



**South Molton Baptist Church  
News Sheet  
January 2005**

New Road, South Molton

[www.southmolton.org.uk/baptistchurch](http://www.southmolton.org.uk/baptistchurch)

Email: [smbaptist@hotmail.com](mailto:smbaptist@hotmail.com)

*Minister: Rev. Andy Jarvis 574365*

**Dear Friends,**

Driving home from a meeting recently, I was listening to the aftermath of David Blunkett's resignation. They were discussing whether he was victim or sinner in the situation and one commentator used the phrase, "He was a man blind from birth" and I was immediately reminded of the story in John 9 which also begins with the discussion of a man's sin. The man that Jesus heals seems to have two qualities which none of the other groups of characters in the story appear to possess. He makes good choices and he has vision, one perhaps being dependent upon the other. He chooses to see and act upon a possibility that no-one else appears to see, namely that Jesus is the Messiah. In choosing not to see, everyone else appears rather foolish.

David Blunkett was and is a remarkable politician and not just because of his visual handicap. He has never allowed that blindness to limit what he can do and has held on to the view that, through political process, he can change the world for those living in this country. Having perceived a goal he has pursued it whether the policy or the outcome were popular or not. Most politicians seem to be influenced by popularity and pragmatism rather than ideology anymore. Most of us, too, find it hard to complete things if the encouragement dries up to be replaced by criticism. So how has such a robust politician had to give up the work he had a vision for? Bad choices. Tony Blair described him as, "a man of integrity", but a rather judicious caller pointed out that you do not demonstrate integrity if you choose to have an affair with a married woman, if you choose to have a child with her and if you choose to misuse the power of the public office that you hold. The point I want to make is not about David Blunkett, it's about the fact that we do have choices and that very few of the things we ever do or say are done without our choosing to do them. What the devil wants to do to us is to hide the consequences of what we do.

"That which destroys a vision is the veil over it." (Ptah-Hotep – No I've no idea who s/he is either).

At Christmas we celebrate Christ making the choice to come and dwell among us. At Easter we celebrate Christ seeing through the veils of temptation and the cross and choosing to die for us. His choices changed the world for us.

"Destiny is not a matter of change, it is a matter of choice; it is not a thing to be waited for, it is a thing to be achieved."

William Jennings Bryan

So as we head into the new year, thinking about new beginnings, new possibilities as Christians and as a church together, our ability to see what God could do and our choosing to act to pursue it will be crucial.

A very adventurous and fulfilling New Year to you all,

*Andy*

**January's Events...**

Sun 2nd 10.30am **All-Age Service**

Sun 9<sup>th</sup> Jan Church Christmas Party  
There will be a bring and share lunch after the morning service, followed by games.

**Church prayer meeting** Thurs  
13<sup>th</sup> 8-9pm at church

Sat 8<sup>th</sup> Jan Boys will be Boys Ten-Pin Bowling followed by a meal at The Cedars. See posters or John Adams/Steve Bedford for details.

**Deacon's Meetings** Mon 10<sup>th</sup> at Andy's and 24<sup>th</sup> at Roz's 7.30pm

Tues 25<sup>th</sup> Jan Ladies New Year Social Buffet at The Blackcock Inn, Molland See Wendy or telephone her on 01398 341692 for details and booking by 16<sup>th</sup> Jan.

## Notices...

There will not be an evening service on 2<sup>nd</sup> Jan in order to allow people time to celebrate with their families and friends. Make the most, then, of the morning services for time with God and your Christian family.

**Coming soon..!** Church Members AGM at which there will be elections for church secretary, treasurer and 2 places on the diaconate. Nomination forms can be obtained from Io

### Church House

Just to update you, the painting has progressed into the kitchen and, barring some woodwork the downstairs is nearly complete. We have had a very good estimate for carpeting the hall, stairs and landing and putting vinyl in the through room and we hope that the work will be done mid/late January. We do need to make more progress on the list of jobs outstanding before we can open. Rather than just looking at the list, perhaps you could talk to Hedley. Your efforts and someone else's skills could be a great combination. As you can see from the masses going out to Junior Church on a Sunday, the need for space is getting greater (praise God!) so do please do what you can.

