

## CHURCH FINANCES FOR THE MONTH TO 6th MAY 2018

Budgeted offerings needed (incl. Gift Aid) for the month of May = **£3,479.17**

Cumulative offering for May = **£852.32**

Gift Aid still to be claimed for May = **£93.08**

**SHORTFALL** from budgeted offerings for the month of May = **£2,533.77**  
(Shortfall is determined by Gift Aid still to be claimed)

## WHAT ARE YOUR STRENGTHS?

### Romans 12 v. 6

Paul writes: *'Just as our bodies have many parts and each...has a special function...We are many parts of one body, and we all belong to each other...God has given us different gifts for doing certain things well'* (Romans 12 v. 4 - 6 NLT).

Dr John Maxwell recommends that you work where you're **strongest** 80 per cent of the time, where you're **learning** 15 per cent of the time, and where you're **weakest** 5 per cent of the time.

So, what are your strengths? To find the answer to that question, you must:

**1) Be secure.** If you allow your insecurities to get the better of you, you'll become inflexible and resistant to change. And if you don't change you won't grow.

**2) Get to know yourself.** Spend time exploring your gifts, ask for feedback and receive it, and be honest about your blind spots.

**3) Trust your leader.** If you can't trust the person you're following, you should look for someone you can trust, or get on another team.

**4) See the big picture.** Your place on any team only makes sense in the context of the big picture. If your sole reason for finding your niche is personal gain, your wrong motives will rob you of the very joy, fulfilment, and success you desire.

**5) Rely on your experience.** The only way to know you've discovered your niche is to try things, take risks, learn from your failures and successes, and discover what God has gifted you to do.

## PRAYERS POINTERS

- Pray for those of our fellowship who are still unwell at this time.
- Please pray for those who work in the Tourist Industry on the Island.
- Pray for those who will be spending their holidays on Isle of Wight.
- Pray for the Street & School Pastors on the Isle Of Wight.
- Pray for those who will be sitting exams in the next several weeks.

## CHURCH ACTIVITIES FOR THE WEEK AHEAD

### Monday 14th May

Play & Praise Toddler Group 9.30am – 11.00am

### Tuesday 15th May

Prayer Meeting 10.00am - 11.00am

### Wednesday 16th May

Coffee & Bible Study 10.00am - 11.45am

We will be looking at Revelation 21 v. 1 – 8 ~ All Things New

### S.O.C. (Sandown Outreach Club)

4.15pm - 5.15pm (ages 5 – 7)  
5.30pm - 6.30pm (ages 8 – 11)

### Thursday 17th May

Housegroups 7.30pm

### Friday 18th May

Noah's Ark Toddler Group 9.30am - 11.30am

### Sunday 20th May

Morning Worship 10.30am (Pentecost Sunday)  
(Rev. Ian Lovell will be leading the service today)

If all your life you've been warned about making bad decisions, fear can cause you to miss God - given opportunities. *'If the trumpet does not sound a clear call, who will get ready for battle?'* (1Corinthians 14 v. 8 NIV). Now you're like the mule standing between two bales of hay; unable to decide which one to eat and afraid of making the wrong choice, you starve to death. You must act! Your need to do things perfectly and your desire to control every possible outcome will keep you stuck. So: **1)** Stop trying to please everybody. *'Fear of man is a dangerous trap, but to trust in God means safety'* (Proverbs 29 v. 25 TLB). Once you know what brings you fulfilment, as long as it's God's will, chart your course accordingly and refuse to let the opinions of others stop you or colour your view. **2)** Remember, over time your goals can change. What's needed today may not be right for you a year from now. So reassess your plans regularly and be willing to change direction. *'We should make plans - counting on God to direct us'* (Proverbs 16 v. 9 TLB). When your spiritual gut says no, pay attention. **3)** When God is on your side, you'll prevail. Somebody asked Abraham Lincoln if he was sure that God was on his side. He replied, *'I haven't thought much about it. I just want to know I'm on God's side.'* It's normal to speculate about how you'd like things to turn out, but God alone controls the future. Just trust Him. *'Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and your plans will succeed.'*

## HAS YOUR LOVE GROWN COLD?

### Revelation 2 v. 4

Love is like a fire; when it's not fuelled, it goes out. That's what happened to the Christians in the church at Ephesus. In earlier years Paul wrote these words to them: **'Grace be with all those who love our Lord Jesus Christ with incorruptible love'** (Ephesians 6 v. 24 NASB). Their love for the Lord was so strong and so evident to all, that Paul commended them for it.

But by the time Christ speaks to the same church in the book of Revelation, their love for Him had waned: **'I know all the things you do. I have seen your hard work and your patient endurance. I know you don't tolerate evil people. You have examined the claims of those who say they are apostles but are not. You have discovered they are liars. You have patiently suffered for me without quitting. But I have this complaint against you. You don't love me or each other as you did at first! Look how far you have fallen! Turn back to me'** (Revelation 2 v. 2 - 5 NLT).

Evangelical leader John Stott wrote: **'They'd fallen from the early heights of devotion to Christ which they'd climbed. They'd descended to the plains of mediocrity. In a word...the hearts of the Ephesian Christians had chilled. Their first flush of ecstasy had passed. Their early devotion to Christ had cooled. They'd been in love with Him, but...had fallen out of love.'**

You can go to church, read your Bible, and pray every day, yet not love God as you should. Loving God is a commitment and a heart attitude that results in obedience. It's a focus: a daily decision to honour Him in all you say and do. So, has your love grown cold?

### BMS BIRTHDAY SCHEME FOR MAY 2018



19th May  
David Lambert

### Many Thanks Today Goes To . . .

Serving Tea & Coffee today are . . .  
**Paula Bashford & Michelle Moore**

Flowers today were provided by . . .

Our Stewards today have been . . .  
**Paula Bashford & Rene Duff**

#### Minister:

Rev. Ian Lovell      Tel: 01983 402119      E-mail: pastor@sandownbaptist.church

#### Children's Co-Ordinator:

Olga Lovell      Tel: 01983 402119      E-mail: children@sandownbaptist.church

Church Website:      www.sandownbaptist.church

# Welcome to SANDOWN BAPTIST CHURCH



Our Vision is to . . .

Reach others with Christ's love as we learn to follow Him

## SUNDAY 13th MAY 2018

We give a warm welcome to everyone who has joined us today, especially if you are new here or are just visiting us for the day.

If you are visiting then please take the opportunity to sign our visitor's book before you leave today. If you are new to the church and wish to find out more of what we do here, then please make yourself known to our Minister or one of the Welcome Team.

Please stay seated throughout the service if you prefer. Refreshments are served at the end of the service in the vestibule and you are very welcome to stay and fellowship with us.

### 10.30 am      Morning Worship

**Worship Leader:**      Rev. Ian Lovell  
**Preacher:**      Rev. Ian Lovell

**Theme:**      Our God Saves! ~ A New Start

**Reading:**      Matthew 9 v. 9 – 13



### Our Church Text for 2018

I will praise you, O Lord, with all my heart;  
I will tell of all your wonders.  
I will be glad and rejoice in you;  
I will sing praise to your name, O Most High.

Psalm 9 v. 1 - 2