembers Pentecost (Acts chapter 2) – the time when the promised gift of the Holy Spirit was poured out on Jesus' followers with amazing manifestations, signs and wonders.

Almost 2000 years later and in a culture very far removed from the biblical Middle East, the account in Acts chapter 2 can seem distant and strange to us. When was the last time God's presence descended with a sound like a violent wind and filled the room where you were meeting? Or when was the last time you saw what looked like tongues of fire on everyone's head at church?!

But the truth about the Holy Spirit is that he is promised as a gift for all who believe, ask and receive (Luke 11:9-13), and that we can asked to be filled with him at any point once our journey of faith has begun (Acts 19:1-7, Joel 2:28-29).

The bible describes the spirit in a number of ways to help us understand his work in us:

- the spirit of truth, leading us into truth (John 16:13)
- the spirit of holiness, helping us to be more holy (Romans 1:4)

- the spirit of life, bringing us freedom (Romans 8:2)
- the counsellor/advocate, teaching and guiding us (John 14:26)
- the spirit of wisdom and understanding, helping us to know the father better (Ephesians 1:17)the spirit of adoption, making us into children of God (Romans 8:15)
- the spirit of power, strengthening us to be his witnesses (Acts 1:8)

Acts 1:1 tells us that the book of Luke was about all what Jesus had '*begun* to do and teach', and so Acts is about what Jesus *continued* to do and teach, but this time through his spirit at work in his followers.

My prayer is that as Jesus' followers we would be filled afresh with his Holy Spirit, and know the power that he brings to live for him – leading us into truth, making us holy, setting us free, guiding us, helping us understand the father better, and empowering us to be his witnesses – so that Jesus can continue to build his kingdom through us.

Danielle Leigh

Thanks:

I wish to express my sincere thanks to all those who supported me for the sponsored walk around Shugborough on Saturday 12th May 2018. £130 has been passed on to the Bible Society.

Again, thank you
John Knight

Church Anniversary Weekend

Sat. 9th June 2018

10.00 – 1.00

**OPEN
DAY**

Honeycastle
craft activities
games competitions

including Boys' Brigade &
Girls' Association
"Coffee Morning"



... coffee - cakes - bacon butties - toy stall ...

... other stalls - information - book shop ...



FAMILY FUN
for 0's to 90's

take a break, meet and chat, come when you can, go when you have to



PEPE



I got more 3 boxes of donations for the children. Thank you very much for showing God's love through attitudes to bless those who do not have. Please thank everyone that has participated in the donations. To bless the Kingdom of God! May God bless their lives each day
A hug from his missionary Lidia Klava da Silva



MESSY CHURCH

family friendly, and for all ages together



Dates for Messy Church:

Sunday 17th June - "After Easter"

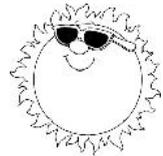
Sunday 15th July

Sunday 19th August

at **10.45am** - following 10AM Service

HOLIDAY at HOME

*a special couple of days
a real treat*



for the over 55's

Wednesday 1st August

*activities, plus coffee and chat from 11.00am
lunch together (12.30) and worship time*

Thursday 2nd August

afternoon drive in the country

- pick up from home at about 2.00pm

splendid afternoon tea at Marsh Farm

- and return transport home



BOOKING FORMS and all the details from Mary Homer

The next time you feel like GOD can't use you, just remember...

Noah was a drunk
Abraham was too old
Isaac was a daydreamer
Jacob was a liar
Leah was ugly
Joseph was abused
Moses had a stuttering problem
Gideon was afraid
Sampson had long hair and was a womanizer
Rahab was a prostitute
Jeremiah and Timothy were too young
David had an affair and was a murderer
Elijah was suicidal
Isaiah preached naked
Jonah ran from God
Naomi was a widow
Job went bankrupt
John the Baptist ate bugs
Peter denied Christ - three times
The Disciples fell asleep while praying
Martha worried about everything
The Samaritan woman was divorced, more than once
Zaccheus was too small
Paul was too religious
Timothy had an ulcer...

