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| ALLERTONCONGREGATIONAL CHURCH |



April 2019 Newsletter

Dear Friends

Most, if not all, of the stories we see or hear on the news tend to be bad news stories. War, violence, crime and political disagreement are ever present in the headlines. Knife crime and its impact on individuals and communities seems to be a major cause for concern in London at the moment as does Brexit. It would be very easy to look at our world in its suffering and sadness and be filled with fear and anxiety for the future, but that is not the Christian way.

Scripture tells us to fix our eyes on Jesus. As we approach Easter we focus on the suffering and death of Jesus for our sake on the cross, but thankfully we don’t just stop there. If Jesus had simply died for doing good (as He did), then it would be a good example of self sacrifice, but it wouldn’t be of much use to us. Rather we celebrate the fact that Jesus Christ is risen from the dead. This is the key historic event that can make a difference to the life of every individual in this world.

Jesus took on Himself the punishment for our sins. The Apostle Peter puts it like this, “Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit…” (1 Peter 3:18) Jesus did indeed suffer and die as many people do today, whether in Syria or the streets of London, but His death was not the end. He died so that we won’t have to receive the deserved punishment for our sin of death and separation from God.

Through Jesus’ resurrection we too will be raised again to life, when Jesus returns to judge all people. We will receive life eternal life because of God’s grace and our faith in Jesus and what He did for us on the cross. Jesus’ death and resurrection is the only source of hope for our world and the people who live in it. Jesus is the only hope for drug addicts, gang members, war criminals and politicians, as well as you and I.

Jesus is truly the hope for everyone, and yet how many people truly know that? As those who have been forgiven our sins, and given life in the Holy Spirit, we are called to share the good news of Jesus. This means telling people about Jesus and the message of Easter. Let us remember this not just at Easter but also throughout the year. Christ is risen; hallelujah!

Yours, Fred.

Pulpit

April 7th Rev Fred Rich Communion Service

April 14th David Robinson

April 21st Rev Fred Rich Easter Day with Communion Service

April 28th Chris Thorp

Collection

February 24th £122.36

March 3rd £143.30

March 10th £142.80

March 17th £134.60

March 24th £111.90

Flowers

We are very grateful to the following friends who have kindly promised to provide flowers for the month of April 2019.

April 7th Mrs K Clough

April 14th Mrs J Dibb & Mrs Rissman

April 21st The Hainsworth Family

April 28th Mr & Mrs Collier Drake

Mrs S Thorp will be responsible for arranging and distributing the flowers throughout this April.

Ladies Circle

The Ladies Circle meeting in April is a talk about Bolling Hall by Trevor Hippey.

Coffee Morning

Our next Coffee Morning is to be held by the Ladies Circle on Saturday april 6th from 10am – 12noon. The usual £1 entry to include tea/coffee & biscuits. Proceeds to go to the Yorkshire Air Ambulance.

Easter Events

Thursday April 18th Maudy Thursday Service 12noon

Friday april 19th Service of Witness in LAdyhill Park followed by the Walk of Witness up Allerton Road to our church for a light lunch.

Sunday April 21st Easter Day Service at 10:30am

The Leprosy Mission 'Heal Nepal' Appeal.

Many thanks to all those who contributed through the retiring offering on February 17th & 24th, and all those who supported the Coffee Morning on March 9th . The sum of £330.20 has been sent off and this will be doubled under the UK Aid Match to £660.40, a magnificent total.

Disasters Emergency Committee Cyclone Idai Appeal.

The total sent off so far is £55.00. After the service on March 31st any further amount collected will be sent off. Thank you very much.

Every Sunday Family Service 10.30am

Addresses:

Pastor: Secretary & Treasurer: Editor: Fredrik Rich Janet & David Muschamp Faye Hardy

## Website: allertoncongregationalchurch.org.uk

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