

Noticeboard

BMS We collect used stamps for Baptist Missionary Society.
So hand yours in to the Church Office

We have a report from the school in **Bangladesh** that this church supports.
We have some copies in the front Foyer or ask Sue in the office for a copy

.....and we have a report from Casa Mea also more available from the church office

Food for Thought
this Thursday
18th January.
Guest Speaker is Alan Offord. Starts at 2.30pm

House Groups are important to the Church Life. Small groups are an ideal way to get to know one another on a deeper level. If you are interested in joining a group see Doreen Fraser or Hanna Oakes

OASIS meeting this coming Friday 19th January **Team Challenge.** See Duncan or Amy for more info

Craftea
meet again This Tuesday 16th January 1-3pm See Alison Hodges or Sue Misselbrook for more info

Foodbank needs:

- Long-Life Whole Milk
- Tinned Ham
- Dog Food
- Cat Food

Sunday 21st January

10.30am **Coming together to praise, learn and encourage.**

Main Door Bryan Parr

Inner Door Barry & Betty Hearn

Easy Worship Becky Brown

Coffees Before Service Karen Campbell & Kye Childs

After Service Bryan & Hazel Green

Sunday 14th January 2018

10.30am **Coming together to praise, learn and encourage.**
A warm welcome to you all. We would love to get to know each other better, so please introduce yourself. If you can, join us for refreshments after the service.

Although it is 2nd Sunday the children will be in the service until 11am

11am **Children and youth groups leave**

Nippers: 2-4 years

Buzz: Reception - Year Five

Salt: Year Six - Year 13

Prayer Ministry

Members of the Prayer Ministry Team wear ministry badges. Please speak to one of them if you would like prayer for any reason.

The Church office

Open Monday-Friday, 9.30am-12.30pm

Telephone 01326 315249

Email mail@emmanuelbaptist.co.uk

Website www.emmanuelbaptist.co.uk

Minister Rev'd Charles Blizzard

Sermon outline notes: Learning to Pray from Paul: Praying for Power! Part 1 Ephesians 3: 14–21

Introduction

How did you learn to pray? I think most of us learn to pray by listening to others—we learn to pray by imitation. But there is an obvious danger in that and it is this—what if the models’ the examples we imitate are not good ones? So at the start of a new year lets go back and study the prayers of God’s people in the scriptures.

1) Strengthen with power.....in your inner being

- This power is mediated by the Holy Spirit.
- Inner being (literally ‘Inner man’) - a phrase that is not common in Paul’s writings. We get an explanation of the term in 2 Corinthians 4:16–18.
- The purpose of the prayer—‘so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith’. At first sight a strange request as does not Christ do that already? Paul has in mind that Christ takes up ‘residence’ within us transforming us into a ‘house that reflects his own character .
- The resources through which this prayer can be answered are God’s glorious riches. (see also Phil 4: 19)
- Summing up this first petition, it is a plea for power, power to be holy, power to think, act and talk in ways pleasing to Christ, power to strengthen moral resolve, power to be humble, power to grow in conformity to Jesus Christ .

2) Power to grasp the limitless dimension of the love of Christ

- Paul is assuming here that his readers, Christian though they are, do not adequately appreciate the love of Christ
- This is not merely an intellectual exercise, Paul is asking God that they might have the power to grasp the awesome dimensions of God’s love in their experience .
- The purpose of the prayer is that they may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God— that they may be fully mature. There is an implication and its this:- that we cannot

be as spiritually mature as we ought to be unless we receive power from God to enable us to grasp the limitless dimensions of the love of Christ.

- Note that Paul is not advocating some kind of ‘Lone Ranger’ Christianity , for he uses the phrase ‘together with all the saints’.

The Challenge—Do we pray along these lines? So why not incorporate this sort of petition in your daily praying for the next six months. Can we perhaps hear God whispering ‘You do not have because you do not ask.’

<p>NOTES</p>