Does anyone have any ideas about a name for the building? Things like... The Lighthouse and The Beacon have been suggested. If you have any inspiration, perhaps you could tell Andy or one of the deacons.

**South West Alpha Conference** 10-11<sup>th</sup> March 2005 in Yeovil with Nicky Gumbel. Please let Andy know if you would be interested in going.

**St. Petrocks** Many thanks to all those who donated clothing. We were able to take 14 bags to the centre in Cathedral Yard, Exeter. They were thrilled with the donation and the clothes will be particularly useful in keeping people warm during the cold winter months.

## January 2005

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>2</b> <b>10.30am</b> All-age service "New beginnings"  <b>6pm</b> The Attributes of God 1 Chron 29:10-13 <b>Communion</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> <b>9.30-11.30am</b> Mini-Trekkers	<b>8</b>
<b>9</b> <b>10.30am</b> Christ-Centred Living Gal. 2:20 <b>Communion</b> Christmas Party  <b>7pm</b> 2H2H "Gossip"	<b>10</b>  <b>12-2pm</b> Lunch Time Prayer  7.30pm Deacon's Meeting @ Andy's	<b>11</b>  <b>5.30pm</b> Dance Club	<b>12</b>  <b>6-7pm</b> Truth Trekkers	<b>13</b>  <b>8-9pm</b> Church Prayer Meeting	<b>14</b>  <b>9.30-11.30am</b> Mini-Trekkers	<b>15</b>
<b>16</b> <b>10.30am</b> The Power of a Praying High Priest Heb 4:14-16  <b>6pm</b> The Gift of Faith Heb 11-12:3 <b>Communion</b>	<b>17</b>  <b>12-2pm</b> Lunch Time Prayer <b>7.30pm</b> Deacon's Meeting	<b>18</b>  <b>5.30pm</b> Dance Club	<b>19</b>  <b>6-7pm</b> Truth Trekkers	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>  <b>9.30-11.30am</b> Mini-Trekkers Toddler Group Christmas Party	<b>22</b>
<b>23</b> <b>10.30am</b> Be Being Filled Eph 5:18 <b>Communion</b>  <b>6pm</b> Churches Together Service of Prayer for Christian Unity	<b>24</b>  <b>12-2pm</b> Lunch Time Prayer  7.30pm Deacon's Meeting @ Roz's	<b>25</b>  <b>5.30pm</b> Dance Club	<b>26</b>  <b>6-7pm</b> Truth Trekkers	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>  <b>9.30-11.30</b> Mini-Trekkers	<b>29</b>
<b>30</b> <b>10.30am</b> Without Vision the People Perish  <b>6pm</b> The Gift of Evangelism 1 Cor.1:18-31	<b>31</b>  <b>12-2pm</b> Lunch Time Prayer	<u>Preaching plan for January</u>  The aim of the teaching this month is to re-visit some of the basics of Christian discipleship, to help those who are young in the faith to grow and to remind the rest of us how we take hold of the riches we have in Christ. In the evenings we will also be looking at some more of the spiritual gifts.				

## Prayer

Please pray-

Give thanks for Christmas and for Gods gift of Jesus. Spend a little time thinking about where we would all be if God had decided we weren't worth such a fantastic gift and praise him for all he has done, is doing, and, will do.

Pray that Jesus will be glorified by your Christmas celebrations this year. Pray for all church services, that people attending will see more than the cuteness of the stable scene, pray that we will see people accepting Jesus as their Saviour and they will really begin to live. What better Christmas present could there be?

As we approach new year pray that each of us will put God at the very head of everything we do. Pray that we will be so full of joy that we can't help but take it with us wherever we go and whatever we're doing. Don't save God for church things, let him have a real impact in all areas. In fact don't wait for Dec 31<sup>st</sup> - do it now!!

