



## Church Family News

It is hard to believe how quickly life returns to normal after Christmas. By the time this edition of the Link is published, it will be February. However, since the last edition in December, there is considerable family news to share, some happy news but also news which has saddened us within the church. During the week before Christmas, we lost two of our much loved church members. **Monica Sloman** passed away quite suddenly and unexpectedly and **Malcolm Baxter**, who has not enjoyed good health for some time, sadly lost the battle. Services to celebrate the lives of both Monica & Malcolm were held here in church and our love and prayers have been with Eric, Audrey and their families.

**Muriel Hardman**, who had been attending Sunday morning worship for some time prior to becoming poorly and eventually being nursed in a nursing home, also passed away. Again, our love and prayers are with her family and friends. Her funeral service took place out of Southport. The funeral of **Anne Beattie** late of Marshside Road took place here in church last week. We pray that her family, who mostly live away from Southport, felt comforted by the service led by Jan. We were also sorry to hear that **Kath Law** had lost her mother just before Christmas and **Stephanie** her Grandma. Our love to you both and your family.

It is great, having had sad news to share, to be able to rejoice in good news! We were delighted, on arriving at the Christmas Eve Communion service, to be greeted by **Avril** and **George Merone**, announcing the safe arrival of their first granddaughter, **Gracie**, just hours before. After such a long and difficult wait for this event, it was wonderful at last to be able to send our congratulations to proud parents **Katie & Paul**.

On 28th December, we welcomed **Emily & Elliot** into the church family as they were baptised. They, with their parents, **Isabelle & Michael**, have recently returned to live in Southport and it was good to see so many of their extended family, several of them known to us here at Marshside Road through their connection with Girls' Brigade in the past.

Two of our 'senior' members celebrated 90+ birthdays in January. **Melissa Wood** on 11th January and one week later on the 18th, **Jane Biggs** celebrated her birthday with friends from church. We hope you both had very happy birthdays, Melissa & Jane. Not yet quite in the same age bracket but celebrating a special birthday this month is **Geoff Lynwode**. Happy birthday Geoff. Have a good day.

Unfortunately, **Melissa** had a fall which resulted in her spending some time in Chase Heyes. Fortunately, nothing was broken & she is now home. However, trying to get out

and about a bit again, she has had another couple of falls recently. It is hard to tell Melissa to take it easy but do take care and our love and prayers are with you Melissa. **Peggy Headley** has been having a rough time recently and is having to rest. Again, our thoughts and prayers are with you Peggy and we hope you will soon be feeling much better. It is unusual for **Florence Hodge** to miss services but she also has not been feeling too well recently. Please get well soon, Florence, we do miss you and are remembering you in prayer.

We are blessed, here at Marshside Road, with quite extensive premises – a mixed blessing, however, when faced with all the work and maintenance which is constantly needed. However, it does mean that we are such a busy church and at times, even our premises are just not big enough! Once more, our Parent & Toddler group is bursting at the seams and the leaders, in the interest of health and safety, have had to start a waiting list for parents and their little ones wishing to come along. This is a very special group and for many, the first contact with our church so please pray for the leaders and all the work which goes on there.

As we share our family news (and again, I apologise if I have missed anyone), it is a reminder that every person, young or not so young, who is known to us is valued in our church family and so precious to God. Please pray for all the work which goes on here, for all the church organisations and their leaders and for all who use our premises. Please pray especially for our minister, **Jan**, who works so hard to fulfil her calling to lead people into a relationship with the Lord Jesus which is, above everything else, the most important mission of our church.

**God Bless,**

**Dorothy Simpkin**

### **Next Issue**

The next edition of **The Link** is due to be published on the **Sunday the 1<sup>st</sup> of March 2015**. Therefore, items for inclusion in the next edition need to reach me by **Sunday the 22<sup>nd</sup> of February 2015**. Thanks, Mike ([MikeOwen10@aol.com](mailto:MikeOwen10@aol.com))