

Healing the Nation Beyond Brexit

Our nation is more deeply divided than at any time in our recent history. How are we meant to pray about Brexit?

In the 2016 referendum 52% voted Leave and 48% voted Remain. In 2019 there appears to be no consensus about what Brexit means. Some want to walk away without any compromises; others prefer to accept Mrs May's deal: still others want to revoke article 50. Normally politics is about finding an outcome that gives people some of what they want - but no one gets everything. In Britain today, compromise has come to mean betrayal.



We should recognise that this is not an issue peculiar to our time. Every November 5th we remember the Gunpowder Plot. That was a prelude to the Civil War and the execution of the King. So things have been worse!

The Old Testament gives us examples of fierce divisions in Israel. If you have been following *The Bible Course* you will know that Jeroboam and Rehoboam divided God's people into two nations - Israel in the North and Judah in the South

So how can we pray? Martyn Eden suggests four ways. Pray that:

- ◆ our politicians put the wellbeing of the nation before party interests
- ◆ they put principle before personal ambition
- ◆ we all seek the welfare of our neighbour before our own
- ◆ we all pray for God's will to be done before we pontificate about anything.

Electoral Roll Officer Landing!

Sharon arrives back today. With all the unpacking, laundry and general sorting out of emails, she is going to be very busy this week. So she will be very pleased to see your Electoral Roll Application Form sitting in her in tray.



Situation No Longer Vacant

The good news is that **Libby Gash** has taken on the role of keeping the church clean for us.

Raymond gave **Ade** a bunch of flowers from us all as a token of thanks. Ade has done a sterling job over the last three years. We are delighted to have found a replacement for her so quickly and warmly welcome Libby to this new work.



Challenging Challenges for Challengers

We are planning to have a weekend away for our Challengers Group in October. The aim is to spend time together on a lightship, building relationships, having fun and growing in faith. The *big challenge* is now to raise money for this venture. So the group is well named.

So far – we have three events in place. Do please get these in your diary.

- ◆ **Saturday 18th May: Beetle Drive and Ploughman's Supper** from 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM here in church.

Tickets are £5 per person or £15 for a family. A signup sheet will be available after Easter. Beetle is great fun and very competitive. Even better, luck is involved so, unlike the General Knowledge Quiz, the Robertsons are not guaranteed to win it.

- ◆ **Saturday 22 June: Coffee morning** 10 AM to 12 noon. Increase the total raised and eat something nice.

- ◆ **Saturday 13 July: Sponsored car wash** from 10 AM to 12:30 PM.

I have no doubt you will want to support our young people in their fundraising in order to make sure everyone is able to go that weekend.



Now – we do have a serious issue with Challengers. After many years, Nigel is stepping down at Easter. That means we need

someone to replace him. You can see the energy that there is within this group. And you can see how vitally good leadership is needed to make sure that it continues. If you believe that God is calling you to make a difference in the lives of our young people, then do please get in touch with Liz or Raymond.

Time to Elect a New PCC

Are you sitting near someone you think would make a good addition to the PCC? If so, please do tap them on the shoulder and suggest it to them. Your encouragement will mean a lot.



The APCM will take place on Monday April 29th.

Prayers: Raymond and Alison's grandson **Theon** was finally released from hospital on Wednesday after suffering from pneumonia. Thank you for all your prayers and concern. We pray that **Andy Hall** will enjoy a full recovery following the test he underwent last week. **Brian Sweetman** is not able to join us very often because of his difficulties in breathing. We pray for him and **Susan** in the many health challenges they face. **Christina** is likewise expecting the results of her MRI scan following her recent stroke. One side of her face remains paralysed but is improving. **Doreen Titcombe** whose shoulder operation has been re-scheduled for April. We do not forget **Sarah and her husband and children.**



Sunday
March 31

Mon 1st	9.30am 2pm	Pram Club Easter Celebration Edna Webb's Homegroup in the Quiet Room
Tues 2nd	8pm	David Rudland's Homegroup, Purton
Wed 3rd	1-3pm 7.30pm 7.30pm	Craft Club in Church Room The Bible Course in the Quiet Room Bill Hunt's Homegroup at 17 Rother Close
Fri 5th	10.30-1.30pm	Rock Cafe



Please pray for our church family	
Mon 1st	Nigel & Jill Crowhurst
Tue 2nd	Wayne Davy
Wed 3rd	Harry & Pauline Davis
Thurs 4th	Jean Dean
Fri 5th	Sarah Dena & family
Sat 6th	Peter Dibbo
Sun 7th	Pauline Eagle

Thank You



A big "Thank You" to Faure and Louise Breytenbach from the 9am service, who prepared the daffodils for us this morning.

Mums you Shouldn't Mess With.

Services Next Week			
7th April	9am 11am	Holy Communion Morning Praise	Raymond Adams Raymond Adams

Time	Service	Preacher	Readings
9.00am	Holy Communion	Raymond Adams	1 Kings 17:17-24
11.00am	All Age Worship and Parade Service	Raymond Adams	Matthew 15:21-28

Prayer Meeting has moved to Wednesday April 10th @ 7.30



LENT PRAYERS for the Swindon – Uganda Partnership

We stand in the hope of Christ who has compassion for all God's people.



LUWERO

Sunday Bwaziba School

For Head teacher Carol, her teachers and pupils.

For a new kitchen and staff quarters.

Plastering and painting of classrooms with child friendly decoration in nursery class rooms.

For electricity.

For concrete floors.



Monday Balitta Lwogi School

For Head teacher Deborah, teachers and pupils.

For completion of a dormitory for blind children, prayers of thanks that the foundations are completed.

For fencing of school grounds to prevent animals wandering onto the school site.

For successful income generation from planting banana trees.

For the inclusion of the visually impaired and blind children.

For the teachers who are special needs trained and the ongoing staff training they carry out.



Tuesday Nsawo School

For Head teacher Patrick, teachers, pupils and Rev Asaph.

For provision of clean and safe water supplies to sustain the school community.

Improvement in quality of classrooms.

Provision of a computer lab.

The successful implementation of their school development plan.

Ongoing work of the Child Development Centre.

Improvement of Teachers accommodation.

The children and families living with aids.



Wednesday Katikamu Sebamala Primary School

For Head teacher Samuel, Rev Daniel, teachers and pupils.

For improvements to the quality of the buildings.

For provision of a water supply.

For those children who are orphans and lack scholastic materials.

For a school library.

To encourage parents and the local community to participate actively in school activities.

Thursday Sekamuli Secondary school

For the Head teacher, Director Venerable Godfrey Kasana, teachers and pupils.

For the completion and equipping of the new Computer lab to accommodate the new regulation which makes ICT compulsory at O level.

For the students studying to get to University.



Friday our brothers and sisters in Luwero

Bishop Eridard and Mama Jane

Venerable Godfrey, Archdeacon of Lutete Archdeaconry and Diocesan Planning officer and Harriet, his children and grandson.

Beatrice who was formerly the Head Teacher of Bwaziba now head of Ttama School.

Jeremiah Chair of Headteachers for Church of Uganda

schools in Luweero Diocese.

Lilian – District Tutor based at Katikamu school who support teachers.

Saturday

For the work of St Mark's Cathedral Luwero and the congregations that meet there.

For Rev Patrick and Rev James.

For the work of the College training young people.

How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity.

Psalm 133.1