A MESSAGE FROM JEMEELA - Hello everyone….. it's Jemeela here - Lucia's Mum. I wanted to firstly say a massive thank you, to all of you, for the continuing support throughout Lucia's heart failure diagnosis - it has meant so much to me, and my family.

I also thought I ought to give you all an update…..

Lucia, as you can see, is doing very well, - we're not out of the woods just yet , and I'm not sure what the future holds, but right now the team at Great Ormond Street are very happy with her progress. They have made adjustments to her meds and she is reacting well….. things are improving!

We are seen by the heart failure team there every 6 weeks and we couldn't wish to be in better care.

Lucia has gone back to school full time and last week we had a very positive result from one of her blood tests. Because of this result we decided it was safe for her to go back to "Saturday Stage School" - something that she has missed very much!

Your prayers, thoughts, gifts & well wishes have truly meant so so so much to us all - once again, thank you!!!

Lots of love,

Jemeela, Steve & Lucia xxx

NEXT SATURDAY 9th March – A LOVE ALDWICK SPECIAL EVENT – Our Easter family craft & hot cross bun extravaganza - final call. If you haven't booked, then do contact Clive over the weekend. Do also pray for all those involved in this event and for Simon as he prepares his talk and for opportunities for each of us to share our faith when the opportunity arises.

NEXT WEEK'S SUNDAY SERVICE - Next week on Mothering Sunday, we will begin a new 4-week series based on the book of Ruth. Many people think of this book as a beautiful love story, a feel good read but as you will see next week, it begins in quite a different way with the harsh reality of being a woman in a male dominated culture. It also has direct links to how we should live our lives today. Don't miss this!

PEACE TOGETHER PUZZLERS - We will be meeting again on 9th March where there will also be an opportunity to play games and solve puzzles. Do join us for fun and coffee!

OUR PASTORAL TEAM – Please pray for our pastoral team and the good work they are doing in monitoring your health and well-being. If anyone else would like to join this team, then do let me know.

A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY - Three Choir Festival is being held here on Saturday 16th March 2024 in Church Sanctuary. More details to follow.

aldwickbaptistchurch

Vision: Loving God, Loving Each Other, Loving Lost People

ABC NEWS



Sunday 3rd March 2024

Our Monthly Family service

The Pearl

Matthew 13:45 - 46

Simon Downing

THIS WEEKEND'S FAMILY WORSHIP SERVICE - This will include Breakfast Time which is open to all ages. Breakfast time is a place to encourage Christians and non-Christians alike, to share in some food together, before the family services begin. It is about using the gifts of relationships, hospitality, generosity, and kindness to make people feel valued. It is about helping people feel that they 'belong.' As relationships develop, the sharing of one's faith may also emerge in time.

- **Breakfast menu?** This will quality croissants, fruit, coffee, tea, and will be available from 9.30 in the morning, an hour before the service begins.
- **Most important** - We are all encouraged *no t*o just talk to people we already know, but to befriend people they do not know so well.
- **Who might be coming?** The advertising for Breakfast Time, will be to all our contacts, such as those at Messy Church and Toddler Time.

If this venture goes well, and we will reassess it after 4 months, then it is possible it might develop further.

Simon's talk will be based on Matthew 13:45-46, where Jesus says that the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls. When he found one of great value, he went away and sold everything he had and bought it.

Of course, we do hope you can join us for the service in the church but if you can't actually join us, you will be able to access the service at any time by going to: https://www.aldwickbaptist.co.uk/category/current-sermons

TODAY'S FLOWERS - The flowers this week are in celebration of Janet and John Cowley's Diamond Wedding Anniversary on 7th March.

COMPASSION – Ian Childs from Compassion will be preaching here on Sunday, 21st July. He would like to know if any of us have sponsored a child through Compassion. If any of you have, could speak to Barbara or me and we put you in touch with Ian. You can find out more about Compassion by going to their website. https://www.compassionuk.org/

Contact and Church office information

Head of the Church	Jesus Christ
Minister	Simon Downing (Tel. 07508815573)
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Church Secretary:	Clive Bennett (Tel: 930756)
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Treasurer/Elder	Derek Robinson (Tel: 866238)
	email: contact@aldwickbaptist.co.uk
Deacons	Brenda (265984), Barbara (821789), John (837181)
	Joy (837181)

This week Arthur's poem reminds us that sometimes the only thing that can keep us going is our faith in Jesus. Arthur tells us, no matter how much you feel like giving up to "Hold fast" as for believers, victory awaits.

Thank you Jesus

When it's hard to go on,
With heavy burdens on your back.
Hold fast, no turning back.

The Devil wants you to fail,
Keeping you under constant attack.
But look to Jesus, no turning back.

Yes the track is steep.
So easy to slip and fall.
But remember how He suffered,
Who died to save us all.

So give it all your strength
As you follow that steep track.
Keep looking forward and follow Jesus.
No turning back.

So when at last, you reach the peak,
Tired and worn with blisters on your feet.
You can say with pride,
"Thank you Jesus."
No defeat.

Arthur Magee

DON'T FORGET – We will be meeting for our monthly prayer gathering on Tuesday, March 5th at 7 pm. Do join us if you are able as we believe the church will only move forward if we seek God's together as a family.

SEBA HOME MISSION FOCUS FOR MARCH 2024 - Every month we receive a Home Mission Focus from Paul Kerley which is usually in the form of a short video from one of our Home Mission supported churches. This month the SEBA Focus is on Pulborough Brooks Baptist Church, near Gatwick, and it's a video from its Minister in Training, Miranda. The link for the video is at

https://www.seba-baptist.org.uk/?show_media=319824&show_file=354555