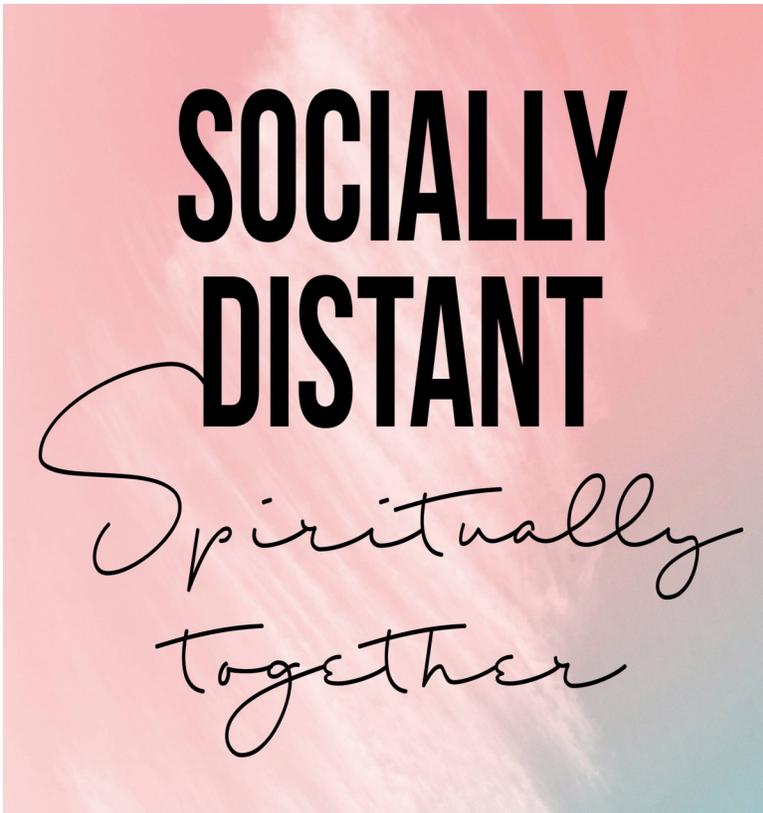

THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST

News from Whittle & Clayton Brook

PARISH GAZETTE

Speak out, Reach out, Gather in for Christ



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Dear Friends

I heard a voice from heaven say, 'Write this: blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on.' 'Yes,' says the Spirit, 'they will rest from their labour, for their deeds will follow them.'
(Revelation 14:13)

I have just finished teaching a four-part series on 'Eschatology'—a fancy word for the future and the End—for the Northwest Gospel Partnership. By zoom, sadly, of course! It was great fun, even teaching remotely, and certainly forced me to do my homework.

One of the threads that ran through the series was considering the balance between seeing the End as a brand new start—"Behold, I am making all things new," says God—but also as in some ways a continuation of this life and this world. The danger of seeing everything simply as a completely new start is that we can think that this world and this life don't matter—'let it burn, it's all going to be destroyed anyway.' What excited me about seeing the future as also a continuation and a transformation, is that it gives real, lasting value to this world, not just the world to come. We see this continuity in at least four respects:

The creation. Paul, in Romans 8, speaks of creation groaning as it waits longingly for liberation from its bondage to decay. That bondage came with Adam's sin in Eden. When the End comes, the curse will be removed and creation will be renewed, fulfilling its purpose and its potential at last.

The world and culture. In John's marvellous description of the new Jerusalem, symbolising the heavenly people of God, he sees this: *On no day will its gates ever be shut, for there will be no night there. The glory and honour of the nations will be brought into it.* (Revelation 21:25-26) Exactly what he means by 'the glory and honour of the nations' cannot be known for sure, but it does at least speak of the good things of our culture being, in some sense, present in the new creation.

Our bodies. Most importantly, your body will not simply be made new, but this old one will be transformed. Again, please don't ask me how—but I hope you can join me in rejoicing in that. Paul uses the image of seeds and plants. You sow a seed and up grows a plant. The plant is not the same as the seed, but it comes from it and is continuous with it. It is a lovely thought that in the new heaven and earth, you will still be you, in body as well as soul.

Our deeds. I love that verse from Revelation with which I began. It has been in my mind as we have grieved for Roland and, before him, for Diane. We may be more familiar with the enticing notion of the new world bringing rest, at last. But how wonderful, too, that our deeds will follow us. Again, it emphasises that what we do in this life is good not only for this life, but in some way we cannot fully understand, also for the life to come.

