



**Monthly Devotional by John Blase**  
**Daniel 9:4-6, 5-19**

Brenda and Eddie got in the car and began their Thursday evening ritual. ‘Where would you like to eat?’ ‘Oh, Eddie, I don’t care, anywhere is fine, really.’ Eddie’s been here before. ‘Okay, how about The Windmill?’ Brenda bristles. ‘No, anywhere but there!’ Eddie sighs. ‘So where, then?’ Brenda insists, ‘Really, anywhere is fine.’

It’s the stuff of comedy sketches, humorous from a distance because we know how maddening it is in the moment.

Sometimes it can be that way in our prayer lives too. We’re too vague. In contrast, the prayer in Daniel 9 reveals Daniel boldly saying what he wants. First, he confesses the sins of his people: ‘We have sinned and done wrong’ (v. 5). Then he makes his requests. ‘Now, our God, hear the prayers and petitions of your servant’ (v. 17). ‘Lord, listen! Lord, forgive! Lord, hear and act’ (v. 19). God owed nothing to Daniel, but such was Daniel’s trust in God’s ‘great mercy’ (v. 18) that he felt free to bring the full weight of his desires to Him.

It’s always right to pray ‘not as I will, but as you will,’ as Jesus prayed to His Father the night before He was crucified (Matthew 26:39). But there are also times when saying what we want is the way forward. God honours our boldness when we come before Him with repentant hearts. So be bold, pray what’s on your heart, and entrust it to the God of great mercy.

**Sunday Morning Services @ 10.30am**

**4<sup>th</sup> Jan (Covenant Service)** - Speaking & Leading: Alastair  
**11<sup>th</sup> Jan** - Speaking: John Fellowes, Leading: Ali  
**18<sup>th</sup> Jan** - Speaking: Pete, Leading: Patricia  
**25<sup>th</sup> Jan** - Speaking: Alastair, Leading: Tim



Enzo Yubin (2<sup>nd</sup>)  
 David-John (11<sup>th</sup>)

**Considering Bible reading habits for 2026?**

Have you considered reading through the whole Bible in a year?  
 Here is an inspiring article about doing just that: [Make this the year!](#)

Other ideas for Bible reading plans:

<https://www.fivedaybiblereading.com/five-day-bible-reading-schedule/>  
<https://www.navigators.org/resource/bible-reading-plans/>

‘Your Word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path’ – Psalm 119:105  
 (From Tim)

## Upcoming Events

Tots & Co - Tues 6<sup>th</sup> Jan

'Day of Prayer' - Sat 10<sup>th</sup> Jan

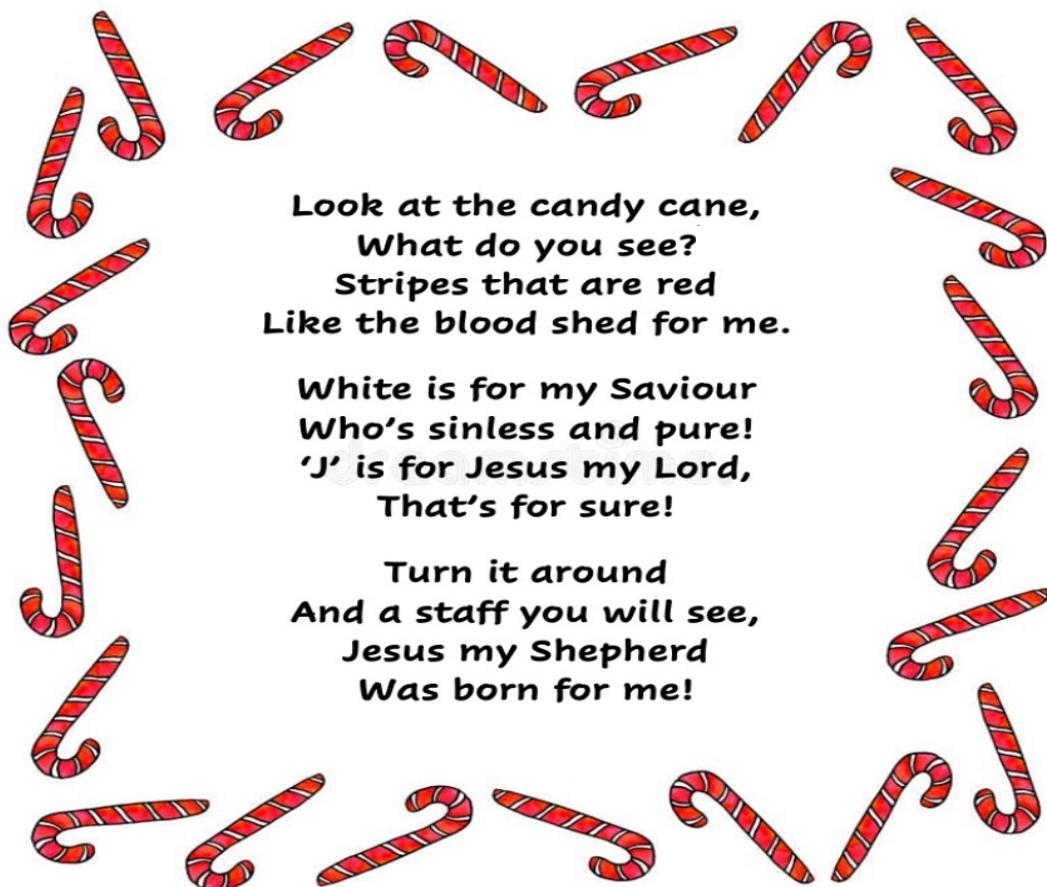
Bible Study (Church & Zoom) - Thurs 8<sup>th</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup> Jan

Prayer Meeting (Zoom) - Thurs 15<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup> Jan

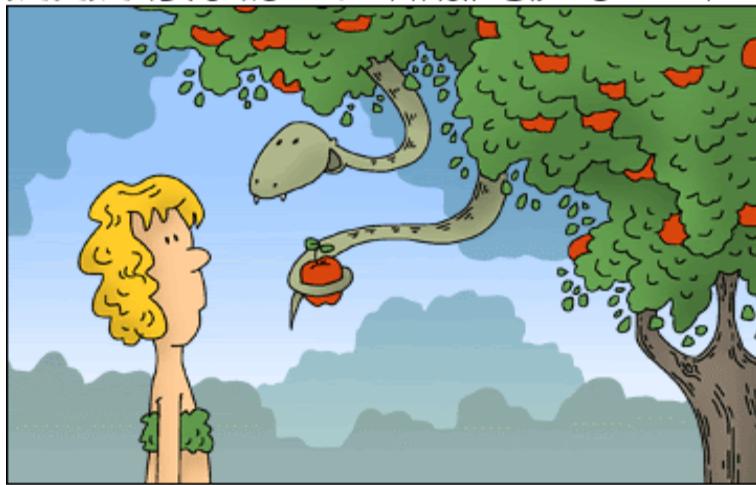
Lavender Lodge Service - Sun 25<sup>th</sup> Jan

## Ladies' Prayer Chain

For any prayer requests,  
whether general or  
confidential, please contact  
Christine at 01252 659249 or



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(See Genesis 3)

12-30-2013

REMEMBER THAT NEW YEAR RESOLUTION YOU  
MADE TO TRY NEW THINGS?