AND

Lazarus was dead!

What do you have that's worse than that?

So no more excuses!

God can use you to your full potential.

Besides you aren't the message, you are just the messenger.

HELPING CHILDREN IN INDIA TO THRIVE

Thanks to your gifts to BMS World Mission, a school on the street in Kolkata is providing children with an education, teaching them the skills they need to succeed.

Tens of thousands of children live day and night on the streets of Kolkata. They have no access to education or healthcare, and are often forced into begging or selling alcohol to survive.

But underneath a bridge in the bustling city, something amazing is happening. Fifty children who call the streets their home are getting to go to school. The BMS-supported team teaches the children reading, writing and arithmetic – lessons from the government kindergarten syllabus. And once they're ready, we help get the children into government schools.

Nawab was begging outside a horse racing track when the BMS-supported Street Servants met him. After talking with his parents, the team invited Nawab to come to the street school, along with his two sisters. He excelled. Thanks to the school, Nawab's life has changed dramatically. Along with eight other children who were taught by BMS supported teachers in Kolkata, he's now in a government school, getting a full education. Nawab is studying his

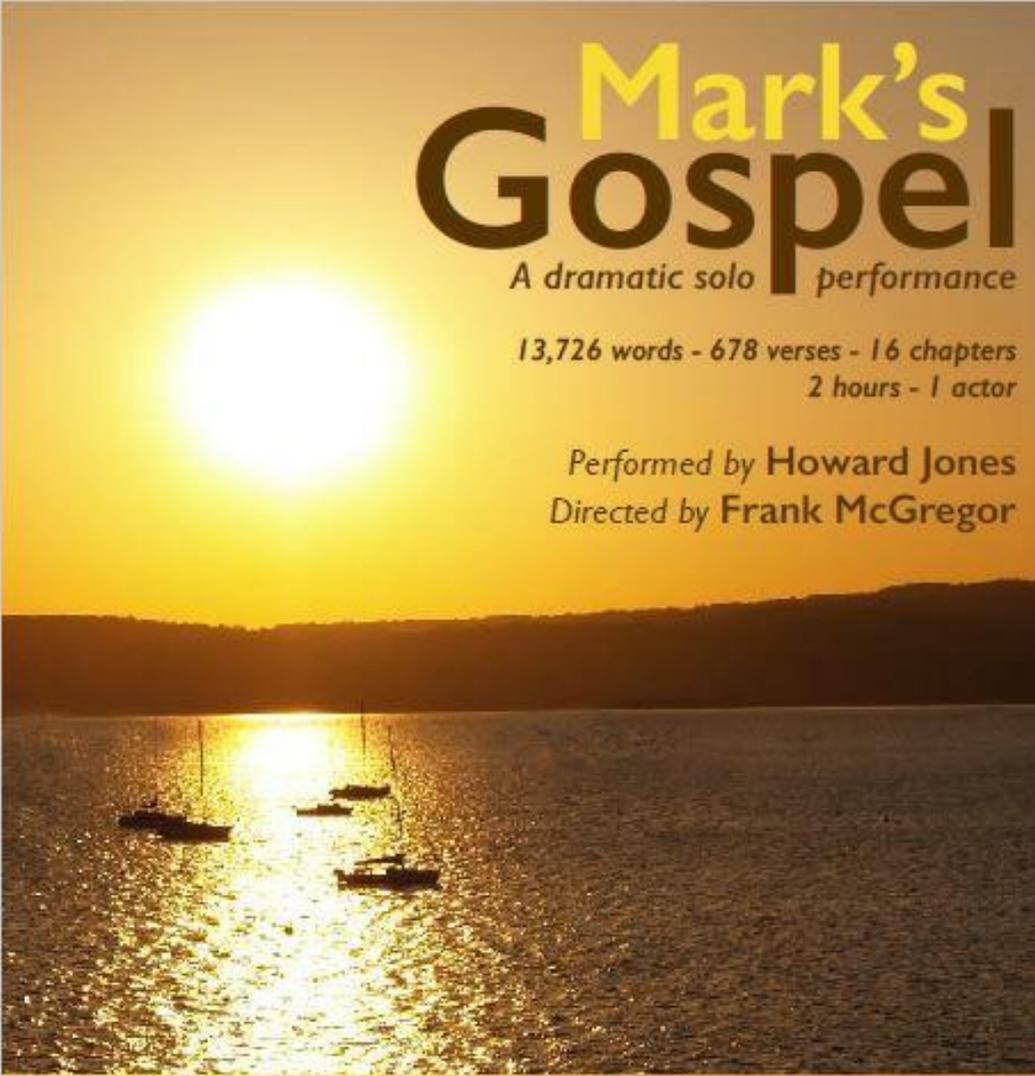
way out of poverty, thanks to you.

