



GREASBROUGH UNITED CHURCH



May 2017

Taking up the challenge

In April we celebrated Easter. For 40 days after Easter Sunday, Jesus appeared to his disciples many times, continuing to teach and instruct them. Until He ascended up to Heaven which we celebrate this month on 25th May, Ascension Day.

The 40 days between Easter and Ascension Day is reminiscent of the time Jesus spent being tempted in the wilderness. The temptations are presented as a time when Jesus prepared for his ministry, and the period before the Ascension as a time when he prepared the disciples for theirs, by speaking of the kingdom of God and by opening their minds to understand the Scriptures.

And then right at the end of the 40 days, Jesus' last words to His disciples are recorded and known as the Great Commission "**go and make disciples of all nations**" (Luke 28:19). The disciples are to go out into the world to tell people everywhere about Jesus and his teaching, and to move from their familiar, relatively comfortable world into the unfamiliar and uncomfortable; something rather challenging.

John F Kennedy was once asked "**What is the greatest thing in life?**" He is said to have replied '**To take up a challenge.**' The disciples were ready for the challenge. And how they took up this challenge is recorded, in part, in Acts.

And so, while we mark Ascension Day as the day when Jesus returned to Heaven and the end of His earthly ministry, we also should mark it as a beginning. It was the beginning of the disciples' ministry and also the birth of the Christian church. But what we also need to remember is that Jesus wasn't only talking to his disciples 2,000 years ago but also to us. His is giving us the Great Commission. And are we ready to take up the challenge?

"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Matthew 28: 19-20

Phil

News

What a shock to say that we have lost our good “Cockney” friend Roger so suddenly on Good Friday. Yes, he had been very ill for some time, but he was devastated, when he recently learnt that he had another cancer. We are so thankful that he was able to come to the Friendship group on the Wednesday, (he came against the Nursing Home orders). I am sure that our Lord’s blessing was on this decision as he enjoyed the meeting and we also sang his favourite hymn “**Abide With Me**”. He always brightened up the meetings with his dry humour and regularly managed to wind up Sheena Ha! Ha! He will be sorely missed at all our church activities as he was such a faithful member.



You may be interested to know that the final amount donated for the East Africa Famine Relief Appeal reached the magnificent sum of £210.62 and has now been sent to Christian Aid.

The annual Christian Aid week this year falls between 14th and 20th May. Envelopes are available for anyone who would like to give a donation.

Margaret Gould has been very poorly for several weeks with a virus but it was good that she was able to attend church again last Sunday. We do hope that she now recovers completely very soon.

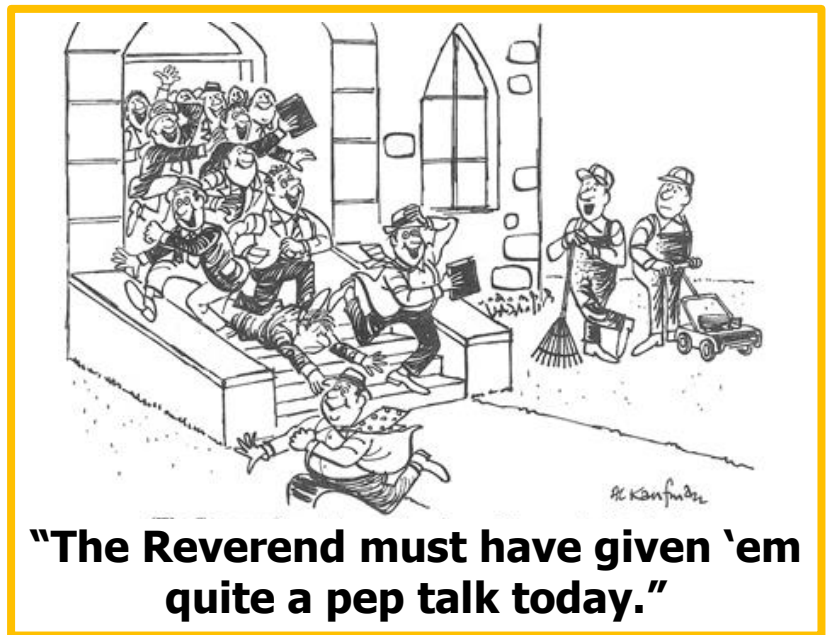
Finally, I hope you’ve all had chance to look at the new pulpit fall. It was designed and made by Rev Brenda Hill. So we’d like to thank Brenda for all her hard work.

Jean

Prayer this month

We ask that you pray for:

- sensibility as we move into a General Election;
- unity between world powers.



