

The word of the LORD came to Jeremiah: "Behold, I am the LORD, the God of all flesh. Is anything too hard for me?" Jer 32 : 26

2024

Wishing you all a
Peaceful and Blessed
New Year!

Current Link

Seniors' Christmas Dinner

On Saturday evening 2nd December, the Seniors were invited to their annual Christmas Dinner.

David Spence and his team prepared a delicious meal and the church young people provided a super programme. Everyone appreciated their special evening of food, fun and fellowship.

NOEL
ENJOYS
THE FUN
AND FOOD



THE SENIORS TUCK IN TO A DELICIOUS CHRISTMAS DINNER



THE CALM BEFORE THE STORM IN THE KITCHEN!



THE CHURCH CHOIR SINGING AT OUR CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE ON SUNDAY EVENING 17TH DECEMBER

Our Christmas Carol Service



THE CONGREGATION ENJOYED THE CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE



CAROL SINGING AT THE FRONT OF THE CHURCH AT OUR OUTREACH EVENT ON SATURDAY 16TH DECEMBER.

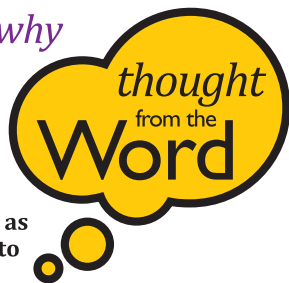
Christmas at The Ark



KIDS FINISHED FOR CHRISTMAS AT THE ARK WITH A CHRISTMAS CAKE CRAFT EVENING AND A VISIT FROM SANTA!

'January'

Have you ever
wondered why
January
is called
January?



I still remember as a child learning to spell the word January, something about the position of the 'u' and the 'a' was tricky. As children we learn the months of the year and we learn to spell them but rarely are we told where the names for the months come from. We have the Romans to thank for our twelve month calendar and the names of our months to this day derive from the names they gave them. October, November and December were named in the original ten month calendar as the eight, ninth and tenth month and we see that in the names they bear to this day. Others such as July and August bear the names of the famous Emperors Julius Caesar and his son Augustus. Yet most trace their root to various pagan gods worshipped by Roman society, which is where we find the origin of naming the first month of the year January.

January is named after the Roman god Janus, the 'god' of beginnings was an apt name for the first month of the calendar. Janus like most ancient deities was a good multitasker, also being the 'god' of change and transitions whilst simultaneously being the 'god' of gates and doorways. So much so in Roman times Janus was believed to guard the way to paradise and open the gate to let people in.

Yet this January we don't worship the false pagan idol Janus, it has been relegated to history and our idolatrous world have moved on to more 'sophisticated' idols. As one year draws to a close and we enter another, we don't look to Janus, our hope is in Jesus!

He, The Eternal Son of God is truly the One to be worshipped for the beginning, "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end."¹ It is through Jesus that all things have been created.² It won't be the false ancient idol Janus we look to for change, we have experienced change in coming to know Jesus, "I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me."³

This January, we have no hope in the lifeless, dusty, forgotten Janus to open the gates of paradise. We set out into a New Year with the hope that our Saviour Jesus holds the keys of death and hades⁴, through His death on the cross for our sin and His glorious resurrection. We will enter Heaven because He has opened the way for us!

"Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." ⁵

DANIEL ASHBY

¹ Revelation 22v13, ESV.
² Colossians 1v16-17, ESV.
³ Galatians 2v20, ESV.
⁴ Revelation 1v18, ESV.
⁵ John 14v6, ESV

Fellowship Link

Wedding:

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Congratulations to Victor and Joan on their wedding on 5th December.



Safeguarding and Fire Safety Training:

There will be safeguarding and fire safety training on Thursday 18th January for leaders and helpers of church activities who were unable to attend the ministry morning meeting in September.



PETER COOPER WITH HIS DAD, COLIN, AFTER THE SERVICE IN WHICH HE SPOKE ON THE TOPIC "WHEN CHRISTMAS IS HARD" ON SUNDAY EVENING 3RD DECEMBER.

Ask for a CD or listen online at
<https://lisburnbaptist.org/live>

Quote of the month:

“ See past your struggles,
see past your pain,
see past your sorrow,
see past your sin,
and see the One who
is worthy. ”

Daniel Ashby (26th Nov '23 - AM) reading from Revelation 5 v 1-14, speaking on the topic 'The Seven Churches of Revelation, The Scroll and the Lamb'.

SUNDAY SERVICES IN JANUARY:

7/1/24

- AM: James McCauley (IBC student)
- PM: Pastor Ward

14/1/24 - Pastor Daniel Ashby

(Fellowship time before the service at 10.50am, pre-service prayer at 10.30am)

- AM: Revelation (12)
- PM: Where Your Treasure Is (1)

21/1/24

- AM: Colin Gervais - Baptist Missions
(note the free will offering on the 21st will go towards Baptist Missions)

- PM: Pastor Daniel Ashby - Where Your Treasure Is (2)

28/1/24 - Pastor Daniel Ashby

- AM: Revelation (13)
- PM: Where Your Treasure Is (3)
(Fellowship time after the evening service)

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

● The Pastor will be on holiday from Monday 1st January to Sunday 7th January, for all enquiries please speak to one of the other elders.



We are pleased to announce that we will be holding our Ministry Meetings after an absence for a few years during covid.

Over the first weekend in February (Friday evening 2nd, Saturday evening 3rd and Sunday 4th) we are delighted to have Rupert Bentley Taylor coming to speak to us about the early Church in the book of Acts. Rupert has decades of experience as a teacher and pastor, and has taught the Bible in numerous training courses and conventions. He formerly pastored Widcombe Baptist Church in Bath and now speaks at various conferences and Bible weeks.



Keep the dates free and come along hungry to hear God's Word and have fellowship together!

RUPERT BENTLEY TAYLOR

Pastor: Daniel Ashby

Elders: Alastair Magill, Noel Spence

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Articles and announcements for next month's issue should be submitted by the 15th of the month to: LongstoneLink@lisburnbaptist.org