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| ALLERTON  CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH |



February/March 2024 Newsletter

Dear Friends

On Thursday lunch times a number of us meet together at church to share food, fellowship, prayer and a short Bible teaching. We are currently working our way through a devotional book written by John MacArthur which is titled ‘Remember and Return’. The overall theme is to remind us of what God in Christ has already done for us so that we may return to the strength and devotion of our first love for Christ.

In one of the chapters, MacArthur gives a really beautiful illustration of what Jesus has done for us, and it was suggested that I share this with more folk through the church newsletter. Here is a paraphrased version of that story.

There was once a tribal leader who was known to be wise and fair in his dealings with everyone. This man was well respected by the tribe and he had been their leader for quite some time. It came to his attention that someone in the tribe was stealing from others, and so he proclaimed that the thief would receive ten lashes. The thieving, however, continued and so the punishment was upped to forty lashes. This was a punishment that only the strongest of men could survive because of its brutality. Eventually the thief was caught, and to everyone’s horror it turned out to be the tribal leader’s elderly mother. The tribe wondered what their leader might do. Their laws required children to love and honour their parents, but also demanded the public whipping of those who stole. Would their leader go for love or punishment? The time came for the judgment to be pronounced. The leader sat on his throne, surrounded by his people in the public square.

Shortly two tall and muscled guards brought the man’s elderly mother before him. Then finally the tribal whip master arrived, carrying his long, leather whip. The guards ripped off the woman’s garment, placing her frail back on display. However, just as the punishment was about to be administered, the leader held up his hand to bring things to a stop. The people were relieved, and pleased that his love for his mother was to be satisfied, but what about the demands of the law? He slowly and purposefully got up out of his throne and strode towards his elderly mother. As he did so, the leader removed his own shirt, exposing his back for all to see. As he reached his mother, he wrapped his arms around her, with his back to the whip master. He then spoke and said, “Continue with the punishment.”

This story illustrates what God has done for us through His Son, Jesus Christ. We have all broken God’s law and deserve the proscribed punishment of death. However, God, in His great love for us stepped into our place and took the punishment we deserve. Jesus freely gave Himself to be crucified on the cross in our place, dying the death that we deserve so that we might be forgiven and enter into life eternal through faith in Him. “This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.” (1 John 4:10) Let us return to our first love for God and devotion to Him!

Fred

Secretary’s Thoughts

The new Year brought us all sorts of horrid weather, we had snow, ice, wind and rain and then more wind and rain. We stayed in and kept warm and then we wait to see what comes next. It is winter after all.

We took part in the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity with a short prayer meeting in our church on the Thursday and then a service followed by soup at Bethel Baptist Church the following Tuesday.

I am really pleased we are still bringing items for the foodbank. Things are very difficult for a lot of families throughout Bradford – can I just encourage you to be as generous as possible.

Thank you

Janet

Dates for your Diary (provisional dates – watch this space)

Saturday 9th March – Coffee Morning – 10am-12noon

Saturday 13th April – Leprosy Mission Coffee Morning – 10am-12noon

Saturday 11th May – Christian Aid Coffee Morning – 10am-12noon

Saturday 8th June – Coffee Morning – 10am-12noon

Saturday 13th July - Ladies Circle Coffee Morning – 10am-12noon

Saturday 21st September – Harvest Supper – 4.00pm

Saturday 12th October – Coffee Morning – 10am-12noon

Saturday 23rd November – Christmas Coffee Shop – 10am-12noon.

Treasurer’s Reflection

At our Christmas Eve service we decided that the cash collection should be donated to Yorkshire Air Ambulance as we were not holding a service on Christmas Day when it is our usual practice of giving the collection as our gift to them.

I have had a letter thanking us for our donation of £167.00, which is on the notice board in the vestibule.

Many thanks for your generosity

David

Flower Rota – flowers provided by:

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| February 2024 | | March 2024 | |
| 4th | Mr & Mrs R Hardy | 3rd | Mr & Mrs I Hastings |
| 11th | Mrs C North | 24th | Mrs Smith & Mrs St Claire |
| 25th | In memory of Mary & Denis Cockcroft |  |  |

On Sundays not listed, silk flowers will be used.

Preaching list

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| February 24 | |  | March 24 | |
| 4th | Rev Fred Rich |  | 3rd | Gordon Sitch |
| 11th | Trevor Kershaw |  | 10th | Rev David Muschamp |
| 18th | Rev Fred Rich |  | 17th | Rev Fred Rich |
| 25th | Trevor Hippey |  | 24th | Trevor Hippey |
|  |  |  | 31st | Rev Fred Rich |

Coffee Rota

As we have returned to having coffee after services, it would be really helpful if those on the rota could come a little earlier to set things up. You will not need to bring milk.

The coffee rota is on the notice board in the vestibule and will be on the table in the hall on Sundays.

Bible Reading Rota

If you would like to offer to read the Bible for Sunday services, the Bible reading rota is on the notice board in the vestibule and will be on the table in the hall on Sundays.

Note from the Editor

The next newsletter is due on 30th March 2024 – please let me have any items for inclusion by 23rd March 2024.

Thank you – Carole

Sundays - Services at 10.30 am.

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