



# MEASHAM BAPTIST CHURCH

**December 2023**



*But be sure to fear the LORD and serve him faithfully with all your heart; consider what great things he has done for you.*

*1 Samuel 12:24*

**Sunday Morning Worship 10:30 am**

**Sunday Evening Worship 6:00 pm**

**Family Service last Sunday of every month**

[www.meashambaptistchurch.com](http://www.meashambaptistchurch.com)  
<https://www.facebook.com/meashambaptist/>

**Tel: 07719 657441 or 07837 791189**

## WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

<b>Mondays</b> 6:15 – 7:45 pm	1 <sup>st</sup> Measham Girls' and Boys' Brigade
<b>Tuesdays</b> 9:30 – 11:30 am 10:00 am	Smarties - craft and play for babies & tots Walk & Talk (Hicks Lodge - LE65 2UP)
<b>Wednesdays</b> 7:00 pm	Testify – Singing Group
<b>Thursdays</b> 7:30 – 9:00 pm	Bible Study and Prayer Meeting
<b>Fridays</b> 9:00 – 10:30 am	Friday Breakfast and Food Bank

## BIRTHDAYS

*May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. Romans 15:13*

9<sup>th</sup> Harrison Dring

9<sup>th</sup> Natasha Deighton

10<sup>th</sup> Imogen Deighton

We *love* to sing Happy Birthday! So, if we haven't got your special day on our list, please let Leigh-ann know.

## **THIS MONTH**

<b><u>LUNCH CLUB</u></b>	
Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup>	12:00 pm
<b><u>LIFT (<i>Ladies in Fellowship Together</i>)</u></b>	
Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup> & 20 <sup>th</sup>	10:00 am
<b><u>GIFT (<i>Gentlemen in Fellowship Together</i>)</u></b>	
Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> & 28 <sup>th</sup> (provisional)	9:00 am
For details contact Michael: 07795 288554	
<b><u>MEN'S BREAKFAST</u></b>	
Saturday 16 <sup>th</sup>	8:30 am

**Please note** the men's breakfast is on Saturday **16<sup>th</sup>** December



Donations of any of the following would be much appreciated (please place items in the basket in church, thank you)

- TINNED VEG
  - SOUP
  - PULSES E.G TINNED CHICKPEAS, LENTILS, KIDNEY BEANS
  - INSTANT MASH
  - RICE POUCHES
  - JAM
  - SQUASH
  - CHOCOLATE TREAT BARS
-



Your invitation to

**“TESTIFY”**

Christmas Concert 2023

**Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> December**

Commencing 7pm

At

**Measham Baptist Church  
Chapel Street, Measham**

You are invited to come and hear Testify in concert. To listen and participate in new and traditional Christmas songs and carols. There will be refreshments after the Concert to which you are all warmly invited.

**MEASHAM CHRISTMAS LIGHTS**  
**THURSDAY 7<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER AT 6PM**

As a church we have purchased 100 nativity story colouring books (for 2-6 years old) and 100 Christian fiction books (for 6-10 years old) to wrap and give as gifts to children at this popular village event. The road will be closed as usual and we have been allocated a slot for our table and gazebo (we need to take our own).

Please come along to be witnesses for the love that Christ has for people as we distribute the gifts and invite people to our Christmas events. The lights are switched on at 6pm but people will arrive from 5pm so this should be our start time - I suggest we meet at church at 5pm.

We will also need help with wrapping the books over the next couple of weeks and with setting up our table and gazebo on the day from 2.30pm - please see Sarah if you can help with this.

**FRIDAY BREAKFAST - UPDATE**

Our weekly free breakfast is becoming ever-more popular, serving up to twenty cooked breakfasts every week. This outreach, along with Foodbank, has turned out to be a valuable community service and we are now regularly visited by the LCC local area co-ordinator for health, wellbeing and resilience. We have a lovely joyful team who love to serve the Lord in this mission - Ann and Keith, Ronna, Cathy, Manuela, Annie, David and Sarah.

We have a regular clientele and will be hosting a Christmas lunch for them on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December.

Please continue to pray for this work and for opportunities to invite people into the church and to share the gospel.

*Sarah*

## NATIVITY – THE MISSING INGREDIENT

Although Nativity plays and tableaux are becoming less common, there will certainly still be many such plays performed in schools and churches and Nativity scenes may well be set up in some homes and shops.

