

Outlook



After 12 years as minister of Chenies Baptist, Malcolm Hazell and his family will be starting a new ministry in High Wycombe at Union Baptist Church in September.

‘We have loved our time in Chenies. It has been our privilege to be part of this community set in the beautiful Chess Valley and to see the life of Chenies Baptist Church grow and develop.’

Malcolm and Dawn’s last Sunday at Chenies Baptist will be Sunday 21st June. The deacons and members of the church will be appointing a new minister over the coming months.

Dealing with Depression

The dark, cold months of January and February can be a struggle for all of us. But for some people - sad, tearful and depressed feelings are a daily battle even in mid-summer.

Statistics show that 1 in 4 in the UK will suffer with depression at some point in any one year.

Given the prevalence of depression, we are holding an evening to explore ‘How to deal with depression’ (facilitated by Liz Cookson – see her later article).

We hope you will be able to join us on Sunday 19th April 6.30 - 7.45 pm at Chenies Baptist Church to explore this important topic together. All welcome.



Dates for your Diary

Dealing with Depression

SUNDAY 19TH APRIL
6.30 – 7.45 PM

ALL WELCOME

Good Friday Service

FRIDAY 3RD APRIL
3.30 PM (TEA AFTERWARDS)

ALL WELCOME

Easter Sunday Service

SUNDAY 5TH APRIL
10.30 AM OR 6.30 PM
EASTER EGG HUNT A.M.

ALL WELCOME

www.cheniesbaptist.co.uk

No Hope – No Life



The Greeks couldn't take any more. On election day unemployment was 26% and 50% for young people. Debt was so crushing many couldn't afford basics like food and rent. The country needed huge loans simply to service debt repayments rather than boost the economy. It was pay day lending on a vast scale.

Back home young couples struggle with mortgage debt, and students with student debt. With the Greeks and credit card debt it's all too easy to tut tut and cast blame – but this helps nobody. People need hope, a way out, some light at the end of the tunnel. Things won't be as bad as this forever.

Of course these are debts we all know about. They're in the news all the time. But there is a hidden debt that faces us all and one that has far more serious consequences.

Few of us think we are in debt to God. Like people who refuse to open mail from their creditors we say God doesn't exist or brush His just demands to one side. We don't

realise we have a vast goodness deficit which we must one day repay. None of us lives up to God's standards and we can't ignore this forever. The gap between His standards and ours is called sin and who can bridge that funding gap?

Like the Greeks we just can't do it by ourselves. We can't pay back this moral debt in 5 or 50 or even 500 years. It's impossible to do this without help.

Good Friday reminds us that God took pity on our impossible situation. Jesus paid our debt on the cross. We can turn, in great relief, and ask Him to set His full credit against our account. Thanks to Jesus we can be debt-free. This is the Gospel good news of Easter.

Margaret Swift



Spring and Easter herald a time of new life & new beginnings. But once the sun shines on a regular basis, it shows all the dust & cobwebs, which often prompts us to spring clean.

Is it time to give ourselves a spring clean? There are physical things we can do like make sure we get enough sleep, eating properly and get a little fitter.

There are emotional things we can do like counting our blessings – we have so much for which to be grateful – family and friends,

beautiful countryside; clean water – the list goes on. Try writing the list down and add to it regularly.

Have we forgiven those who have hurt us – or are we bearing grudges? Have we forgiven ourselves for the things we wish we had or had not said or done?

We need to look at the balance in our lives. Do we need to reset our priorities? For those of us at work, do we have a work/life balance? For those of us who care, is there time for relaxation and “me” time? Have we learnt to say NO sometimes to make sure we are not doing too much?

We can also do a spiritual spring clean. Are we finding time to read the Bible and pray? Do we have times of solitude and silence? Are we finding time to go to church? Worship and singing are wonderful ways of remembering how great God is.

At Easter we remember that Jesus rose from the dead and is alive and so(see below)

Liz Cookson

 A photograph of a sunset or sunrise. The sky is filled with orange and yellow clouds. The sun is low on the horizon, partially hidden behind the dark silhouette of a tree. The foreground shows a dark landscape with rolling hills.

**Because He Lives I Can Face Tomorrow.
Because He Lives All Fear Is Gone.
Because I Know He Holds The Future.
And Life Is Worth The Living Just Because He Lives.**

Doesn't religion just cause evil, suffering and war?

A common claim made by many atheists is that religion causes evil, suffering, division and war. Christopher Hitchens in his book, *God is Not Great*, even wrote that “religion poisons everything”.

How might a Christian respond? Well, first, I'd point out there's a major problem with Hitchens' argument. You could remove the word “religion” from his statement “religion poisons everything” and replace it with many other words. Politics, for example. Politics causes division, bloodshed, argument, and war. Politics poisons everything. Or what about money? Money causes crime, resentment, bloodshed, division and poverty. Money poisons everything.

You see the problem is that those like Christopher Hitchens have built their worldview on the idea that human beings are essentially good and that the world is getting better. But the world isn't like that. Rather it seems to be the case that whatever human beings lay hold of, they use to cause damage. That applies to money, politics, government, science — and religion. The problem is not with religion or politics, the problem is not *out there* somewhere, the problem lies in *us*. In the human heart. As Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn, the Russian novelist, once famously put it: “The dividing line between good and evil runs right through the middle of every human heart”.

What the world needs, as an answer to violence and injustice, poverty and pain, is not a clever philosophy, not a religious system, not more money, more education — none will fundamentally change anything. Rather it needs individual transformation — a radical transformation of the human heart. Only Jesus Christ offers that possibility if we're willing to surrender our lives and follow in his ways.



Christians, of course, cannot talk about suffering and evil, pain and violence, *without* talking about the example of Jesus, one to whom violence was done. His example has inspired millions if not billions of Christians to give sacrificially, love their neighbour, to engage in peace making. One of the most powerful examples was the Amish School Shooting in 2006. Not only did the families of the victims publically forgive the perpetrator and offer pastoral support to his family, but set up a trust fund to help the wife of the shooter, who'd killed himself too. Only Jesus Christ offers the transformative power that makes that kind of choice possible.

Dr Andy Bannister RZIM Canada (previously a member of Chenies Baptist Church)

Sunday Services Every Sunday at 10.30am

Children's & Youth group runs during the morning

Minister: Rev. Malcolm Hazell - 01923 285361

E-mail: malcolm.hazell@btinternet.com

Youth Worker: Ben Ansell – Call Dawn Hazell for details 01923 285361

E-mail: dawn.hazell@hotmail.com

Church Secretary: Penny Baron 01923 283046

Hall Bookings— Angelina Adikurniawan 07989147074

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