We want more children like Nawab to receive a quality education, and our team is working hard to set up a second school. "We want to see more children get into government schools," says BMS worker Ben Francis. "We want more communities changed, and more families leaving the streets."

"I just want to say thank you to everyone in the UK," says Ben. "You're enabling underprivileged children to touch love, and helping us show Jesus' love in the most tangible way that people will understand."



Pray for the children in the street school, that they would continue to learn and get an education. Pray for the teachers and volunteers too.



Mark's Gospel

A dramatic solo performance

*13,726 words - 678 verses - 16 chapters
2 hours - 1 actor*

*Performed by Howard Jones
Directed by Frank McGregor*

Friday 8th June 2018

7.30pm at The Green, Stafford Baptist Church, ST17 4BG.

Tickets £5, available from the Christian Bookshop, Bailey Street,
Stafford (Mon & Fri, 10am-2pm and Sat, 9.30am-2pm)

Tel: 01785 211233 or by visiting www.staffordbaptistchurch.co.uk or by
calling 07736 037662.



A TALE OF TWO VILLAGES

Boreholes that you funded are providing clean water for hundreds of people in northern Uganda, preventing illness and transforming communities.

Today, there are over 663 million people living without a safe water supply close to home. When faced with an issue this big, sometimes you have to start small, working in village after village, providing safe water and preventing disease until one day, everyone has access. And that's exactly what BMS World Mission is doing.

In northern Uganda, the main borehole in Abwoch village was contaminated, and in Pajaa the nearest clean source for the community was a half an hour's walk away – most families had to make two to five trips per day.

Thanks to your support, this is no longer the case. BMS has drilled boreholes in both these villages, providing over 350 people with clean water.

BMS environmental consultant Tim Darby gathered the community together in each village, and they decided where the boreholes would be drilled.

In the space of seven days, the two

boreholes were built. The villagers were taught hygiene skills, and elected a committee to help with maintenance and ensure the water remained clean.

Charles Opiro, part of the borehole committee in Pajaa, says that people have not been sick from water related diseases since the new water pump was built, as now they don't have to drink from puddles or dirty lakes.

And it's not just about the clean water. The boreholes are providing new economic opportunities, too. Charles' neighbour takes her goods to the market, as she now doesn't have to spend all her time collecting water anymore.

Your support for BMS work in Uganda is providing safe water to hundreds, preventing disease and saving lives. It's transforming the way villages in northern Uganda live. "I just want to say thank you," says Tim. "You've enabled so many people to access clean water already. We're so grateful."



