



EASTERN BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

easternbaptist.org.uk

ESSEX PRAYER DIARY

JANUARY – MARCH 2010

Regional Ministry Team – Rev. Paul Hills

New Year brings new challenges and resolutions. Promises are made...but not always kept! It's good to remind ourselves that God's promises never fail. It's on that basis we can face the challenges ahead. Give thanks for the service of ministers, elders, deacons & all other leaders in the churches. Pray for their encouragement. Give thanks for the commitment and witness of all God's people. Pray for all to know unity in mission and excitement in being disciples of Christ in the year ahead.

Regional Ministry Team – Rev. Sheila Martin

Please pray for the 40+ churches and projects who will be preparing to submit their Home Mission applications during **January**. In **February** please pray for David Martin as he has a week in which to process these applications! During **March** please pray for those who will be Home Mission visitors to these 40+ situations. In your giving to Home Mission, your prayers for these churches and projects and your prayers for the Grant application process, you are being partners in mission with these churches and projects who are seeking to make Jesus known in their locality.

Give thanks to God for this means of expressing our partnership in the Gospel

3rd January

Ashdon

Minister: Rev. David W. Doonan

Give thanks with us for the successful year of celebrations of our Bi-Centenary including the completion of our kitchen and toilets refurbishment with generous contributions from many EBA churches.

Give thanks for increasing numbers attending Sunday worship and for a couple of new members who have joined the church and for those who have not yet joined – pray that they will do so. Also give thanks for the support of Saffron Walden Baptist Church with preachers, and musicians.

Pray for increased interest within the village and for conversions to Christ of our friends and neighbours. Pray for the Senior Citizens Lunch Club and its evangelistic impact.

3rd January

Basildon – Kingswood

Minister: Rev. Stuart Woodward

We thank God for continued growth, another good Alpha Course and several baptisms. We continue to be in conversation with an architect about redeveloping our building to create more room for people. Please pray for us as we consider the practicalities of moving to two morning services, as we continue to wrestle with the best ways of discipling both new Christians and long standing Christians and as we seek to make progress on the buildings front. We continue our focus on being a Kingdom people and celebrate God's great goodness.

10th January

Basildon – Laindon

Minister: Rev. Eric Baldwin

We would like to praise the Lord for 100 years of worship that has taken place in this church, for the Centenary celebrations and all

the people past and present that helped to celebrate the life of this church. We also thank the Lord for our new minister Rev Eric Baldwin and for the Induction service that was attended by many. May this be a new era for our church. For the things that go on in our church we pray a blessing on - Noah's Ark parent/carer and toddler group, for the newly formed coffee stop, the Girl's Brigade. We praise the Lord that Gilson obeyed your calling and is now at Spurgeon's college studying your word. We pray for the Lord's continued love and blessings for the next 100 years. Amen

10th January

Benfleet

Minister: Vacant

2009 was a challenging year for us. Several of our congregation were 'called home' and at the end of August our Minister, Rev David Keeble, accepted a call from Saffron Walden Methodist Church.

We give thanks for the visiting speakers who fill our pulpit week by week; increased numbers in our Mother & Toddler Group and the monthly Art Day. Please pray for our Deacons that they may know spiritual wisdom and vision to discern the Lord's will in the search for a new Minister and the empowering of the Holy Spirit in leading the church forward.

17th January

Billericay

Minister: Rev. Alasdair Macleod (Senior Pastor); Gary Bott (Youth Director)

GIVE THANKS with us for the arrival of our new Senior Pastor and for God's goodness and faithfulness to us as a fellowship over the last four years of interregnum.

GIVE THANKS for those who brought the Word of God to us and for those who faithfully continued to serve the Lord, His church and the community steadfastly during this period.

PLEASE PRAY for Alasdair & Alison and their children as they settle into their new home, into their schools and into church life & responsibilities.

PLEASE PRAY for our leadership team as, together, they seek the Lord's direction and the empowering of the Holy Spirit in leading the church forward & in reaching the lost for Jesus.

17th January

Bishop's Stortford

Minister: Rev. John Walford

We have recently celebrated our 190th anniversary and after 10 years of searching for the right site it appears that we may soon be able to build our new church centre. We are so grateful to God for all His blessings. We are grateful too for the school that has been our meeting place since 2000. This may appear to be a good time to take a step back and relax from the effort but please pray that instead we will take a step up and be more effective in our mission to this town and district.

