

Park [life]

FEBRUARY
2019

COMPASSION IN THE COLD...

Sub-zero temperatures and forecasts of snow is how February greets us, and it's at times like these that I am grateful for central heating.

Sadly that isn't a universal provision, and at the tail-end of January I was involved in providing emergency shelter for the rough sleepers in our town beyond the regular Friday-Sunday evenings catered for by *The Living Room*. In such conditions the Borough Council are obliged to find shelter for the homeless, but have only four beds available. In this instance they paid for a further four to stay at B&Bs but that still left another eight without shelter. This marks an

abject failure and is a sad indictment of attitudes in our current society.

And yet we are called to be different as the people of God. Proverbs 19:17 says "Whoever is generous to the poor lends to the Lord, and he will repay him for his deed."

Jesus likens himself to a homeless man in Matthew 25, arguing that when we respond with compassion to the needs of the poor it is like we are tending to the needs of Jesus himself. Too often we can overlook our responsibility to be advocates for justice, forgetting it features consistently in scripture; from Old Testament laws to the teaching and example of Jesus.

So as winter takes hold, let us not be cold-hearted. The need is great but we can make a difference; indeed God calls us to!

Peter Timothy

SUNDAYS AT PARK

If you're joining us for one of our services then a special welcome to you!

We hold services in both English and Portuguese and you'll notice lots of similarities and a few differences in each one.

Both involve a mix of singing, prayers, Bible teaching and sharing. We also include an offering which sustains the work of the church and the organisations we support.

Junior Church is held downstairs in the Hall. Volunteers are DBS

checked and will accompany the children downstairs at the appropriate time in the service.

Please join us afterwards for free tea, coffee and biscuits downstairs as we get to know each other better.



COOKING FOR THE LIVING ROOM

We are desperately in need of some volunteers to provide an evening meal for our homeless visitors on a Sunday evening.

We usually cater for 10-12 including volunteers and provide a hot main meal and a dessert. This is usually served between 8-8.30pm.

There is a sign up rota on the board next to the Pastor's office. Speak to Peter for more information.

WHAT'S ON AT PARK

Want to include something next month? Email: peter@parkbaptist.church



JOINT PRAYER MEETINGS

We continue to meet together with the Portuguese congregation

for prayer on the **FIRST FRIDAY** of the month at 7pm in the church.

This is an important time for the church as we gather together before God in prayer. If you are a church member in particular, then please prioritise this monthly date in your diaries.

Our next meeting is Friday 1st March.



CAP MONEY COURSE

We are looking for some new volunteers to deliver the CAP Money Course on an as-required basis to our CAP clients. This is a budgeting course and full training is being provided on 22nd June in Norwich by CAP.

Please speak to Pat Hillier if you might be interested in this.



ALPHA COURSE

Got friends who are interested in exploring Christianity? Then invite them along to our next Alpha course, starting next month!

The course is free and includes a hot meal, video introducing the theme for the week and then a 45 minute discussion around tables.

We begin on **THURSDAY 7th FEBRUARY, 6.30-8.30pm.**



CAP BEFRIENDER TRAINING

If you are interested in supporting our CAP clients by being a friend and an encourager, we have special training coming up on **Tuesday 5th February** at **Gorleston Baptist Church 3-5pm.** All are welcome and there is no obligation t

THE MILLER'S IN MOZAMBIQUE



Our BMS missionaries Annet and Damien Miller share their latest news from Mozambique, including a new arrival in the family!

Now listen, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go to this or that city, spend a year there, carry on business and make money. "Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes. Instead, you ought to say, "If it is the Lord's will, we will live and do this or that." James 4:13-15.

Illustrating the law

There have been big changes within AMAC (the Mozambican Association of Christian Lawyers) over the last year. Several members of staff have moved on but the Lord has provided committed individuals to take their place. As such, Annet has spent a lot of time training the new guys and helping them to settle in to the AMAC Beira team. In addition, Annet oversaw a move from AMAC Beira's old office on the grounds of the First Baptist Church in Ponta-Gêa to a more spacious apartment in Pioneiros.

Damien has been working in the community of Manga Loforte in Beira, using an illustrated album to raise awareness and reflection on legal issues relating to marriage. Designed by AMAC, the album uses pictures and stories to deconstruct and explain the law on marriage, divorce and cohabitation. The album was first used to train seven facilitators who work for the Christian development organisation Oasis Mozambique. They each received a copy of the album and trained a further group of 12 mother leaders, who in turn shared the information with a further 12 women. Questions and issues arise from the training and this creates the opportunity for an AMAC lawyer to do a follow-up visit to answer

queries, provide more detail, give legal advice and also to take on cases when necessary.

Mourning into dancing

In mission anything can happen, and usually does. Early in 2018, we fully expected to be in the UK come the Summer, meeting with family and friends, visiting our supporters and sharing with you what God has been doing in Mozambique. Yet in May we received the sad news that Annet had been denied a visa to visit the UK. So, no Home Assignment, no family reunion, no respite from the wear and tear of mission life in Africa. Feeling confused and angry, we were left reeling from this unexpected and unfair development. We wept. We cried out to God in frustration.

Two weeks after this disappointing news and a matter of days before we would have boarded the plane to the UK, we received another surprise, this time courtesy of a small plastic wand displaying two red lines. Our God had chosen to bless us with the gift of life during this difficult time. He replaced our sorrow with joy, turned our mourning into dancing. In October we travelled to Annet's native Uganda and as I write to you now from Kampala we are expecting the new arrival to the Miller family to make an appearance any day. [Stop press: Annet gave birth to Conrad Theodore Miller on 10th January 2019].

Prayer Requests

Please pray for our growing family, for Annet and I to have courage and wisdom when making decisions for the protection of our children.

We thank God for our colleagues in Mozambique and we pray for God's blessing over them and his guidance in all that they do.

Thank you for all of your prayers and support of the justice ministry in Mozambique.

Damien & Annet



CONTACT US

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PRAY FOR... OUR SCOUTING TEAM

Our search for a new building has continued this year as a group of seven church members began to meet each month to consider possible locations.

A combination of referrals from other members, the leadership team and the group are being investigated with a view to bringing suitable recommendations to the Church Meeting.

Please pray for discernment as this group continues to meet and follow up potential leads. We are desperately seeking clarity from the Lord and a sense of 'rightness' when we find the right location.

The team are: Maxine Corrigan, Malcolm Edmonds, Amilcar Formoso, Claire Hamilton-Deane, Peter Lyle, Arnaldo Pontes, Peter Timothy.

SUNDAYS AT PARK...

FEBRUARY

SUNDAY 3rd Our Values 2: Jesus Above Ourselves

SUNDAY 10th Our Values 3: People Above Task

SUNDAY 17th Our Values 4 (**Communion**)

SUNDAY 24th Our Values 5: Speaking Truth in Love

MARCH

SUNDAY 3rd Guest Speaker TBC

SUNDAY 10th First Sunday of Lent

SUNDAY 17th Second Sunday of Lent (**Communion**)

SUNDAY 24th Third Sunday of Lent

SUNDAY 31st Fourth Sunday of Lent