MISSING LETTERS

MEN & WOMEN OF THE BIBLE

Created by BiblePuzzles.org.uk

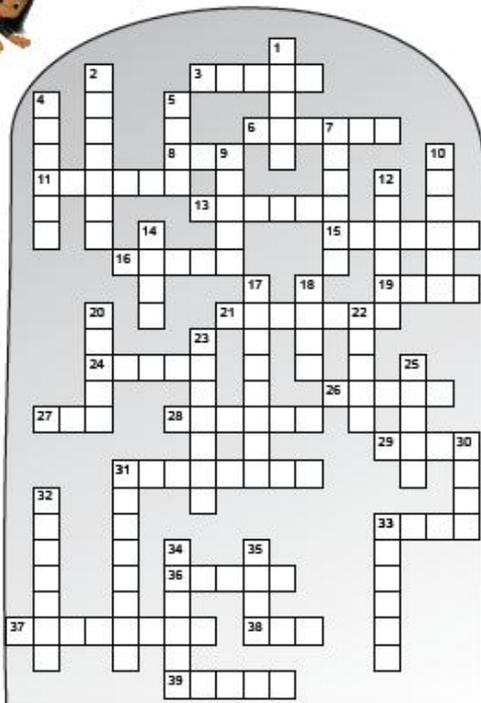
_ O _ _ UA
_ L _ _ U
S _ _ E _ A
_ ZZ _ H
_ _ L _ M _
_ _ RN _ _ _ U _
H _ _ NA _
_ _ F _ _
_ _ AA _
S _ _ _ S
_ _ M _ _ _ Y
_ _ B _ T _ _
_ _ P _ Z _ _ _
_ _ _ K _ _ L
_ _ A _ SO _
_ _ N _ _ _ _ S
N _ _ _ D _ _ _
_ _ G _ _
_ _ _ _ X
_ _ O _ _ _ TH
_ _ B _ D _ _ _
D _ _ _ _ L



Fill in the missing letters to find the men and women of the Bible. Once you have completed the puzzle the first letter of each name will reveal another Bible character.



People in the Old Testament



Across

3. Mother of Ishmael, called God "The One Who Bees"
6. A Judge of Israel from the tribe of Manasseh who set out a fleece before God to confirm His Instruction
8. First woman
11. A prophet and Judge; Hannah's son
13. His father made him a coat of many colors
15. A prophet of God who picked up Elijah's mantle
16. A prophet who lived in the 8th century Kingdom of Judah and who prophesied the birth of Christ
19. First man
21. Wife of Isaac, mother of Jacob and Esau
24. One of the twelve spies sent into Canaan; one of the two spies who returned confident in God

26. An unwilling prophet who was swallowed up by a great fish
27. A good man whom God allowed to be tested
28. He survived a den of lions
29. Son of Adam and Eve who killed his brother
31. Saul's son and David's friend
33. The Moabite who married Boaz
36. The son of Sarah and Abraham; the child of promise
37. Rachel and Israel's youngest child
38. His wife turned into a pillar of salt
39. God used him to lead the Israelites out of Egypt

Down

1. A man after God's own heart; the second king of Israel
2. The wisest man who lived; the son of David and Bathsheba
4. He was commanded by God not to cut his hair
5. Son of Adam and Eve who was killed by his brother
7. Jewish queen of the Persian king Ahasuerus
9. He walked with God and was not for God look him.
10. The leader of the Israelites after Moses who led the people into the promised land
12. A prophet of God who was carried to heaven in a chariot of fire
14. Jacob's twin who sold his birthright
17. Cup bearer of the King of Persia, he rebuilt the wall of Jerusalem
18. Jacob's first wife and Rachel's older sister
20. He tricked Isaac into giving him the blessing instead of his oldest son
22. Moses' brother and spokesman
23. Father of the Israel nation
25. Wife of Abraham and mother of Isaac
30. God had him build an ark to save his family from the flood

31. The weeping prophet
32. The son of Hagar and Abraham
33. Jacob worked fourteen years for Laban to marry her
34. Moses and Aaron's sister
35. The first king of Israel



A mouse looked through the crack in the wall to see the farmer and his wife open a package. "What food might this contain?" the mouse wondered. He was devastated to discover it was a mousetrap.

Retreating to the farmyard, the mouse proclaimed the warning: "There is a mousetrap in the house! There is a mousetrap in the house!"

The chicken clucked and scratched, raised her head and said "Mr.Mouse, I can tell this is a grave concern to you, but it is of no consequence to me. I cannot be bothered by it."