As a church-family we have been thinking much about death and what is to come hereafter. This perspective I have shared here should be an encouragement to live life in this world for Jesus, as well as we can, knowing that our little time-bound deeds and lives may count for eternity.

Your brother in Christ
Philip

St Johns and Clayton Brook now have a Virgin Money Giving Account which allows donations to either church by going onto the Virgin Money Giving website. You then search for St John the Evangelist, Whittle le Woods and we come up in the charity section as "The Parochial Church Council of St John the Evangelist, Whittle le Woods. Reg. Number 1134259". Donations can be gift aided and specified to a particular project.

Follow up with an update on my delivered Christmas Shoebox and where it ended up - *by Angie Hobson*

My shoebox was sent out at the beginning of the year, and was shipped to Central Asia. One amongst a gift of 75,463 sent to this area from the UK.



Central Asia comprises the countries of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.

(central region of Asia, extending from the Caspian Sea in the west to the border of western China in the east. It is bounded on the north by Russia and on the south by Iran, Afghanistan, and China).

My shoebox amongst the thousands sent, will help to build goodwill between peoples of different faiths. It was part of a distribution that local church groups made to children of all religious backgrounds in their community. However while political and religious sensitivities continue within Central Asia and for the safety of their ministry partners living in restricted areas, they will not to disclose details about the specific country our shoebox was sent to, jut the central area.

Samaritan Purse stated, 'Please know that even though we are not able disclose exactly where your shoebox gift went, we are confident that it will bring great joy and hope to the precious child receiving it, both now and for many years to come'.

For some children, especially those in remote villages, this was the first time they had received a gift.

These are some of the stories shared from different children, from different countries where the shoebox gifts just like ours have made a real difference, however big or small to someone's life.

Bosnia and Herzegovina: The Perfect Gift

"During a shoebox distribution in Kakanj one child came up to us and told us he had lost his favourite gloves and that he was sad because he needed them. When we finished praying for the shoeboxes we told the kids how the gifts came to us. We also told them that God knows what they need. When the kids opened their gifts the same little boy came over to us again, all happy and said 'How is it possible for me to receive the same gloves in the same colour and the same size? I'm so happy. Thank you God!'"

Belarus: A Mother's Joy!

At a nursery 31 children heard about the Christmas story and were delighted to receive shoebox gifts. The parents expressed how thankful they were, and that children loved the gift boxes very much. One mother stopped the local partner the next day and said that she too had received an Operation Christmas Child shoebox gift when she was a child, and that it was the most memorable thing from her childhood.

Hard-to-reach Area: A Picture Of Hope

Samira received a shoebox gift at an Operation Christmas Child distribution event when she was nine years old. Among the many things she found in the box was a yellow camera that brought her great happiness. Nineteen years later she felt compelled to write about the gift that she received when she was young. "This camera that I found in the shoebox when I was nine was a sign that something special will happen one day" she says. She had a difficult childhood but she felt the love of God through this special gift. Samira is now a professional photographer. She feels it was a sign from God that after all those years she has become a photographer. The shoebox touched her life in a special way and reminded her of God's blessing and love over her life.



Parish Baptisms

23 May
at Clayton Brook Church
Jack McGinley



30 May at St John's
Williams Family:
Crystal & Tate, baptism
Bryn, renewal of baptism vows

The healing power of laughter

The health benefits of laughter have become widely recognised in recent years. People feel less pain after a good laugh because (research suggests) it releases chemicals that act as a natural pain-killer.

Physical benefits of laughter have been found to include a drop in stress hormones and less risk of heart disease. Mental and social benefits include less anxiety and stress, improved mood and enhanced group bonding.

Humour helps us to keep a positive outlook in difficult situations, disappointments and loss. More than that, laughter gives us the courage and strength to find new sources of meaning and hope. It really is contagious – just hearing laughter primes your brain and readies you to smile. It dissolves distressing emotions. You can't feel anxious, angry or sad when you are laughing.

Humour gets you out of your head and away from your troubles. Infants begin smiling during the first weeks of life and laugh out loud within months of being born. But you can learn to laugh at any stage of life. Smiling is the beginning of laughter. It can help to set aside special times to seek out humour and build from there. Pay attention to children and emulate them. They are experts on playing, taking life lightly and laughing.

