

Sundays in January

10.30 am to approx. 11.45 am Service with special activities for children and young people in JAM (Jesus And Me).

- 1st January Morning Service led by Charlie
- 8th January Morning Service led by Lars
- 15th January Morning Parade Service led by Doreen
- 22nd January Morning Communion Service led by David Seddon
- 29th January Morning Service led by Chris and Sandra

Saturday 7th January 5.00 pm to 7.00 pm

Church Christmas party - bring and share refreshments - fancy dress optional!

* Mondays (restarts 9th January)

Parent and Toddler Group – 1.00 pm to 3.00pm - £1.00 per child – refreshments provided – maximum 25 children

Tuesdays 10th and 24th January

Prayer meetings at 9.30 am at Church

Wednesdays (restarts 18th January)

EXPLORE - starting at 10.00 am with refreshments at Church.

EXPLORE is an informal opportunity to find out whether there's more to life than meets the eye. All are welcome whether you have some kind of faith or none. If you have serious questions and concerns, we will try and explore them together. Why not give it a go? It could be the best choice you've ever made.

* Wednesdays (restarts 11th January)

The Priory Mission between 1.00 pm and 3.00 pm - come and relax, play games – don't get bored, come and join us

* Thursdays Girls' Brigade at 6.30 pm - restarts 5th January

* Fridays Pop-in between 10.00 am & 12 noon - restarts 6th January

*during school term times

Priory Baptist Church, Hotham Road South, Hull, HU5 5RN

www.priorybaptist.co.uk

If you would like to know more about the Church or have any prayer requests or simply need someone to talk to please contact

David 01482 652510 or Barbara 01482 353607 or Lars 07905 302451
or email prayer@priorybaptist.co.uk

Priory Baptist News January 2012



NEW HEART, NEW START!

As yet another year begins, it's a time for us all to think about our hopes and plans for at least the next twelve months or so if we haven't done so already. Most, if not all, of us have had a go at making a New Year resolution and before long have given up on it!

For instance, some of us will have joined a gym or decided to change our diet, but for one reason or another, we will have excused ourselves by becoming busier with other things or finding that we develop an apparently uncontrollable craving for chocolate, sweets or drink, or all three plus!!

As a follower of Jesus, I have discovered that He understands our intentions and our weaknesses, and so he has become for me The God of the second chance and also The God of the new opportunity!

We all try and often get it wrong. We usually want to get on with others but often mess up in our relationships. Perhaps we've felt we've tried with Jesus and for some reason decided that it hasn't worked for us. Well, the good news is that Jesus knew what we would be like and He still loves us! Therefore, He is only too willing to give us another chance to develop our friendship with Him and a new opportunity to serve Him.

The even more amazing news is that He doesn't expect us to do it on our own, but offers not only the NEW START, but a NEW HEART to really begin to make the NEW START! In short, He gives us what we need to be His friend if we ask Him.

"I will give you a new heart and a new mind. I will take away your stubborn heart of stone and give you an obedient heart. I will put my spirit in you and will see to it that you follow my laws and keep all the commands I have given you." (Ezekiel 36:26-27).

Lars



My name is Doreen. I am happily married to Pete and I have four wonderful children. I am also very privileged to have a very special Friend. A Friend who loves me for who I am. A Friend who loves me so much that He gave His own life for me. My Friend's name is Jesus.

I was 12 years old when we first became friends. It wasn't a sudden, dramatic revelation. I just knew I wanted to follow Jesus and I just grew into my relationship with Him.

That was 38 years ago now. Do I regret living my life with Jesus? No never.

Has life always been easy? Problem free? Not really; But whatever I've faced, I have not had to do it on my own; Jesus has been there beside me all the way. Sometimes when things have been really tough He has carried me through.

When I decided to follow Jesus He didn't promise me a life free of problems and hardship but what He did promise me was that He would never leave me and He has never broken that promise.

I don't often talk about the past because that's what it is the past. I'm not going to bore you with all the details. I just want to outline a few situations where knowing Jesus has helped me through.

As I mentioned earlier I have four wonderful children. They are all adults now; but when the oldest was nine and the youngest three their father left me. It wasn't an easy break up; in fact it came as a total shock to me, and brought many difficult times with it; but Jesus never left my side. I never felt alone and Jesus gave me the courage I needed to start my life again. He also gave me something else; something I would never have been able to do on my own, He gave me the ability to forgive. This means that I'm not bitter or angry about what happened.

That's what my Friend Jesus did for me.

Around this time I started to suffer recurring ruptured discs in my lower back. The pain was like no other pain I had ever had. One night the pain was so severe I couldn't lie down, stand up or sit, nothing I did relieved the pain. So I prayed. I asked my friend Jesus for help and again He was there for me. I was never healed physically but Jesus did something much more powerful, He healed me spiritually. He filled me with such warm love and peace that the pain just didn't matter any more.

That's what my Friend Jesus has done for me.

After a while I re-married and life started to settle down a little. Rowen was a long term kidney dialysis patient and about three and a half years after we married he had a massive heart attack and died. When I went home from the hospital that night, the children were all asleep in bed, I sat downstairs alone; but not alone. Jesus was there for me. He comforted me in my grief and gave me the strength to carry on.

That's what my friend Jesus has done for me.

A few years later and I am very happily married to Pete and we have a wonderful life together. Then I received another blow, I was diagnosed with Fibromyalgia. I was told I will face a life of pain and many other disabling symptoms. There is no cure and no treatment. Again Jesus is with me. He gives me the strength to get out of bed each morning and the strength I need to do the work I believe He has asked me to do. I still have the pain and all the other problems having fibromyalgia brings but they don't have me, Jesus has me. They don't rule my life, Jesus does.

That's what my Friend Jesus is doing for me.

Only last year I found out that one of my sons was in prison. I was devastated. I knew he would be frightened and alone and, as a mother, I just wanted to go to him and put my arms around him but I couldn't. But I didn't have to worry. Jesus was there in my place. In that prison cell when there was no one else around to help, Danny met Jesus and Jesus helped Him turn his life around. He still has a long way to go but like me he will never have to do anything on his own. Jesus turned my anguish and sorrow caused by Danny's imprisonment into wonder and joy as He met Danny's needs day by day.

That's what my Friend Jesus has done for me.

Life still has its ups and down.

Is Jesus still my Friend? Yes most definitely.

What Jesus has done and is still doing for me He can do for you as well.

You only have to ask Him.

Doreen