

Handsworth/Long Lane Baptism Friday 13th May 2011

On Friday 13th May 2011 the Church in Handsworth and Long Lane held a joint baptismal service. This was held at Beacon Evangelical Church in Handsworth. The service was moderated by Pastor Beverley Anderson. Pastor Frances Prince prayed the opening prayer asking for God's blessings on the event. The scripture reading was taken from St. Matthew 3:13 – 17.

The nights' message was delivered by our National Overseer, Philip Bennett. He outlined the purpose of baptism emphasising the fact that it did not wash away sins but was the answer of a good conscience towards God [1 Peter 3:21]. He showed from the scriptures that Jesus the Son of God though he was sinless submitted himself to this ordinance showing that it was necessary in order for us to fulfil all righteousness. He went on to say that baptism was a natural step that follows the New Birth experience and he could not understand people who professed to be saved and yet refused or delayed being baptised. He used the account of the Ethiopian Eunuch as an example of the urgent need for a born again believer to be baptised [Acts8:36 – 38]

There were four candidates who were baptised by our Overseer accompanied by Brother Jason Prince a new Lay Minister. After the baptism one member asked to be given the right hand of fellowship there and then to join the church rather than waiting for the Sunday service. The covenant was administered by our Overseer after which all the members came forward to greet their new Sister.

Sister Angela Clarke who had served as a Lay Minister for a number of years was also presented with her Ministerial licence having completed all the correspondence courses and having being recommended to the ministry by her local Church.

We thank God for a wonderful evening.