The old advice to "count your blessings" will distance you from negative thoughts. When you hear laughter, move towards it. Share your embarrassing moments. The best way to take yourself less seriously is



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Tony Horsfall is thankful for God's constant presence.

Wake up!

Remember the story of Jacob, and how God met him in a dream when he was sleeping on the desert floor with a rock for his pillow? The story in Genesis 28 says this: 'When Jacob awoke from his sleep, he thought, "Surely the Lord is in this place, and I was not aware of it."'

I wonder what place you find yourself in today, and if you are aware of God's presence with you there?

It may be a geographical place, the place where you live or work. That may be a beautiful place to be, or it may be a very hard place to be, and you would much prefer to be somewhere else. Either way, God is with you there, for He is everywhere, and there is no place where He is not.

It may be an emotional place, as when we say, 'I'm not in a good place right now'. How are you feeling today – up or down? Again, whatever mood you are in, God is with you for He knows us through and through. Having become human, He understands all our fluctuating emotions. He can comfort us right where we are.

It may be a phase of life that you are passing through, a stage on life's journey or a transition as you move from one situation to another. You may be passing through the valley of grief and loneliness, or anxiously waiting for news of a loved one who is ill. No matter where you are, you are not alone, for God is with you whether you can feel His presence or not.

What is needed is for us to become more aware of God's surrounding presence, to wake up to His closeness as did Jacob.

Lord, wake me up to your abiding presence, even this day.

LOVE FUND

**The Love Fund consists of donations of money from various members of both our churches. This can be used for anyone in our church or parish who is in need of help. If you are in financial need for whatever purpose : shopping, bills, loss of income etc during this pandemic, then get in touch with Philip or Paul and they will be happy to help you. tel: 01257 515141
email: info@stjohnsandclaytonbrook.uk
www.stjohnsandclaytonbrook.uk/contact-us**

Roland – A Thank You

I got to know Roland over the years and have had the pleasure of serving with him as a Reader in the parish and as a PCC member for many of them. Roland had a unique, irreplaceable style, warm and welcoming in everything in did in church, yet prepared to challenge if he felt things were wrong or could be improved.

I remember one memorable discussion at PCC (yes there are some) when we were discussing whether we should change the towels in the toilet and move to paper towels. Roland brought the discussion to an end when he informed the meeting that one of the most common uses for towels in public places was wiping people's noses. The decision to go to paper towels was unanimous.

It was easy to underestimate Roland because he was generally quiet and only spoke when he had something to contribute. Except about Jesus! His love for His Lord shone through everything he did and he enjoyed talking to anybody about Jesus and the Bible, with a love for the Old Testament, particularly the Prophets pointing the way to Jesus. His Bible was precious to him and he enjoyed studying Scripture and learning more about God, and sharing this knowledge with others, particularly in his house group and during assemblies at our church schools.

It was a particular pleasure to share worship with Roland, either leading or preaching and admiring his style, his prayers and the different ways he would approach the services. He never talked down to people and always sought to encourage them to meet Jesus, through his ministry. I was always taken with how he prayed for children at communion, getting down to their level, and really engaging with each one individually. And Jesus shone through every one of his sermons.

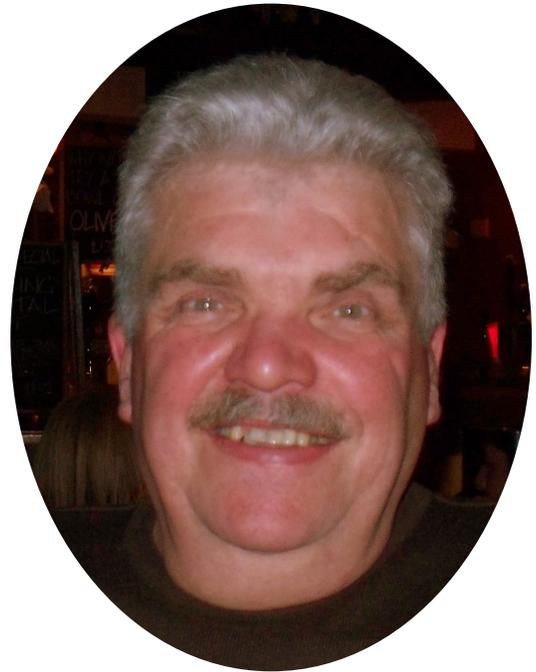
Roland would generally be one of the first people to speak to strangers in church, welcoming them into the congregation at St Johns, making them feel at home, always ready with help and information.

