

# SPRING LANE BAPTIST

Making God's Love and Salvation known

**SUNDAY WORSHIP 4.00PM**

**Sept. 2018**

Date	Speaker	Music	Topic
2nd	Ken Hawkings	Recorded	
9th	Gordon Trinder	John Glass	
16th	Mike Newbold	Recorded	Sunday Lite
23rd	Gordon Trinder	Recorded	
30th	<b>NO SERVICE</b>		
7th Oct,	<b>HARVEST LUNCH</b>	<b>12.00p,</b>	Churches together

If you are visiting us on a Sunday afternoon we extend a very special welcome to you. Please stay and join us for a cup of coffee/tea, and biscuits

## **Weekdays at the Centre**

Monday	Bumps and Babies	10.00am 12.00pm	Except holidays
Monday	Messy Church	3.30pm - 5.30pm	2nd Monday
Monday	Little Fishes	9.00am for 9.30am	4th Monday
Monday	Kombatkids (Max)	6.00pm—8.00pm	07914046329
Tuesday	Residents Association	7.00pm	LAST of MONTH
Wednesday	Lunch Club (CCS)	12.30pm	3rd Wednesday
Wednesday	Shirley Band (Brian)	8.00pm– 10.00pm	07778467129
Thursday	Art Group	09.30 - 12,00	
Thursday	WI.	7.00pm	FIRST of MONTH
Friday	Yoga (Jane)	10.00 - 12.00	07734284144
Saturday	Art Group (Bob)	10.00am—1.00pm	01564782349
Café in the Park	2nd Sunday each month	2pm — 4pm	Family Time

Umberslade Church is open on the last Sunday of the Month from 2.00pm - 4.00pm

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## FAITH MATTERS

Has AI, that is, Artificial Intelligence entered your life yet? You may not be using a driverless car but perhaps you use Siri or OK Google on your mobile device. I have just welcomed a new member to the household, her name is Alexa! This device is not much bigger than a shoe polish tin, yet when connected to our wi-fi this amiable female voice will instantly give me all sorts of facts, 40 million pieces of music, act as a calculator, give prompts and reminders, and will (to a degree) enter into conversation with me!

At a popular level, Artificial Intelligence seems great. There are concerns however, that as the technology develops and these systems take on more roles, they will move into areas that require moral and ethical presuppositions. How will these be provided? Who will monitor them? Could AI make sci-fi a reality and try to take us over?

I asked Alexa about her name. She answered, ‘My name Alexa comes from the library in Alexandria, which stored the knowledge of the Ancient World.’ The Greeks loved ‘Wisdom’ in the form of knowledge, new ideas, mystical insights etc., whilst their contemporaries, the Jews, were more taken with heavenly signs. What they both lacked, according to God, was true wisdom. There is a pithy saying along the lines that, “Wisdom is understanding how to live aright, in the light of the knowledge we have.”

We can see how this works. Most people will admit to having knowledge that the commandments ‘do not murder, commit adultery, steal, lie or covet’ are good, right and best for all concerned. So why are they broken by us? Because we lack wisdom.

Jesus Christ challenged his opponents as to whether they could accuse him of breaking any of God’s commandments. No one could. Not even lust, petty theft, unrighteous anger, half-truths and white lies could be levelled against him. In other words, he was the epitome of true wisdom with a capital ‘W’.

Artificial Intelligence may be amazing but the grace of God is even more amazing and here’s why: when we entrust ourselves to Jesus, we find that he has taken our law-breaking on himself and placed his law-keeping (or Wisdom) on us. In this way, we can be acquitted of all of our wrongdoing before God. This extraordinary exchange sees Jesus giving his life as a substitute for men and women; for people who realise that they aren’t as good as they ought to be and need someone to put them in right standing with God.

This, in essence, is the Christian message of good news. It is not to be viewed as artificial intelligence but as God’s wisdom in action.

Stephen Richards  
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**Our Centre is available for hire subject to terms and conditions.**