



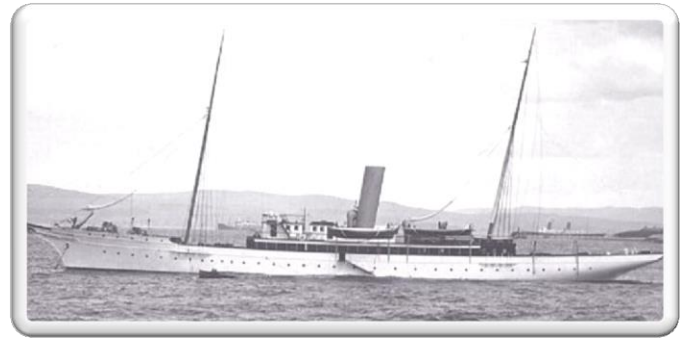
GREASBROUGH UNITED CHURCH



January 2017

Dear friends,

On New Year's Day in 1919, the ship HMY Iolaire foundered on rocks in the entrance to Stornoway harbour on the Isle of Lewis. Over 200 souls perished including many sailors who had survived the Great War and were on their way home to their families. In the morning light, the islanders were shocked to see that the ship had sunk only five yards from the shore. Many people were that close to safety yet they were lost.



I predict that in 2017 we are going to see great shaking and upheaval in our world.

It will be economic, financial, political, social and even physical. It will impact nations, governments, powerful movers and shakers in politics and the media, institutions (both secular and religious) and individuals. You don't need great prophetic gifts to see this because these things are predicted in Scripture, the consequences for a person, community or nation that forsakes and forgets God.

This sounds frightening! But we need to remember that God is the one who initiates the shaking, testing our endeavours and attitudes, to remove the things that harm us so that the good things that are built on God's truth may endure. Out of this great shaking God's Kingdom will come a step nearer.

At Epiphany we celebrated the wise men who sought Jesus. Jesus also bids us to be like a wise person who built their houses on a rock. That rock is all about taking His words to heart and putting them into practice.

In the great shaking that is to come, we must be on the rock of safety. To be near is not enough... But God will keep us safe if we trust in Him.

Happy New Year – and hold on tight!

“Once more God will shake the heavens and the earth... so that what cannot be shaken may remain”

Hebrews 12, 26-7, quoting Haggai 2:6

Simon

News



Well here we are at the start of a New Year (where did the last one go, must be the sign of age Ha!Ha!) and we may all be wondering what is in store for us individually and as a church. At the Bible and Prayer group last Tuesday, we prayed that we may continue to work together in our small church sharing our Love and to seek God's guidance in all that we do.

We finished off the old year with a great Christmas Party and had a lot of fun made all the more special by all playing their part no matter in what capacity or even just by your presence. As always we had a plethora of goodies for our delectable delights.

It is with sadness, that we said farewell to Sylvia Hall, who has been with us for quite a few years as she struggled with illness as she stayed at the nursing home. It was always a great pleasure to see her face light up when we sang a hymn that she recognised. She showed so much kindness to many people as she was well known for her visiting of folk in the village through her membership at St Mary's church.

Sheena and Jonathan have finally moved into their bungalow after many hiccups, but they got there in the end. They are now busy making it their own and we wish them every happiness in their new home.

All that is left for me to say now is, I wish you all a Happy and Peaceful New Year.

Jean

Prayer this month

We ask that you pray for:

- Our mission in Greasbrough and the surrounding areas;
- Peace in the world and an end to terrorism.



New Year

What shall I ask for the coming year?
What shall my watchword be?
What should thou do for me, dear Lord?
What can I do for thee?

Lord, I would ask for a holy year,
Spent in thy perfect will.
Help me to walk in thy very steps;
Help me to please thee still.

Lord, I would ask for a trustful year,
Give me thy faith divine,
Taking my full inheritance,
Making thy fullness mine!

Lord, I would ask for a year of love;
O let me love thee best!
Give me the love that faileth not
Beneath the hardest test.

Lord, I would ask for a year of prayer,
Teach me to walk with thee;
Breathe in my heart the Spirit's prayer;
Pray thou thy prayer in me!

Lord, I would ask for the dying world,
Stretch forth thy mighty hand;
Thy truth proclaim, thy power display
This year in every land.

Lord, I would ask for a year of joy;
Thy peace, thy joy divine,
Springing undimmed through all the days
Be thy days of shade or shine.

