Clare Baptist Church Mission
Statement -

“To follow and worship Jesus and make Him known”

19th January 2020

Bible Readings - John 2

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A WARM WELCOME TO YOU
We are very pleased to welcome everyone here today. If this is your first visit, please make yourself known to the Stewards on duty, we do have a welcome card you can fill in if you wish. If you have been before, then welcome back.

Please come and join us in the back hall for a cup of tea or coffee after the morning service.

NOTES

Rev. Paul Graham’s day off is Saturday
What’s on this week

**SUNDAY**
10:30am    Morning Service conducted by Paul Graham
3:00pm    Week of Prayer Joint Church Service at Clare Priory

PLEASE NOTE NO EVENING SERVICE

**MONDAY**
10:00am    Housegroup at "Brookfield", Bridewell Street, Clare
8:00pm    Housegroup at 14 First Avenue, Glemsford

**TUESDAY**
9:30 - 11:30am    "Allsorts" Toddler Group in the Hall
- for the under 4’s, bumps and babies welcome
10:30am    Youth for Christ meeting in the Lighthouse Gang room
5:30 - 7:00pm    Brownies
8:00pm    Deacon's Prayer Meeting in the Lounge

**WEDNESDAY**
7:00pm    “Praying for Clare/Prayer Walk” at the Clare Baptist Church

**THURSDAY**
2:15pm    Ladies Fellowship in the Hall (see events)
8:00pm    Housegroup at "Darson House", Stoke-by-Clare

**FRIDAY**
12:00noon - 12:30pm    Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
2:00pm    Elaine Allin’s thanksgiving service
7:15 - 8:15pm    Senior Club (Years 4 - 6)

**SATURDAY**

**SUNDAY**
10:30am    Morning Service conducted by Paul Graham
6:30pm    Evening Service including communion conducted by Paul Graham
6:30 - 8:00pm    Twilight House Gang in the church

**PLEASE PRAY FOR**

Members of our Church ministering in other churches:

This Week
Gillian Johnson is at Wickhambrook U.R.C.
Wilf Stanbury is at Ashdon B.C.

Next Week
Gillian Johnson is at Haverhill Salvation Army
Wilf Stanbury is at Thaxted
Open Doors World Watch List 2020 - Niger

How many Christians are there in Niger? - numbering 62,200, Christians are a tiny minority in Niger; they make up just 0.3 per cent of the total population of 23.2 million people.

Why are Christians persecuted in Niger? - While the church has mostly enjoyed religious freedom in recent decades, the overwhelming Muslim majority and external extremist influences continue to push for Sharia Law to be adopted in Niger. Radical Islam is also on the rise. It is only recently that the church has become a particular target of militant Islamist groups, including the Izala group who originated in northern Nigeria. The justice system in the country is threatened by corruption, and those in authority who engage in corrupt practices are not adequately prosecuted.

What’s life like for Christians in Niger? - In border regions under Islamist control, Christians have been hindered from celebrating Christian weddings. Due to the threat of violence from militant groups, church worship has to be conducted with caution. Christians from a Muslim background often face threats and violence from family members who try to make them renounce their faith. Believers face discrimination economically, and when it comes to jobs; they are rarely able to secure employment within local government services and are frequently denied promotion. Christians have occasionally been hindered from gathering for meetings and the legal process for the registration of churches is long and difficult.

Is it getting harder to be a Christian in Niger? - Yes. The increasing pressure and violence coming from jihadists in the Sahel region means that it is becoming more dangerous to practise the Christian faith in Niger in safety.

We Pray

Lord Jesus, please protect our brothers and sisters in Niger who are facing violence and oppression for choosing to follow You. May their light and example shine bright and draw many to Yourself. Help believers to find their joy, their peace and their hope in You, and reveal Your love and Your mercy to those bent on hate and destruction.

E.B.A. Weekly Prayer Focus - Woodbridge Quay Church

Woodbridge is a vibrant Suffolk market town on the River Deben. Woodbridge Quay Church is a growing and active church in the heart of the town serving a fellowship of 250 people. Their pastor is Rev. Doug Waller. The church is well known in the town for its Hand Sculpture that features the words ‘I hold and am held.’ It is quite possibly the most photographed location in Woodbridge and the Church has become known as ‘The Church with the Hands’ that has given rise to our missional focus. They host the ‘Big Family Day Out’ in the summer. They hold Alpha courses and have seen a number of people come into church as a result. They host monthly coffee mornings; Little Hands – a popular toddler group that has over 40 children each week; ‘OAR’ – Our Active Retirees, a ministry to the older generation; Family Connect - which is a ministry that encourages families to do things together; Quay Time - a community café for the lonely and vulnerable; and from Easter they began hosting a regular youth group called ‘Origin’. In the past eighteen months they have developed a monthly ‘Breakfast Church' service on a Sunday morning. This is increasingly popular with young families, and provides a different way of doing church, which is much more orientated around dialogue and collaboration, with craft activities and interactive teaching also taking place.