It doesn't seem 15 months since seeing Roland in the flesh and it will be strange not seeing him in church in the future, he leaves a big hole that will not be possible to fill, Roland really was a big personality and I will miss him, as I am sure many others will, although many things will remind us of him in the days to come.

Thanks be to God for his ministry amongst us.

We know that Roland is now with His Lord, listening to the Master Himself, in the place reserved for him and for that we should rejoice. However, lets not forget Cath and the family and continue to pray for them in this time of loss and sadness.

- David Barlow



And thank you from me for the huge number of cards and messages we've received in memory of Roland. Everyone of them has blessed me, and my grandchildren are now slowly reading through them. Thank you to Philip and everyone who helped in church to make the service so memorable. And thank you to the Funeral Director. Tony Livesey and his team have been wonderful throughout. God Bless you all, love from Cath

Something to make you Smile (hopefully) from David Barlow

B.

Bible

Don't just know the book of the Lord, know the Lord of the book !

The Bible contains all the vitamins required for a healthy soul.

A person who merely samples the Word of God never acquires much taste for it

Famous misprints

An 1832 edition of the Bible had Rebecca leaving her tent to meet Isaac with a group, not of **damsels** but **camels**.

An 1810 translation read "If any man come to me, and hate not his **wife (instead of life)**, he cannot be my disciple.

The first English language Bible to be printed in Ireland, in 1716, encouraged its readers to **sin on more** rather than sin no more

The 1613 Bible reported the seventh commandment as "**Thou shalt commit adultery**", a mistake which infuriated King Charles who ordered all copies destroyed and fined all the printers whose hands had touched the edition.

And in a 1702 edition King David was quoted as saying "**Printers (instead of princes)** have persecuted me without cause"

Books.

Dear Mr Moses. Thank you for your submission. Unfortunately the material is not considered suitable for our modern readership. In future can you send any other submissions on paper.

The best selling books are cookbooks. The second best selling are dieting manuals, which teach you not to eat what you have just learnt to cook !

Boys.

Christian boys chat up lines.

"Nice Bible"

Is this pew taken?"

"For you I would slay two Goliaths"

"The Bible says "Give drink to those who are thirsty, and feed the hungry" So how about dinner?"

"I believe one of my ribs belongs to you"

Brothers (and Sisters)

A Junior Church leader was discussing the 10 Commandments with a group of six and seven year olds. After explaining the commandment to "honour your father and mother" she asked "Is there a commandment that teaches us how to treat our brothers or sisters?". Without missing a beat a boy (the oldest of six brothers) answered "Thou shalt not kill!"

Sit and be Still

How do you 'sit' in church? I'm a wriggler and change my position on the seat often. I cross one leg over the other, then swap them over, stretch them out, then cross them at the ankles. I do the same with my arms. I lean one way and then the other.

In other words, 'I'm a fidget.' But having been absent from a church building for so long, I wanted to think this month about simply *sitting and being still* before the Lord.

I'm well aware we've done little else this last 18 months - but if you manage to get into a church building, for whatever reason I'd like to encourage us all to just sit still and breathe in the place. To relish being 'back'!

To sit 'heavily' in that spot. To feel the solidity of the surface you are sitting on. Lean into it. Feel how it supports you. Feel each part of your body where it is touching the chair or pew.

Look around you at all the distinctive seating set aside for the different participants of the church: the choir, the worship leader, a deacon or curate, the priest and so on.

In an Anglican church there will be a chair especially dedicated for the use of the Bishop. However plain or fancy each piece of furniture is within your building, they all have the same purpose. To hold the person and keep them safe.

As you sit in the church building - or at home if you are not able to do so - think of all those people in the Bible stories who sat with Jesus. The number of times He taught in the Temple or in a synagogue, or to crowds gathered on a hill. Recall the Last Supper and His friends gathered sitting with Him to eat and share the Passover meal, and then recall the meal with the men from the Emmaus Road. So many meal times Jesus sat with the bold and the weak, the saints and the sinners. With you and me. **By The Rev Dr Jo White**

Prayer for Encouragement

Father,

Barnabas, was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and faith, who encouraged people to stay true to you – and others to trust you for the first time.

