

JANUARY 2025

"NEW YEAR – NEW BLESSINGS"

Matthew 28 v 20 ".....; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age. Amen."

Hello, and welcome to our January Newsletter. If you're reading this in December, Happy New Year when it comes – OR – if you're reading this in January – Happy New Year.

I feel sympathy for those who at some time, celebrated a New Year, then a year later, were glad to put that year behind them. We don't know what events will transpire for us as individuals in 2025, but we DO know that the Lord will continue to be with us.

Many of us take comfort from the Great Bible Truth in the above verse, where others add their caveat regarding its context within the Great Commission. This alludes to a conditional presence of the Lord, "so long as you do your bit" - yet nothing could be further from the Truth. Jesus promised the Comforter, The Holy Spirit who would "...*abide with you for ever*" (John 14v16) . You see, we have God's Presence, Salvation and Blessings, not by our good works, but by His Work on the Cross and Resurrection. This is the Underlying Blessing we take into 2025, empowering us to fulfil our part in The Above Great Commission.

So how do our good works in 2025 fit in? Well – let's start with God's Blessings through His undeserved Grace (Jesus deserved it for us). As we pray and are filled with the Holy Spirit, we know the Lord's Joy, which is our Strength (Nehemiah 8v10), and that empowers us to bring God's Blessings to others. That's my prayer of us as individuals, and a church. Jesus said "... *without me ye can do nothing*" (John 15v5). Just as Jesus' Work saved us, let His Work through us be empowered by the Holy Spirit in us – during 2025.

How do we manifest God's Blessings in 2025?

- Realise that we already have the Blessings in Christ. Give Him Praise and Thanks.
- Continue to have our Individual Quiet Times, where we Pray, Read our Bibles and Listen to the Quiet Voice of the Holy Spirit.
- Be prayerful about open doors, our opportunities to show Christ's Love to others. When God shows us our particular "open doors" (and they're different for each one of us), let's pray for His Boldness and Wisdom, that we will be effective in that area of service, or word of encouragement.
- Continue to Fellowship at Church, where we can be blessed, and be a blessing.
- Be prayerful about our individual area of serving in the Church. For newcomers to church, my advice is – Get to know others first, and build relationships. Then, as you get established and identify HEC as "home", be prayerful about how God wants you to support the fellowship, maybe even "starting small". Everything is Teamwork – where we are "there for one another", and enjoy the Unity of the Spirit. We will then, as a church, bless those outside, and share Christ.

Have a Blessed 2025,

Robert

Please see the next page.

Church Events for January 2025

Sunday Morning Services (10.30 am)

January 5th	Bob Heath
January 12th	Ray Haughton (Intro to Luke series and Luke 19:1-10)
January 19th	Shaun Cooper (Luke 5:12-15)
January 26th	Andrew Holt

Saturday January 11th (11am)

Join us to pray for the work of the church in 2025

Sunday January 12th (4pm)

Churches Together Covenant Service at St Catherine's Church

Bible Study and Prayer meetings (Wednesdays)

January 8th	at Church at 11am
January 15th	on Zoom at 7pm
January 22nd	at Church at 11am
January 29th	on Zoom at 7pm

Tea 'N' Tots recommences Friday January 10th 10.00 – 11.30am

Points for Prayer

Praise and Thanks

- Give thanks to God for His goodness and faithfulness to us.

World Situations and Projects

- Pray for Christians around the world suffering for their faith.
- Pray for the Christian work we support:
 - Mark Foster and the Slavic Gospel Association,
 - House of Ants,
 - Stephen and Jean Gillham with the Bible Education Services.
 - SASRA (Soldiers and Aviators Scripture Readers Association)
- Pray for an end to the fighting and destruction in Ukraine, The Middle East and Sudan.

UK

- Pray for our King and Princess of Wales to be healed of Cancer, then give due thanks to God.
- Pray for our Government, in these difficult times, that they will seek God's guidance so that they lead us with wisdom and integrity.
- Pray for those engulfed in violence and hatred – that they would find Jesus.
 - Let the Church effectively communicate the Good News of Jesus Christ.
- Pray for the Wrongly Convicted Postmasters – that they may receive justice very soon.
- Pray for James Bovenizer, and his work in schools.
- Pray for Urban Outreach.

Our Church

- Pray for the Elders as they seek to know God's will for the future.
 - Meeting – Monday January 13th at 7pm**
 - Pray for those who are unwell, giving thanks for those who have improved health-wise.
 - Pray for our Projects: Tea 'N' Tots, Luncheon Club, Good Newspapers, Junior Church.
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