For Prayer

They are currently seeking to employ additional staff and a second minister who will focus on their growing number of families in the church. Pray that God will be with them in that journey and that He would bring the right people, For their Alpha course that begins in January, that they would see people come to faith and give thanks to God for the growing number of young people they have had come to the church in the past year. Pray that they would come to have a personal relationship with Jesus.
FOR PRAYER

Praying For Clare B.C.
Please pray for Janet Sibley and the family at this time, for Elaine Allin’s family, Betty Bailey, Doreen Sargeant, Reg and Eve Wood, for those who need prayers for health, for companionship, to know that someone cares.

If you have an issue for which you like prayer, please attach a prayer leaf to the board with your request. These will be collected and prayed over at each Deacon’s prayer meeting.

EVENTS TO COME

Wed 22nd Jan  “Open the Book” at Clare Primary school from 1:00 - 1:15pm - “God's Good Idea"
Thu 23rd Jan  “Open the Book” at Cavendish Primary school from 2:55 - 3:10pm
Thu 23rd Jan  Ladies Fellowship in the Hall at 2:15pm - speaker Stephen Spencer (Tools With A Mission)
Mon 27th Jan  Knitting Group at the “Manse” from 10:00am - 12:00Noon
Tue 28th Jan  Church Members Meeting in the Hall at 8:00pm. Please do come along to these meetings, they are important for all of us
Wed 29th Jan  Prayer Ministry Team Meeting in the Lounge at 8:00pm
Thu 30th Jan  Youth Bible Study at 1 Clarence Villa, Church Street, Hundon from 8:00 – 9:30pm
Fri 31st Jan  Marion Dyson’s funeral at 1:30pm, followed by burial at the Clare Town cemetery and refreshments in the church hall.

PRAYER CHAIN

If you have a particular urgent prayer need then you can email/call Rev. Paul Graham - pray@clarebaptistchurch.org.uk or (01787) 277864 who will pass your need along the prayer chain. This means that about a dozen people will pray into that need for you. This is a confidential service open to anyone, whether connected with the church or not

PASTORAL CARE

Please contact Rev. Paul Graham (01787) 277864

AIDS FOR YOU TO USE

Large Print copies of Mission Praise and Bibles are available at the back of the church, please ask a Steward if you would like one. The Church is equipped with a loop system for those who use hearing aids.

A Digital recording is made of each service. If you would like a copy on CD, please ask at the P.A. desk.

Sermons can be downloaded from the website or from iTunes (podcast - search Clare Baptist Church)

NOTICES

Items for the next Notice Sheet should be advised to Stephen Freestone by lunchtime next Thursday at the latest. Email: stephen@sfreestone.co.uk
WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY

Please join the churches of Clare and Cavendish for various events marking this significant week at the start of the year

Sun 19th Jan - Joint Church Service at Clare Priory at 3:00pm

Daily Prayer at the following from 12:00noon - 12:30pm
Mon 20th - St Mary’s, Cavendish
Tue 21st - Clare U.R.C.
Wed 22nd - Walk and Pray/Stay and Pray at CBC
Thu 23rd -  St Peter & St Paul, Clare
Fri 24th - Clare Baptist Church

FUNERALS

Elaine Allin’s thanksgiving service will be on Friday 24th January at 2:00pm. They are having a private cremation on Monday 20th January in the morning at the West Suffolk Crematorium. Dress code: informal, no black please.

Marion Dyson’s funeral will be on Friday 31st January at 1:30pm. The funeral service will be followed by burial at Clare Town Cemetery, attended by family and close friends. Refreshments in the church hall are open to everyone. Dress code: a splash of colour, not all black please.

CHURCHES TOGETHER ECUMENICAL LENT GROUPS

The plan to run ecumenical Lent Groups this year is dependent on having hosts and leaders who are willing to make this happen. Please fill in the appropriate sign-up sheets in church from today to indicate whether this is something that you're willing to help with. Hopefully there will be enough leaders and hosts from all the churches to mean that there is plenty of choice through the weeks of Lent.