Please pray for anyone who is unwell, lonely, sad, uncertain of the future and afraid of it.

Pray for Thea and Paul as they spend their first Christmas away from home. Pray that they will experience Gods love, peace and joy. Pray that they include God in their different daily situations, that their beliefs will radiate onto those they are spending their time with. Please pray for their families here - we'll be finding it a bit hard I think!

Pray for yourself-that you too will have love ,peace and joy that can only come from being secure in Gods love.

Amen

## The Coming Of The King

Yet if His Majesty, our sovereign Lord  
Should of His own accord  
Friendly Himself write,  
And say "I'll be your guest tomorrow night"  
How we should stir ourselves, call and  
command all hands to work!  
"Let no man idle stand!  
Set me fine Spanish tables in the hall,  
See they be fitted all;  
Let there be room to eat,  
And order taken that there want no meat.  
See every sconce and candlestick made bright,  
that without tapers they may give a light.  
Look to the presence, are the carpets spread?  
The dais o'er the head?  
The cushions in the chairs?  
And all the candles lighted on the stairs?  
Perfume the chambers and in any case  
let each man give attendance in his place!"

Thus if a King were coming we would do;  
And tw're good reason too.  
For 'tis a dutious thing,  
to show all honour to an earthly King.  
And after all our travail and our cost,  
to be pleased to think no labour lost!  
But at the comong of the King of Heaven,  
all set at six and seven,  
we wallow in our sin.  
Christ cannot find a chamber in the inn.  
We entertain Him always like a stranger,  
and as at first, still lodge Him in the manger.

Henry Vaughan

From George

## Want a new career?

### PA operators REQUIRED

Full Training programme will be provided, on average you will be required minimum one Sunday a month!

If interested please speak to John Adams  
0179 573789

# 214214

## (TOO HOT TO HANDLE)

TACKLING RELEVANT ISSUES FOR THE YOUTH OF  
TODAY!

SUNDAY 9TH JANUARY 7.00PM

SOUTH MOLTON BAPTIST CHURCH



# GOSSIP!

REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE

	Flowers	PA	Stewards	Coffee	Cleaning (Week Commencing)	Door am	Door pm
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Rachel	Mark	Tony Powell & Hanson Hammet	Marge & Joan	Please see list at rear of Church	Ken & Rachel	Carol
9 <sup>th</sup>	Rachel	John	Peter & Jacki	Graham & Sheila		Hanson & Pat	Ken
16 <sup>th</sup>	Pat	Phil	Tony Powell & Steve Bedford	Wendy & Marilyn		Carol & Marge	Hanson
23 <sup>rd</sup>	Pat	John	Hanson Hammet & Andrew Holland	Dorothy & April		Tony & Jill	Pat
30 <sup>th</sup>	Pat	John	Steve Bedford & Graham Grantham	Glo & Julie		Ken & Rachel	Hanson

### House Groups

Graham and Shiela  
Grantham  
2 Poltimore Close  
WEDNESDAYS 7:45

Simon and Judy Friend-  
Jan and Elsbeth's House  
  
(Please ask for details if  
interested)

Ken and Rachel Williams  
24 Parklands

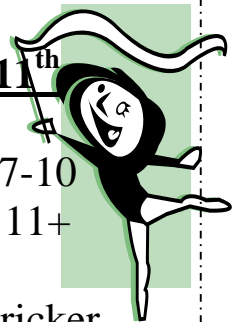
### True Steps Dance Club

Tuesday Evenings

Restarts Jan. 11<sup>th</sup>

5.30-6.30 Ages 7-10

6.30-7.30 Ages 11+



Please see Jane Tricker

**KYB** – Know Your Bible  
Lady's bible study  
6 Poltimore Close  
9<sup>th</sup> Jan – then every 2 weeks

**Advance Warning -  
The January news sheet deadline is Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> January. Please give your items to  
Dave or Sharon Webber**