

*"Make Jesus known and build up the church in faith and love"*



# 2 June 2019

**HEALTH & SAFETY.** Please note children should always be accompanied by an adult when in the chancel area and likewise when in the tower room. There are many potential hazards for children in these areas.

**FIRE EXITS ARE:** main entrance, rear tower door and kitchen door.

If you are cold there are fleeces in a wicker basket on the floor next to the notice table. Please return it after the service.

## Today

10am	St Andrew's	Mark 2:1-12 "Paralysed man"	Reverend Clive Hawkins
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## Midweek

Homegroups meet during the week

Monday	10am	Mum's bible study group	
Wednesday	10am	SwP Toddlers group	SSJ Village Hall
Saturday	7.45am	Men's breakfast	SSJ Village Hall

## Next Sunday

9am	Parish room	Central prayer meeting	
10am	St Andrew's	Ruth 1: 1-21 "Harvest from a famine"	Warren Trask
10am	Pamber Priory		Reverend Malcolm Surman

***<https://swp.churchbuilder.org.uk>    fb: [facebook.com/swpchurch](https://facebook.com/swpchurch)***

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## Notices & Diary Dates

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**Welcome to all here today.** If you are visiting us and would like to receive information about our Church, please complete a 'welcome card' from the notice table or speak to a Churchwarden.

### Car park arrangements

In the first instance please use the Rectory car parking area as we still have access to it for the time being; please don't block the garage door. The SSJ village hall car park can be used when available. **It is not available on the 9<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> or 23<sup>rd</sup> June.**

### Central Prayer meeting

Sunday mornings from 9am to 9.30am in the Parish room *except for school holidays*. This is our main time to pray together as a Church family please join us.

Clare Cassell's funeral service takes place at St Andrew's on 6<sup>th</sup> June at 2pm.

10<sup>th</sup> June:

- Toddlers at Ten in the Parish room
- Building and Grounds subgroup meeting at 8pm
- Holiday Club meeting in the Parish room at 8pm

29<sup>th</sup> June: **Women's event** - Party in the Park at 7.30pm in the Chute  
There are no tickets for this event but please sign up to join us by handing your payment to Liz Gwynn or Jenny Cooke; or in an envelope and put it through their door. It would be very helpful to know in the next couple of weeks how many people will be attending to assist with meal planning etc.

### Try Praying

This is a Basingstoke wide initiative which is aimed at evangelizing to non-believers within our community over Pentecost. **A date for your diary - 9<sup>th</sup> June from 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm** London Street URC, London Street, Basingstoke – OneChurch Basingstoke are holding a Pentecost Prayer Service as part of the town-wide 'try praying' initiative. All are welcome. *There is also a mobile app called 'Try Praying' by Teviot Creative, that you can download from Google play store.*

**Bible Holiday Club** - 24<sup>th</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> July and Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> July  
'Eternity & Beyond' – a space theme based on a Bible overview. The enrolment form is available on our Church Builder website.

### **Praying for the Persecuted Church**

[From 'Open Doors' - [www.opendoorsuk.org/persecution/countries](http://www.opendoorsuk.org/persecution/countries)]

Afghanistan is number 2 on the world watch list.

We estimate that the number of Christian believers is in the thousands, but it's hard to know exactly because Afghan Christians must keep their faith completely secret.

Christians are persecuted because Afghanistan is a tribal society, and loyalty to your family, clan and tribe are incredibly important. Islam is seen as part of Afghan identity, and leaving Islam is seen as a betrayal by families and communities. It is illegal for an Afghan person to leave Islam.

Those who decide to follow Jesus in Afghanistan must do so in complete secret. Those who are discovered may be sent to a mental hospital - their families believe no sane person would leave Islam. They may also be beaten or even killed by family members, or members of Islamic extremist groups like the Taliban.

In cooperation with local churches and partners, Open Doors supports the church in Afghanistan through literacy and vocational projects, emergency aid, training and trauma therapy.

*Brother Andrew*, the founder of Open Doors, says, "Our prayers can go where we cannot... There are no borders, no prison walls, no doors that are closed to us when we pray."

### **A prayer for Afghanistan**

Lord Jesus, thank You that people in Afghanistan are coming to know You despite the extreme persecution they face. Please help believers to shine as witnesses for You in their day-to-day lives. Protect and strengthen those who are facing persecution from their families and communities and give wisdom to those who are working to support secret Afghan believers.