Lord, we have gone through difficult days. The pandemic has taught us that we are not in control. We don't know what each new day might bring. As we move into June and the hope of more normality after the restrictions of Lockdown, we too need encouragement.

Help us to have courage to step forward with confidence and common sense. Most of all help us to stay true to you and to trust you, knowing that you are the security we need, knowing that you will never leave us or forsake us.

Help us to be encouraged! In Jesus name, Amen.

By Daphne Kitching

Barnabus *encouraged a new Christian* in the person of Paul (Acts 9:27). After Paul's conversion and aware of his reputation, Barnabas came alongside him and brought him into the fellowship of the church. Are we ready to help those who are new in the faith to find a place in our church?

Encouragement is one of the spiritual gifts in the New Testament (Romans 12:8). It can be greatly undervalued, but it is still crucial in growing the church. Like Barnabas, will we nurture gifting; strengthen the doubters and those tempted to give up; show generosity to God's people and beyond and will we strengthen people to move beyond their own comfort zones to help those in need?

Be prepared to ask the following questions: '*Are there people alongside us who will encourage us?*' and '*How can we be an encouragers to others?*' by Canon Paul Hardingham

The Suffering Church

When I started writing these articles for the Gazette (with help from Barnabas, Open Doors and Embrace) I realised that I knew so little about the lives of millions of our sisters and brothers around the world who don't enjoy the many blessings that we do in the United Kingdom. Over the past months I have come to understand more of the situation for so many followers of Jesus, even if I am unlikely to experience the challenges they face daily.

I have been outraged, inspired, humbled and on occasion brought to tears by testimonies and stories that I have read and sometimes recorded, of people who simply want the freedom to worship Our Lord in peace and harmony. It is humbling to read about Christians, with very little themselves, reaching out to help not just Christian neighbours but people of other faiths and none, not least during these last 12 months. To read about those, who because of their faith in Jesus, are always at the back of the queue for aid and help, the first to lose their jobs, the one expected to do jobs the majority consider beneath them. And that's before the persecution starts!

Every time I read about another brother or sister living under difficult and sometimes dangerous conditions I am challenged about my own faith, my own discipleship and my own walk with Jesus here in Clayton le Woods; it is not always a pleasant experience. But the most common response is one of joy, for those living for Jesus, serving for Jesus and praising Jesus with their whole lives. And inspiration for their steadfastness, their courage and their faithfulness.

This is one such story.

Taher, Donya, Arzoo and Farah (not their real names), although of course God knows them

When the secret police arrived at the door only Donya (the mother) was in. Taher was at work and their daughters at school. The police ruthlessly ransacked their home looking for any evidence of the family's Christian faith. Donya recalls that at their (secret) house church they sang "I surrender all" and remembers praying to the Lord "I am ready to surrender everything" as her house was torn apart.

While the raid was happening, Taher received a call from the secret police telling him he had to return home. Once there he was instantly blindfolded, handcuffed and taken away. Taher can still recall the terror at his arrest but in the car he knew he was not alone, Jesus was there beside him.

The raid wasn't a total surprise, Taher knew that the secret police were targeting suspected Christians and was aware of the risks. However he wanted to continue to meet with other believers and to share the Good News with friends and co-workers. He did this knowing what might happen.

Taher spent many long days and nights under prolonged interrogation, questioned for hours by the secret police, who wanted to know who his fellow believers were, what he did with them and where. Did he receive money or help from abroad? Most of all they wanted Taher to list any other Christians he knew. Taher refused to write down a single name, I wonder if I would have the courage to do the same?

Instead he took the pen he was given and in his prison cell he wrote on one of the walls a version of Matthew 7:7 "Ask, seek, knock and it will be given to you" hoping that if other Christians were placed in that cell they would find encouragement for these words and help them stay strong.

The secret police didn't just interrogate Taher, they threatened his family with arrest and imprisonment with murderers, rapists and other dangerous criminals. Taher wanted desperately to protect his wife and daughters but recalling Donya's willingness "to surrender all" he remembers his refusal to comply as his greatest test of faith. Despite everything he didn't betray his friends or His Lord.

Taher was eventually released and given a suspended sentence with the condition that he stop telling people about Jesus; if he was caught a second time there would be no leniency and he would be executed. Taher's remarkable response echoed that of Peter and John on their release from prison in Acts 5:29 when Peter told the court "We must obey God rather than human beings". What did he do? "I went back home and started ministering and witnessing to Jesus again" he says. He has forgiven his interrogators remembering that his time in prison "was a time when I had Jesus with me, a time of real freedom".

