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| ALLERTON  CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH |



June/July 2024 Newsletter

Dear Friends

  Bradford has quite a mixed population, with some residents who were born in different nations and who speak a variety of different languages. We have people who have come to Bradford from Eastern Europe, Africa, South America, the Caribbean, India and even Lancashire!

It is certainly a city that could rightly be described as multicultural, and undoubtedly that will be part of what will be celebrated next year as Bradford is city of culture for 2025.

Sometimes we can find it difficult to get along with people who are quite different from ourselves, and we may even have trouble communicating with some folk. When the Church was formed on the day of Pentecost, there were people gathered together in Jerusalem from all over the known world. The Bible tells us that on that day 3000 people were added to the Church (Acts 2:41).

Luke’s description earlier in the chapter strongly suggests that they would likely have been from a range of different places. There were times when this mixture of nationalities caused issues in the early Church, and yet the overall picture that Scripture paints for us is one of brothers and sisters in Christ working together, all one in Christ Jesus. Ultimately, we have more in common with fellow Christians from other nations than we do with people who might look like us, speak with the same accent, and even have been born in Bradford, but who do not know Christ.

So, what am I trying to say? Firstly, the separation of nations and peoples that occurred in Babel, when the tower was begun to be built (see Genesis 11:1-9), has been reversed in Jesus through the sending of His Holy Spirit. When people got together to do something evil that attempted to dethrone God from His rightful place, God brought confusion upon them by making them speak different languages.

At Pentecost, people who spoke a variety of different languages were all able to hear and understand Peter’s sermon thanks to the Holy Spirit. When people try to use human efforts, policies and schemes to unite people it is destined for failure, but when God sent His Son into this world, He united all who believe in Him.

There is no evidence in Scripture that this particular miracle ever happened again, although it could have done. What matters, though, is the fact that God makes it possible for His people from all over the world to work together as brothers and sisters for the purposes of His Kingdom.

As I write this now, I am away at the Grace Baptist Assembly where the Lord’s people from churches across the UK and further afield are gathered together to share teaching, worship and fellowship. Many of us have never met each other before, but we are united by God’s Spirit, and it feels like I’m with family!

Let us not underestimate the joy of fellowship with other Christians, or the Lord’s ability to achieve amazing things through His people working together. Let us rather encourage one another as God’s people because of what Jesus Christ has done for us in dying on the cross that our sins may be forgiven, and we might receive eternal life through faith in Him. Let us encourage each other with the wondrous hope that we have set before us of eternity with God in Christ. As the Apostle Paul put it, “encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.” (1 Thessalonians 5:11)

Fred

Secretary’s Thoughts

It was a great shock to us all to learn of the sudden death of Chris Thorp on Wednesday 10th April. It has been very strange not to see him in his usual seat on a Sunday morning.

Chris has been active in the church for many years, serving as joint secretary with Susan and as a deacon and member of the finance committee. His funeral was well attended and as they say, “we gave him a good send-off”. Trevor Kershaw conducted the service, and we were told that Chris had written his own eulogy – added to by Trevor!

At the AGM last Sunday, we remembered 3 of our folk, Peter Clough, Margaret Jones and Chris Thorp.

Janet

Treasurer’s Reflection

In light of the additional ongoing costs highlighted at the Church Meeting last Sunday, I hope that people may feel able to respond by increasing their regular giving.

Thank you. David

Dates for your Diary

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

Sunday 20th October – Church Meeting – 12 noon after service

Saturday 23rd November – Christmas Coffee Shop –

10am-12noon.

Flower Rota – flowers provided by:

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| June 2024 | | July 2024 | |
| 9th | Miss N Abbott | 14th | Mrs S Coldwell |
| 16th | Mr & Mrs P Barfield | 21st | Mrs J Holdsworth |
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On Sundays not listed, silk flowers will be used.

Preaching list

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| June 24 | |  | July 24 | |
| 2nd | Rev Fred Rich |  | 7th | Rev Richard Lewis |
| 9th | David Robinson |  | 14th | Rev Fred Rich |
| 16th | Rev Fred Rich |  | 21st | Trevor Hippey |
| 23rd | Trevor Hippey |  | 28th | Janice LeBlancq |
| 30th | 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 28th July 2024 – please let me have any items for inclusion by 20th July 2024.

Thank you – Carole

Sundays - Services at 10.30 am.

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