

# ABC NEWS

*aldwick* *baptist* *church*



**Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2021**

## **ABC ONLINE – TWICE A WEEK – EVERY WEEK**

Following the Government's new guidelines and the subsequent advice from the Baptist Union, the church will be closed for at least the next few weeks. None of us want our church to be closed as we all enjoy meeting together as we listen to God's word – but we have to be sensible and keep safe. Consequently, our services will now only be available online. This week, Simon will be returning to his series on the Holy Spirit with the title of his talk being "Holy Spirit III- Images – Water". In one of our readings today, Jesus asks, "If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me streams of living water will flow from within." Isn't that exactly what we need if we are going to impact our neighbourhood as Jesus commands? Derek.

Our Sunday morning service will go “live” at 6pm on a Saturday evening. However, if possible, we would like you to join us on Sunday in prayer at around 10.20am before watching the service at 10.30am as normal. This week, please pray for your church family, many of whom are unwell and for people who are struggling with the loss of close family members. Pray too for Simon and his family in these difficult times.

Please [click here](#) to go directly to the current service page. You can then watch the entire service through the without interruption by following the simple instructions on that page.

In our midweek series, we have a slight change of order, as we continue with our midweek series on the “I will” statements of Jesus. This week, Simon will be preaching on the “I will of the resurrection” based on John 6:40. In this verse, Jesus promises that everyone who believes in Him will have eternal life. Jesus’ promise is something we can hold on to and treasure – even in the difficult times we are currently going through.

How can we be so sure? Well, when Jesus says, “I will do ...” ., He really means it. He means He is able and willing to do it. There is no evidence in Scripture of Jesus saying that He will do something and then not doing it. Consequently the “I will” statements of Jesus are really important in our understanding of what is to come.

This service be accessed using the same link from 4pm on Tuesday.

This will be followed by four more sermons on the “I will” them.

- 27<sup>th</sup> January - The “I will” of service – Mark 1:17
- 3<sup>rd</sup> February - The “I will” of comfort – John 14:18
- 10<sup>th</sup> February - The “I will” of confession – Matthew 10:32
- 17<sup>th</sup> February -The “I will” of Glory – John 17:26

**A BELATED HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO MARY EDWARDS** - It was Mary’s birthday on January 14<sup>th</sup>, so I am sorry we missed but, we can make up for it now. So, after three – One, two, three, Happy Birthday Mary!!

**WHEN IS YOUR BIRTHDAY?**- It would really help me if you could let me know in advance the date of your birthday. No, you don’t have to tell me how old you are – unless, of course, you want to! Derek

**CHANGE OF ADDRESS 1 AND NEW PHONE NUMBER**–Betty Bennett is now living at Room 35, Epworth & Amberley, Greenways, 227 Hawthorn Road, Bognor Regis. PO21 2UW. Direct phone: 01243 829676.

**CHURCHES TOGETHER** - During the forthcoming Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, Churches Together in Woking are holding a service called CLIMATE MATTERS, which will be held on **24th JANUARY 2021 at 3PM on-line via Zoom**. Contact Barbara or Derek if you need the link.

In his poem this week, Arthur reminds us that sometimes we all go through stormy periods in our life, but thanks to God's amazing provision for this world, the storms always end and sunshine returns.

Please think about bringing some sunshine into someone's life this week with a surprising phone call to someone who though you had forgotten all about them.

### **The Storms of Life**

When we go through the storms of life,  
How wonderful when the sunshine comes,  
When we can relax in its warm rays.  
How we look forward to those sunny days.  
Yes, we all struggle through life's trials and pain  
But, oh how wonderful when the sun shines again.  
When we see the sunrise after a lonely stormy night,  
How wonderful to see the morning's golden light.  
Yes, we all have dark days to endure,  
But one thing we can be sure,  
That after the storms and rain  
The sun will shine again.

Arthur McGee

**SAT-7 ENCOURAGING NEWS FROM IN THE MIDDLE EAST.** Ten years after anger over unemployment, poverty, corruption and lack of freedom triggered the first uprising of what became known as the "Arab Spring", Tunisian Christians are going public in sharing their faith and vision for society. Tunisia has seen a peaceful transition to a multi-party democracy. Tunisia is also more tolerant of freedom of expression and more empowering of women than elsewhere." George Makeen, SAT-7 Arabic Channels International Director, believes that, thanks to this greater equality and freedom, "Christians coming from this culture can inspire the rest of the Arab world through their messages and faith." "It's exciting," he says, "to see a small but active Tunisian Church of believers from non-Christian backgrounds, eager to go on screen and communicate with their society." Barbara

**STAYING SAFE** – The rate of confirmed cases of coronavirus in our area is still very high. The current rate of infection is 603 per 100,000. This is above the national average, so we want to stress how important it is for you to keep safe. There were 973 confirmed cases in Arun last week. Please, do not be tempted to ignore the government's guidelines. They are there to protect you. **When you do go to get your vaccine make sure you have your NHS number with them as the process is being slowed by not having number ready.**

**REACHING OUT IN LOCKDOWN** – Over and over again over the past year, Simon has reminded us Jesus wants His church, and that means all of us, To love God, love each other and love the lost”. **This still applies in lockdown.** We know you can’t go out and visit people, but you can call people on the telephone, send them an email or even write a letter. So, this week’s challenge is for us all to think about someone you haven’t seen for a while, or even someone you haven’t spoken to in ages and pray for them. Follow this up with a letter! Is there someone in your family you don’t really get on with? If so, make them top of your list. Derek.

**URGENT PRAYER REQUESTS** - If you have, or know of, an urgent need for prayer then please contact Simon or Derek who will then activate the prayer chain.

**URGENT PRAYER REQUEST 1** - Lyn Heath has asked us to pray for Janice Sprules as she is really suffering with her legs and the subsequent loss of mobility.

**URGENT PRAYER REQUEST 2** - Joy Brown is now back at home but is very tired and weak. She has had several falls and is currently resting in bed. Joy’s family would like to thank you on Joy’s behalf for your cards and phone calls. Please pray for strength and peace for Joy and her family.

**URGENT PRAYER REQUEST 3** — Tony Brock is still in hospital and still struggling. Please pray for a correct diagnosis, correct treatment and healing. Please also pray for his wife Daphne who is obviously very concerned.

**WONDERFUL NEWS** - Marie Stoneham says she is feeling much better this week and is gradually gaining more confidence in her movement. Marie asks us all to, “Praise the Lord for His hand in her operation and recovery.”

**PLEASE ALSO CONTINUE TO PRAY FOR** – Vivienne Newman, Mavis Eade, Hazel Lodge, Hilary Naesmith, Rosanne Gould, Jean Shaw, Mick Parker, Michelle and Jon Crane, Arthur and Eileen McGee, Jean Houlston, Bridget Long, Marion Bryant, Chris Grant, Mary Edwards, Kate Moss, Joy Smith, Pam Brown, Stella Filby, Joan Brett, Joy Puffett, Val Collett, Pam Ryan, Tony Brock, and for any others in our fellowship who are unwell at this time

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### **Contact and Church office information**

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Minister	Simon Downing (Tel. 07508815573) email: pastor@aldwickbaptist.co.uk
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