Taher grew up as a strict Muslim and never considered Jesus until his daughter Farah, aged 10, became seriously ill. Taher and Donya went to many Muslim leaders for prayer and healing but nothing happened and in desperation they asked some Christian friends who also courageously had not kept their faith secret to pray for Farah. Shortly afterwards God miraculously healed their daughter, (an antidote to those today who don't believe God can still do miracles!!)

Donya decided to give her life to and follow Jesus although Taher took a bit longer. When he did eventually decide he felt an instantaneous change, like a burden being lifted from his shoulders, through Christ his sins had been forgiven and his guilt removed. "It was the most beautiful moment of my life". And the most dangerous. Since then he has known a deep personal relationship with Jesus, but has also been forced to leave the country and he and his family are now refugees in Turkey, although they do hope to return home one day if God decrees.

Being refugees (and Turkey is not the easiest place in which to be a Christian, life is difficult but the family are grateful to be in a safer environment. When asked if everything they have experienced is worth it- losing home, work, friends, family and possessions – Donya doesn't hesitate. "Jesus is worth everything we have lost, and more besides, He is worth everything"

Taher, Donya, Arzoo and Farah's story is heart-warming, even if their current situation is far from perfect. In many Middle Eastern countries worshipping in public or sharing your faith in any way openly is dangerous, that's why many Christians choose to keep their faith secret, as I think I might. This is particularly true of Christians who come from a Muslim background, like Taher and his family. If their faith is discovered they are likely to receive long prison sentences, or worse, for crimes against national security.

Please pray

That all secret believers would know that they are not alone and that God would enable them to find fellowship and discipleship.

Increasingly countries are using modern surveillance methods to monitor their citizens for their "own protection and security"! In China a mix of restrictive new laws and increased surveillance has made life increasingly difficult for Christians. Other countries using modern methods of surveillance include Iran, Turkey, Uzbekistan, Vietnam and Laos, whilst North Korea continue to rely on informers and their secret police. **And yet God's church continues to grow in all these places**

North Korea continues to top the list.

North Korea remains the most dangerous place on earth to be a Christian, as it has been every year since the start of the World Wide Watch in 2002. Christians who are caught suffer appalling inhumanity in prison, correction facilities and literally death camps. The few survivors speak of mass graves, people looking like wraiths and continual abuse from the guards, particularly towards women. **And yet Christians continue to meet in secret supported by organisations like Open Doors and Barnabas.**

Christians deliberately denied Coronavirus aid.

Sadly and perhaps not surprisingly Christians are being denied aid in Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, Nigeria, Yemen, Sudan, Vietnam, Myanmar, Nepal, Malaysia, throughout Central Asia and North Africa.

Authorities quick to use the virus as a weapon against the persecuted church. In addition to increased loneliness and threats many Christians, particularly women report increased psychological violence. **Pray for Open Doors and Barnabas as they increase their practical support for Christians disadvantaged in this way.**

Religious Nationalism fuels Persecution.

In Turkey an overtly Islamist nationalist agenda has led to increased persecution, intolerance and violence towards Christians. In India, rising Hindu nationalism continues to claim that "to be Indian is to be Hindu" in spite of over 65 million Christians in the country. In many countries such as Mali and Maldives it is illegal for citizens not to be Muslim, whilst Afghanistan remains just behind North Korea as a place of immense danger for followers of Jesus. **Pray for greater religious tolerance in many places around the world, tolerance for peoples of all faiths.**

Reasons for Thanksgiving

Praise God that 2020 was a year of great news for Christians in Sudan, numbering some 2 million. In July the transitional government announced they would end the death penalty for people who leave Islam, as well as reforming or repealing other laws that violated human rights. Then in September The government agreed to remove Islam as the state religion, after 30 years of Islamic law. More recently Christian and Muslim leaders have signed a declaration, joining forces to promote religious freedom. For the first time in many years Sudan falls out of the top ten countries in World Watch. Perhaps less dramatically the Egyptian Government is allowing the reopening of churches and providing compensation where churches are attacked.

However, there is still much to be done in both Sudan and Egypt so keep praying for both countries whilst praising God for the progress made.