24th January

Blackmore

Minister: Rev. Neil Blake

Blackmore is a village church established in the 19th century, but exercising a vibrant outgoing ministry today under the leadership of Neil Blake. The aim of the church is to allow God to work through our lives in the real world today. This is undertaken through the growing Sunday Service for young and old, and activities for building bridges with the local area.

Please pray that the power and grace of God may be seen in God's family in Blackmore.

24th January

The Church in Great Notley

(This is a local Ecumenical Partnership of the Baptist Union, the church of England, the Methodist Church and the United Reformed Church; in associate partnership with the Roman Catholic Church)

Minister: Rev. Mike Shrubsole

Join with the church in giving thanks for the starting of their building project and the cutting of the first ceremonial turf on Monday 23rd November. Pray for safety of workers on the building site and an on-time delivery of the completed new church for the village of Great Notley in July 2010. Pray for continued success of the fundraising work as additional funds are still being sought to furnish and equip the finished but empty building.

Please hold in your prayers church members and the wide community who are eagerly looking forward to using the building when it is finished. Pray for new and meaningful links to be established with people who will be attracted through the doors of the new church.

31st January

Braintree

Minister: Rev. Vilma Broadhurst

2009 has been a good year for engaging with our community through Essence, Alpha, the marriage preparation course and the marriage course. Our monthly family services with our baked potato lunch that follows also encourage us to invite friends and family to the service and lunch. Please pray that these courses and our social events may encourage people to learn how the good news of Christ is relevant in their lives today and forever more. Please pray for us and all we look to do in 2010 to continue the work God has laid on our hearts, which is to reach out into the community. This includes continuing to do Essence, Alpha, and the marriage course. Please join us in our prayer for new active Christian families to help with this work. We will also need to address the issue of our buildings that are old and in need of repairs.

Much prayer, guidance and money are needed to address these issues.

31st January

Brentwood

Minister: Rev. Peter Thomas

We thank God for the recent baptisms amongst our young people, and ask you to pray for our continuing Young people's work after our Youth Worker Steve Tinning left in October to commence studies with Spurgeon's College, training for the Ministry. We thank God for a number of members taking on this valuable work, whilst we seek God's will for future direction with our YP leadership.

We praise God for the ongoing Alpha Courses running at the church and new initiatives such as a Parenting and Christians Against Poverty Money courses. Please pray for our Outreach Worker, Michele Gibbins who leads these events as well as continuing with her work in the community. We continue to pray for Lyn Cooke, a member of our church, who is serving in Africa. We also ask for prayer for ourselves that as a church we will be so filled with the Holy Spirit that we will draw closer to God and radiate and reflect His love in our own lives and those who we come into contact with.

7th February

Brentwood – Pilgrim's Hatch

Minister: Rev. James Pate

Please pray for our staff team - James Pate our minister, Netty Packham our community worker and June Love our minister's assistant. June is with us for 2 years and she hopes to apply for Baptist ministry in 2011. James especially would ask for prayer as he has just become chair of the Brentwood and District Evangelical Fellowship. 2009 was an exciting year with our biggest ever church weekend away, new work with young people, the expansion of our work with parents and toddlers and 6 people baptised.

It has also been a challenging year, with financial challenges as the recession bites and a number of our people facing long term sickness.

Please pray for our leadership team as we meet together in the New Year to seek God's guidance.

7th February

Brightlingsea

Minister:

Senior Leader: Peter Puttock

Please pray for us on the following matters:

- The church has been without a minister for seven years and at the time of writing is in consultation with regard to the Pastorate. Please pray that we may know the Lord's will and guidance concerning the future ministry
- The Ladies' Craft Group meets regularly and is an important outreach organisation
- Although the church has no children or young people at the moment, adults in our church are involved in ecumenical work with young people in the town.

14th February

Burnham-on-Crouch

Minister: Rev. Tony Jones

We praise God for the building alterations which are now finished and paid for, giving us far better wheelchair access. We also thank Him for leading us to set up "Café Extra," which replaces our morning service once a month.

We would value your prayers for several non-Christians who come in each month, and for guidance regarding any improvements to the way we organise this; also, for the appointment of new deacons and other office-holders at next month's AGM.

21st February

Canvey – Leigh Beck

Minister: Vacant

Our minister, Jane Guest, left the church after 3 years in the pastorate, and we give thanks to God for her work among us.

We are grateful to God for the guidance and help we have received from Rev. Sheila Martin, as we prayerfully consider the future life of the church.