The mouse turned to the pig and told him "There is a mousetrap in the house! There is a mousetrap in the house!" The pig sympathized, but said "I am so very sorry, Mr.Mouse, but there is nothing I can do about it but pray. Be assured you are in my prayers."

The mouse turned to the cow and said "There is a mousetrap in the house! There is a mousetrap in the house!" The cow said "Wow, Mr. Mouse. I'm sorry for you, but it's no skin off my nose."

So, the mouse returned to the house, head down and dejected, to face the farmer's mousetrap alone.

That very night a sound was heard throughout the house - like the sound of a mousetrap catching its prey. The farmer's wife rushed to see what was caught. In the darkness, she did not see it was a venomous snake whose tail the trap had caught. The snake bit the farmer's wife. The farmer rushed her to the hospital and she returned home with a fever.

Everyone knows you treat a fever with fresh chicken soup, so the farmer took his hatchet to the farmyard for the soup's main ingredient. But his wife's sickness continued, so friends and neighbours came to sit with her around the clock. To feed them, the farmer butchered the pig. The farmer's wife did not get well; she died. So many people came for her funeral, the farmer had the cow slaughtered to provide enough meat for all of them.

The mouse looked upon it all from his crack in the wall with great sadness. So, the next time you hear someone is facing a problem and think it doesn't concern you, remember: when one of us is threatened, we are all at risk. We are all involved in this journey called life. We must keep an eye out for one another and make an extra effort to encourage one another. Each of us is a vital thread in another person's tapestry.

Sun 3 6.30 "Soaking Prayer"
 Mon 4 7.30 Deacons Meeting
 Wed 6 11.00 Friends Together – *includes lunch at 12.30*

CHURCH ANNIVERSARY WEEKEND

Fri 8 7.30 **MARK'S GOSPEL** – *a dramatic solo performance*
 Sat 9 8.30 Men's Breakfast – *Radford Bank*
 10.00 – **OPEN DAY** – incl. BBGA Coffee Morning
 1.00
 Sun 10 10.30 **CHURCH ANNIVERSARY**
 - **whole church celebration**
 6.30 Drakeford Court Songs of Praise
 Mon 11 10.15 Prayer & Pastries – Fellowship Prayer Time
Sun 17 10.00 10AM Service
 10.45 Messy Church
 Wed 27 7.30 FELLOWSHIP PRAYER TIME
 Thu 28 7.30 Love Stafford AGM – *here at The Green*

JULY

Sun 1 6.30 "Soaking Prayer"
 Mon 2 7.30 Deacons Meeting
 Wed 4 11.00 Friends Together – *includes lunch at 12.30*
 Mon 9 10.15 Prayer & Pastries – Fellowship Prayer Time
 Wed 11 2.00 Pastoral Links meeting
 14 & 15 *Danielle away on Baptist History and Principles Course*
Sun 15 10.00 10AM Service
 10.45 Messy Church
 Wed 18 7.30 Church Meeting
 Wed 25 7.30 FELLOWSHIP PRAYER TIME

AUGUST

Wed 1 & Thu 2 **HOLIDAY AT HOME**

Contact us

Minister: Revd Ron Davis

Email: minister@staffordbaptistchurch.co.uk

Associate Minister: Danielle Leigh

Email: associateminister@staffordbaptistchurch.co.uk

Secretary

Email: secretary@staffordbaptistchurch.co.uk

www.staffordbaptistchurch.co.uk

Find us on 

Sunday Worship Services
Every Sunday at 10.30 am

Full youth & children's programme every Sunday morning

Communion Services every 1st Sunday morning

'Sticky Fingers'
(parents and under 5's)

Thurs 10 to 11.30 am

Friends Together
(over 55's)

Monthly on first Wednesday 11 am to 3.00 pm

Boys' Brigade and Girls' Association

Thursday at 6.30 pm

Christian Book Shop

Monday and Friday - 10 am to 2 pm,
Saturday - 9:30 am to 2 pm.

Open Door
(A time for a drink and a chat)

Weekly on Friday 10 am to 12 noon