There will be, of course, Mary, Joseph and the babe in the manger together with shepherds, wise men and angels the odd ox and ass and perhaps a scattering of straw.

In the past stable scenes have even included such things as spacemen, badgers and dinosaurs! For obvious reasons the thing that is always left out of the manger scene whether in schools, churches, homes etc is, putting it politely, - the mess, the muck, the stink. It is hardly surprising that people working with livestock spend their days in 'wellies'.

Much is made of the symbolism that the Son of God was born in a stable. No room for him, not wanted, coming in the humblest of circumstances. I would like to add that coming to a mucky, stinking stable symbolised the fact that he was coming in to a mucky, messed up, stinking world. With the purpose, thank God, of starting the clean-up operation!

All this puts me in mind of a favourite Christmas song of mine. It is sung from the perspective of someone looking in to the manger questioning what this baby has taken on.

The words of the chorus go:

*'What's a nice person like you,  
Doing on a planet like this,  
Can't you see you could get hurt down here,  
Even betrayed by a kiss.'*

The song is written and sung by pastor Bob McLeod an evangelist who uses his songs in sharing the Good News.

I have not found a copy of the song on YouTube but it is available on Spotify. (search: A Planet Like This Bob McLeod).

*Leigh*

## *Dear Fellowship ...*

‘What are you prepared to do?’- a quote from one of my favourite childhood films. The film in question is *The Untouchables*, the story of Eliot Ness and his gang of law enforcers as they set out to bring an end to the antics of Al Capone. The quote I refer to could just as easily have been ‘What are you prepared to give up?’ as it was being aimed at Mr Ness and asking him what he was really prepared to sacrifice to bring those he was hunting to justice.

If someone asked the same question of God, today or 2000 years ago, he would have a reply. His reply was and still is “I am prepared to say goodbye to my only Son whom I love so much, to watch him leave this incredible place where we are together, and go to a dark and evil place where he will be tortured and killed. I am prepared to do that to win back those I love, those who I made, even though they may have no time for me at all” And that’s the essence of the Christmas message! A baby in a manger begins the greatest rescue of all time.

So, to each of us today, especially at Christmas, ‘What are you prepared to do, or to sacrifice?’ Who can you invite to a Christmas service, or give a Christmas gospel tract to, or talk to? Who can you invite to your house in order to show them gospel hospitality? Who is there on the edges of society who needs someone to take an interest in them this Christmas? I find it easy at Christmas to give money away to a charitable cause, because that’s in my Christmas budget and I can still have nice food and plenty of material blessings. But what about sacrifice, what about me going without something, so that others may benefit. Jesus commended not the wealthy man who put lots of money into the offering box at Church, but the widow who gave everything and paid the price herself.

The King of Glory and Ruler of Eternity was prepared to give up that which came at huge cost to Himself – for you and me. So, this Christmas, ‘What are YOU prepared to do?’

*David*

## IT ROTA

<b>Sun</b>	<b>Morning Service</b>	<b>Evening Service</b>
<b>3<sup>rd</sup></b>	Colin/Mircea	Flo
<b>10<sup>th</sup></b>	Michael/Will	Colin
<b>17<sup>th</sup></b>	Will/Mircea	Flo
<b>24<sup>th</sup></b>	Michael/Colin	No Service
<b>31<sup>st</sup></b>	Alice/Ben	No Service

## SONG RECOMMENDATIONS

- The King Has Come - Phillipa Hanna
- Whom Shall I Fear (God of Angel Armies) - Chris Tomlin

The first song (The King Has Come) I really enjoy listening to as it's very catchy and a lovely Christmas song that is full of joy and praises.

The second (Whom Shall I Fear) I find very encouraging as it speaks of having the all-powerful God on our side.

*Iona*



## SUNDAY ROTA

Sun	Morning Service	Evening Service	Communion and Flowers	Refreshments
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Ian Hunter	Pravin	Lynda PM	Strutz Family
10 <sup>th</sup>	David Donegarni	Ben Daly	/	Rob & Phil
17 <sup>th</sup>	Nativity (Tim)	Tony Hodgkinson	Lynda AM	Leigh-ann & Colin
24 <sup>th</sup>	David Dring	No Service	/	Sarah & David
31 <sup>st</sup>	Adam Boam	No Service	/	Jackie & Jemimah

### *Carols by Candlelight*

Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> December

6:30pm

### *Christmas Day Service*

10:30am

Les and David