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| ALLERTONCONGREGATIONAL CHURCH |



February/March/April 2025 Newsletter

Dear Friends

As you may know, music is a love that I share with a number of you. Back during my school days I was involved in a school production of the Gilbert and Sullivan’s Iolanthe. One of the songs has stuck with me over the years. It is one with a distinctly political flavour, entitled “When all night long a chap remains,” which concludes with the following words, “Then let’s rejoice with loud Fal la – Fal la la! That Nature always does contrive – Fal lal la! That every boy and every gal That’s born into the world alive Is either a little Liberal Or else a little Conservative! Fal lal la!”

Perhaps we live in a very different world now, where fewer people remain committed to one particular political party throughout their lifetime. Many of us will vote differently from one election to another depending on policies or local candidates. Following last summer’s General Election there have been many views expressed about the previous government and the one now in power. Some are disappointed with the reality of the first 6 months or so of this government. Others still have a lot to say about the legacy left by the last government. A question that sometimes crosses my mind is, how should we respond to government and individual politicians as followers of Jesus? Perhaps we could ask ourselves WWJD (what would Jesus do?) Here are some words about rulers and governments written by the Apostle Paul, “I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people - for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. This is good and pleases God our Saviour” (1 Timothy 2:1-3). Prayers for those who rule and lead are the starting point for us as Christians, regardless of our own personal political opinions or even affiliations. So, what does this mean for us, practically speaking?

Well it certainly doesn't mean that we just accept what happens as though it is all God’s will. It may sometimes mean praying for wisdom for our government and being willing to stand up and be counted when unjust decisions or policies are made. It may involve us meeting our local MP to discuss a particular issue that is concerning us. In this day and age it is often easier to get in touch with our MPs through local surgery sessions, as well as by letter and E-mail. Most politicians also seem to recognise that they are answerable to their constituency and so are willing to listen to what we say and respond appropriately. Whatever it may mean for us to follow Paul’s teachings, let us seek to uphold those in authority in prayer before the One who has supreme authority over all, our gracious Heavenly Father.

Let us also be willing to stand up and be counted, standing up for whatever is good, right and just, regardless of what others may think of us. May we be praying for strength to do and say the right things in any and every situation in our own lives too. Regardless of the rights and wrongs of government, may we as the Church, shine the light of Christ into this dark world.

Fred

Secretary’s Thoughts for February – April 2025 Newsletter

2025 began with a bang, in the form of snow, snow and more snow. I never left the house for 12 days, along with many more of you.

We had to cancel 2 Sunday services. Thankfully, this doesn’t happen very often.

Santa’s helpers were planning to undecorate the church and hall, again, plans cancelled. Luckily, there was a willing elf, in the form of David, so he went off in wellies to do the deed. It did take him 3 attempts to complete it, but a big Thank You to David.

Let’s just hope we don’t get any more snow. We need to see snowdrops and daffodils, much better and will make us all smile.

Janet

Dates for your Diary

Saturday 11th April - Leprosy Mission Coffee Morning

Sunday 11th May - AGM following service

Saturday 12th July - Ladies Circle Coffee Morning

Saturday 20th September - Harvest Supper

Sunday 21st September – Harvest Service

Sunday 19th October – Church Meeting after service

Saturday 22nd November - Christmas Coffee Shop

Flower Rota – flowers provided by:

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| February 2025 | March 2025 |
| 2nd  | Mr & Mrs R Hardy | 2nd  | Mr & Mrs I Hastings |
| 9th  | Mr & Mrs T Hippey | 23rd  | Mrs Smith & Mrs St Claire |
| 23rd  | In memory of Mary & Denis Cockcroft |  |  |

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| April 2025 |
| 6th | Mrs W Hume |
| 13th | Mr & Mrs Breen |
| 27th | Mr & Mrs Collier-Drake |

On Sundays not listed, silk flowers will be used.

Preaching list

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| February 25 |  | March 25 |
| 2nd  | Rev Fred Rich |  | 2nd  | Rev Fred Rich |
| 9th  | Janice Le Blancq |  | 9th  | Rev David Morris |
| 16th  | Rev Fred Rich |  | 16th  | Rev David Muschamp |
| 23rd  | Trevor Kershaw |  | 23rd  | Rev Fred Rich |
|  |  |  | 30th  | Trevor Hippey |

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| April 25 |
| 6th | Rev Fred Rich |
| 13th  | Kit Owen-Smith |
| 20st  | Rev Fred Rich |
| 27th  | Rev Richard Lewis |

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 26th April 2025 – please let me have any items for inclusion by 19th April 2025.

Thank you Carole

Sundays - Services at 10.30 am.

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