Much of the world remains a dangerous and unpleasant place for Jesus' disciples and so we should never forget them and what God is doing in the world, particularly in very difficult areas, lets be inspired by His work and by the people who are regularly turning to Jesus, who promised all of us that He will never leave us.

A Living Hope

"Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Set your mind on things above, not on earthly things. For you died, And your life is now hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in Glory" Colossians 3: 1 - 4.

Why not find out more about these inspiring children of God by having a look at the Barnabas Fund and Open Doors websites www.barnabasfund.org and www.opendoorsuk.org.

Many people will be surprised when Jesus comes again

– but nobody will be mistaken. – anon

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First, you simply have to be willing to listen

... the sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ...he goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because they know his voice. (John 10:3-4)

Therefore, everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. (Matthew 7:27)

“Bad listeners do not make good disciples.” So said the well-known Christian writer John Stott. And Stott’s ‘listening ear’ still remains at the heart of what disciples are called upon to do, today.

We listen to God because God speaks, and He speaks to us primarily through Scripture. Through the Spirit’s animation, these ancient scrolls remain living and active, addressing our contemporary world. Listening to this living Word is to receive life itself; to ignore it leads to death.

Such high stakes explain why our Bibles are packed with urgent reminders and stark warnings to *listen to what God is saying*. If we turn away from His Word, our hearts, speech, and actions follow.

But if we *listen*, we discover nothing less than Christ’s riches imbuing our everyday lives. His words will inform our minds, reform our hearts, and transform our actions. That’s why for Hebrew writers, hearing God was inseparable from obeying what He said – to hear and NOT obey is as ludicrous as building a house on a beach in hurricane season. So, what does it look like for us to be obedient hearers of the Word?

First, we listen to God *for* our frontlines, prayerfully carrying our workplaces, our families, and our streets with us to Scripture, seeking wisdom for how to live gospel-soaked lives in ordinary places. As we read the text, and let it read us, the way we go about our day – from replying to an email to greeting a shop assistant – should look different as a result.

Then, we listen to God *on* our frontlines, sensitive to where the Good Shepherd is at work in the everyday. Where might His voice lead us if we expected to hear Him not just in our morning quiet time, but on the bus, in the pub garden, at the supermarket? What might He say to us, and through us, for the places we go and the people we meet, if we’d only make time to pause, and hear? What starts as a gentle whisper to us could outwork *shalom* through us to demonstrate the kingdom to those around us. Because, as Stott reminds us, often being the hands and feet of Jesus first requires us to simply use our ears.

Fulbert of Chartres (c.970-1028), the son of a peasant family in northern France, rose to become Bishop of Chartres, renowned for his brilliant sermons. A powerful man, but his prayers reveal his keen appreciation of just how fleeting worldly success can be....

God’s Care

How brief is our span of life compared with the time since You created the universe. How tiny we are compared with the enormity of Your universe. ...yet during every minute and ever second of our lives You are present, within and around us. You give your whole and undivided attention to each and every one of us. Our concerns are Your concerns. And You are infinitely patient with our stupidity. I thank you with all my heart....

The prayer chain is still up and running during these unusual days. If you have an urgent or emergency prayer, then telephone any of the numbers below.

EMERGENCY PRAYER CHAIN •

for urgent prayer or emergency prayer:

Tel: Sandra or

any of the prayer chain members:

Gill Wright
Ann Harris
Jean Grindrod
Christine Whiteside
Francis & Peter Grieve
Dedrah Moss
Julie Summers
Lorraine Cliffe
Ethel Rowbottom
David Barlow
Sandra Cameron
Alex Jones
Cath Orr

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to this month's Gazette. Please send in your articles & comments for the JULY edition before the end of JUNE to:

Cath Orr
The editor would welcome comments on any article in this gazette



From the Living Waters Food Bank:

Thank you so very much to everyone who supports the food bank through single donations and standing orders. We are so grateful and it allows us to do so much more. Please consider sending a gift through our bank transfer or look on our facebook page. We are so grateful to you for your kindness and generosity to those less fortunate.

Please message us or add your email in the bank reference box if we can claim gift aid.

Food cannot be left in our churches at the moment but if you are in Chorley you can still drop off donations at Living Waters Church, in Bolton Street. Tuesdays & Fridays 10am to 2pm. Or give a money donation on their website: www.facebook.com/LWStorehouse or—most supermarkets have food bank trolleys