FIRST RESPONDER – As Simon is taking a few days off this week, I will be acting as first responder for all urgent matters, so do contact me in the case of emergencies. For less urgent problems, please use our pastoral care system by contacting your pastoral group coordinator.

WE NEED YOUR PRAYERS – It's been a difficult week for many of our congregation. As I write this Peter Kaufman has been in hospital this week. Please pray for a swift diagnosis, correct treatment and healing. Please pray too for Joyce who is obviously concerned about Peter's health. Mary Bullock is also in hospital, so please pray for a swift diagnosis, correct treatment, healing and peace of mind. Malcom and Barbara urgently need our prayers as Malcolm continues to struggle and Barbara is mentally and physically drained. Please pray for God's guidance as to the next steps they should take. Pray too for God's peace to descend on their home and that they feel His presence with them. Mavis continues to struggle and also needs our prayers. Please pray for healing, Mo also needs our prayers as she settles in at Westergate House Care Home, Fontwell. Our resident poet Arthur Magee also needs our prayers as his health isn't too good at present. Please also pray too for Simon and Nicky as they take a well-deserved break. Please pray for rest, peace of mind, sunshine and general healing. Pray too for David Hanchard who has to undergo some major dental work in the near future. Please pray for a release from pain, peace of mind and that he gets some help with the costs.

SEBA HOME MISSION FOCUS FOR APRIL 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 Chiddingfold Baptist Church where their Minister is Revd. Joao Bolzan. To view the video click on one of the following links.

https://www.seba-baptist.org.uk/?show_media=322855&show_file=358326

or https://youtu.be/24OIIMU5D_o

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aldwickbaptistchurch

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

ABC NEWS



"Then the fire of the Lord fell and burned up the sacrifice"

Sunday 26th May 2024

Series: Living Securely in an insecure world

Elijah III – Standing Alone

1 Kings 18:1-40

Simon Downing

THIS WEEKEND'S WORSHIP SERVICE – Brenda's band will be leading worship before Simon returns to our series entitled "Living Securely in an insecure world." Today we reach part three of the series as we see Elijah standing up to 450 prophets of Baal which is why the title of this week's talk is "Standing Alone" based on 1 Kings 18:1-40. This is quite a long passage, so do read it beforehand. It is also quite amusing as in v27. The translation my students at school liked most was this one. 'At noon, Elijah began making fun of them. "Pray louder!" he said. "Baal must be a god. Maybe he's daydreaming or using the toilet or traveling somewhere. Or maybe he's asleep, and you have to wake him up."'.

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

NEXT WEEKEND'S FAMILY WORSHIP SERVICE 2nd June - This will include Breakfast Time which is open to all ages from 9.30am. 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.

"EXCELLENCE IN SAFEGUARDING" TRAINING COURSE - Saturday 6th July - We are extremely grateful for all those who volunteer to help out with various activities in the church involving young people and vulnerable adults. In fact without you, we would not be in a position to provide these activities. That said we are, as a church, responsible for those in our charge and more so if we are involved directly with young people and adults who are particularly vulnerable.

To this end we are holding a training event in our church on Saturday 6th July. The day will be divided into morning and afternoon sessions providing training in Levels 2 and 3.

At the back of the church there are details of the course and information to help in deciding who will need to attend the training, whether for the whole day or half a day. Should you have any questions please see either John Smith or Bev McAlpine.

PREACHING TEAM – I am preaching at Southbourne Free Church today. My talk is based on 2 Corinthians 13 which is quite a challenging passage – particular v5, where we are told to "examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith: test yourselves: Do you not realise that Christ is in you – unless, of course, you fail the test?" Please do continue to pray for Paul, their minister, and this small fellowship of believers and that my message brings a positive respond. Derek

This week, Arthur brings us a poem he wrote while sitting in his garden and listening to a blackbird singing.

"That Glorious Day"

Suddenly there came a sound from heaven
Like a rushing mighty wind.
As they gathered there,
The joy they felt
Was so overwhelming - beyond compare.
They danced, they laughed, they cried
So full of love, eyes open wide
They were filled with the Holy Spirit to the brim,
Impossible to keep their happiness in.
They began to speak in other tongues.
As the Holy Spirit gave them voice.
Our Lord,how we want to praise you and rejoice.
"They must have drunk too much wine",
you heard someone say
"Oh no it's much too early in the day".
Oh thank you Lord.
Our lives will never be the same.
For that glorious day
When the Holy Spirit came.

Arthur Magee

ADVANCE NOTICE - Our annual general meeting will take place on Thursday, July 25th at 7pm. As you know our diaconate has shrunk to 5 over the past year - and that means we are all getting very tired! Can you help? Is God calling you to join the team? Do you recognise gifts in other people that indicate that they might be suitable to share in the responsibility of guiding this church? If this rings a bell, then please talk to one of the deacons and we will tell you more!

John and Brenda need to be re-elected at the meeting but they will need to be proposed and seconded by church members – and that is the responsibility of the membership rather than the deacons. Nomination forms will be available at the back of the church or from Clive. New possible deacons will also need to be proposed and seconded.