Lord, I ask for a year of hope,
Looking for thee to come,
And hastening on that year of years
That brings us Christ and Home.

Author Unknown

*Know that I
am with you
always: yes,
even to the end
of time.*

Matthew 28:20



"FRANKLY, I'M WORRIED — IT'S JANUARY ALREADY, AND THERE'S NOT AN EASTER EGG IN SIGHT..."

An old story tells of an angel who met a man carrying a heavy sack and enquired what was in it. 'My worries,' said the man.

'Let me see them,' asked the angel. When the sack was opened, it was empty. The man was astonished and said he had two great worries. One was of yesterday which he now saw was past; the other of tomorrow which had not yet arrived. The angel told him he needed no sack, and the man gladly threw it away.



Sunday Services

Held at 10.30am every Sunday.

Preachers

1 st Jan	Dave Whitley
8 th Jan	Eileen Beevers
15 th Jan	Clive Taylor
22 nd Jan	Rev Simon Copley
29 th Jan	Rev Matt Stone
5 th Feb	Pat Critchlow

Friendship Group

Held at 2.00pm every Wednesday.

Speakers

4 th Jan	No meeting
11 th Jan	Rev Simon Copley
18 th Jan	Open Meeting
25 th Jan	Open Meeting
1 st Feb	Rev Jenny Park

What's on

Church Meeting –

17th January @ 2.00pm

Services at Cherry Trees and Greasbrough nursing homes –

19th January @ 2.00pm

Bible study and prayer group

These are held at 34 Green Street on Tuesday mornings at 10.00am and are a valuable time of learning and sharing God's Word. It is a very relaxed gathering and all are welcome.

Contact us

If you would like to know anything about the church please contact:

➤ Rev Simon Copley (01709 814471)

➤ Phil Critchlow (01709 555704)

Email: Greasbrough.United.Church@sky.com

Who's who: Bear Grylls



Edward Michael "Bear" Grylls was born on 7th June 1974 in Donaghadee, County Down. He is the son of the late Conservative politician Sir Michael Grylls and Sarah Ford. His sister, Lara, gave him the nickname 'Bear' when he was a week old. At the age of four his family moved to Bembridge on the Isle of Wight. ***"I always had a really natural faith as a kid. Where I knew God existed and it felt very free and pretty wild and natural, and it wasn't religious. Then I went to school and suddenly it all became much more religious, and I thought, 'Oh I don't like this.' It was all about church going and telling you not to smoke behind the bike shed when you are age 12."***

While studying at university Bear and a friend decided to apply to join the 21 SAS Regiment. He spent three years in the SAS before breaking his back while free-fall parachuting in 1996. His parachute ripped at 16,000 ft, partially opening, causing him to fall and land on his parachute pack on his back, which partially crushed three vertebrae. He spent the next 12 months in and out of military rehabilitation. On 16th May 1998, just 18 months after breaking his back, Bear achieved his childhood dream of climbing to the summit of Mount Everest.

Bear married Shara Cannings Knight in 2000, and they have three sons – Jesse, Marmaduke and Huckleberry. Within a year of Bear's wedding, his father passed away. It was at this low point that the couple decided to attend an Alpha Course. ***"It helped us in a very low-key, unpressured way to explore some big questions."***

In 2006, his TV series '**Born Survivor: Bear Grylls**' was launched which showed how he survived in harsh environments. This was a huge success and made Bear a household name; he has presented numerous other TV shows since.

"My faith has been a quiet strength, like a backbone, that's sustained me a lot during those times when you're at your wits end, and have nothing more to give." "The journey's been that faith has been the wildest ride. And Jesus, the heart of the Christian faith is the wildest, most radical guy you'd ever come across. He was always hanging around with the prostitutes and the tax collectors and having parties and banquets, and I found myself drawn to that character not the kind of fluff that we like to box as religion."

In July 2009 Bear became the youngest person to be appointed Chief Scout. He is also an ambassador for the Prince's Trust, Vice President of the *Journey of a Lifetime Trust* (which helps young people from troubled backgrounds experience the journey of a lifetime) and an ambassador for *Care for Children* (an organisation that helps create an alternative to institutional care through local family-based care for disadvantaged children).

"I always get asked by people difficult religious questions and I just say, 'Sometimes, I don't know. I don't know... I know I'm loved.' And that's the heart of Christianity."