We give thanks to God for

- A recently completed Alpha Course
- Work among the young people, and we ask for your continuing prayers for the Boys' Brigade and 'Pebbles' (our Girls' Group)

21st February

Canvey – Winter Gardens

Minister-in-Training: Mark Davison

We give thanks to God for

- Adrian Tinning who has served us faithfully as Moderator during our pastoral vacancy
- The settlement of our new Pastor last September. Please pray for him as he studies two days a week at Spurgeon's College
- The steady growth we have seen in recent months.

Please pray for our church as we enter into a new chapter of ministry.

28th February

Chelmsford – Central

Senior Minister: Rev. Dr Paul Beasley-Murray

We have had a most encouraging start to the autumn.

Congregations were increasing and people were coming into membership – and yet we are finding that we have to run very hard just to stand still. In a town-centre church there is always a good deal of coming and going. It has given us particular pleasure to welcome Emma Maggs as our new part-time 'community outreach

worker' (i.e. 'evangelist') as also Nicholas Tuohy, our new Australian associate minister, and his wife Amanda. For the time being our ministerial team is up to strength again. We are looking forward to the build-up toward Easter, and then the Chelmsford Christian Festival in June.

7th March

Chelmsford – North Springfield

Moderator: Rev. Rodney Sawtell

At present we are engaged in the search for a new minister, and we ask for your prayers in this matter that we may be guided to the person of God's choice.

We give thanks for the continuing life of our church and the work of our Moderator among us.

Although the work of the children and young people has been up and down over the last year, and our numbers have been small, we have seen some encouragements in recent weeks. Please pray for our membership and congregation at this time. We ask for your prayers for the elderly and unwell in the congregation who find attendance at Church increasingly difficult.

7th March

Chelmsford – Springfield Park

Minister: Rev. Roger Stark

Praise:

- For a greater spirit of unity, and a willingness to work together in all departments of the work of the church.
- For a number of new folk who are worshipping with us.
- For opportunities of fellowship with our partner church in Middelkerke, Belgium.

Prayer:

- For spiritual growth for us all, through the preaching of the Word each Sunday, the ministry of our house groups, and the working out in the 'ups and downs' of our daily lives.

- For our groups which provide service to the community in Christ's name - Wet your Whistle Drop-in - Springboard Pre-school - Little Sparks for mums and tots.
- For a number of our older members with on-going health problems.

14th March

Clacton-on-Sea – Pier Avenue

Minister: Sean Fountain

The members and friends at Pier Avenue Baptist Church give thanks that the work on the next phase (the Atrium) of the Welcome Centre building project is beginning. The church fellowship continues to grow spiritually and numerically and there is great commitment in the Church to serve Christ. As the vision continues to take shape at Pier Avenue, we give thanks to God for His generosity and His guiding.

Please pray that the building work progresses smoothly and pray for our leadership that they may continue to seek the mind of Christ for the future direction of the Church.

21st March

Colchester – Eld Lane

Minister: Rev. Nick Lear

We are following the theme of 'Encouraging Missionary Disciples'. As part of this process we will be running a 'Telling our Story' course in January and February to encourage and equip us to tell our Christian story. Pray that we will have the courage and opportunities to put the training into practice as individuals and as a church.

21st March

Colchester – Orchard

Minister: Vacant

Following the great success of our Family Fun Week during the October half term which saw over 80 parents and children from the

local community attend one or more of the days, we are planning to run a similar event at the beginning of the Christmas holidays culminating in a short carol service for all those involved. In the New Year we will be preparing as a fellowship for the departure of our pastor, who has accepted a call to full time military chaplaincy, and we will begin the process of searching for God's replacement for him at Orchard.

28th March

Colchester - Wycliffe

Minister: Rev. Dr Steve Rudge

We have so much to thank the Lord for; our Minister Rev .Steve Rudge and his wife Laurinda are fully settled into their new home. Steve is just finishing a preaching series on Ezra which is impacting the church; the Lord is speaking strongly to us through this book. We see the church growing spiritually and slowly but surely, numerically.

We are forging links with Samaritans Purse through the "Turn on the Tap" appeal and Operation Christmas Child; we hope that this will progress next year into an even deeper partnership.

The Father has also blessed us with a Home Mission Grant that we believed would not be forthcoming.

Who is there like Him?

We give thanks for

- Our Minister
- Spiritual growth.
- Our mission with Samaritans Purse.
- The grant.

Pray for

- Wisdom regarding the church fabric
- The children's work.

Editor:

Rev. Michael Bell 01702 520068

prayerdiary@btinternet.com (Please note dedicated email address for the Prayer Diary)