WORDSEARCH

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| H | A | J | I | L | E | N | I | P | R | O | P | H | E | T |
| P | L | A | G | U | E | S | A | I | N | A | N | A | H | E |
| C | E | A | T | V | A | L | E | H | T | E | B | G | E | M |
| R | U | A | E | I | S | E | S | O | M | N | U | E | V | P |
| L | T | P | A | S | S | R | E | H | T | O | R | B | E | L |
| S | H | H | B | S | H | E | V | L | R | I | N | H | N | E |
| G | G | A | M | E | T | T | E | D | F | R | I | A | I | I |
| N | I | R | A | S | A | I | N | T | S | U | N | I | N | N |
| I | L | A | L | S | K | R | H | E | I | T | G | M | L | A |
| K | J | O | N | E | V | A | E | H | V | N | B | E | A | D |
| B | A | H | Z | N | O | G | A | R | D | E | U | R | D | C |
| A | C | E | S | T | N | A | D | N | E | C | S | E | D | I |
| K | O | O | G | I | J | O | S | E | P | H | H | J | E | T |
| E | B | O | A | W | I | N | G | S | C | E | D | A | R | Y |
| R | D | B | E | A | S | T | R | A | I | N | G | I | E | R |

Dreams, Visions and Prophecies

Find these words in the grid above. The words may be in any direction – forwards, backwards, upwards, downwards or diagonal. After you have found all the words, use the leftover letters to form a mystery answer.

Answer: _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _

- | | | | | |
|--------------|-------------|----------|---------|--------------|
| Ananias | City | Fire | Ladder | Rain |
| Baker | Cupbearer | God | Lamb | Reign |
| Beast | Daniel | Heaven | Light | Saints |
| Bethel | Descendants | Isaiah | Moses | Seven heads |
| Brothers | Dragon | Jacob | Nineveh | Seventh seal |
| Burning bush | Drought | Jeremiah | Pharaoh | Statue |
| Cedar | Elijah | Joseph | Plagues | Temple |
| Centurion | Ezekiel | Kings | Prophet | Wings |
| | | | | Witnesses |

The Resurrection Pulpit Fall

The main picture is simply a representation of resurrection where, out of the darkness of the tomb, comes the sun which spreads its light far and wide; but there are other messages I've sewed into it.

The tomb is taken from a photograph of the Garden Tomb in Jerusalem but the surround is a Yorkshire dry stone wall and the round stone is like the millstones found on the Derbyshire hills near Sheffield. This is a reminder that resurrection still happens here and now.

Growing by the tomb is a, Crown of Thorns plant, reminding us of Jesus' torture before he was crucified and the crosses on the hillside tells of the cost of resurrection. The dark cloud and the lightning strike, follow the bible story of the crucifixion.

The sheep are English sheep on one hill and middle eastern on the other because Jesus is often called "*The Good Shepherd*," and because sheep and shepherds appear in several of Jesus' parables.

Hovering high above the scene is the "*Dove of Peace*" being a symbol of reconciliation and to me a sign that God is presiding over the whole picture telling us that resurrection is his ultimate gift to us of love to humanity.



Brenda



God is watching

The children were lined up in the cafeteria of a Catholic elementary school for lunch. At the head of the table was a large pile of apples.

The nun made a note, and posted on the apple tray: "**Take only ONE. God is watching.**"

Moving further along the lunch line, at the other end of the table was a large pile of chocolate chip cookies. A child had written a note, "**Take all you want. God is watching the apples.**"



Sunday Services

Held at 10.30am every Sunday.

Preachers

| | |
|----------------------|------------------|
| 7 th May | Barrie Thomas |
| 14 th May | Margaret Gould |
| 21 st May | Rev Simon Copley |
| 28 th May | Rev Brenda Hill |
| 4 th June | Oliver Buckley |

Friendship Group

Held at 2.00pm every Wednesday.

Speakers

| | |
|----------------------|------------------|
| 3 rd May | Alan Taylor |
| 10 th May | Rev Simon Copley |
| 17 th May | No meeting |
| 24 th May | Rev Jenny Park |
| 31 st May | Rev Matt Stone |

What's on

Nursing home services –
18th May @ 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

Website: www.greasbroughunitedchurch.org.uk

Who's who: Victoria Coren Mitchell

Victoria Elizabeth Coren was born on 18th August 1972 in Hammersmith, to the humorist and journalist Alan Coren and his wife Dr Anne Kasriel. Her brother is the journalist and TV presenter Giles Coren. She attended girls' independent schools and then Oxford University.



At 14 she had a short story published in *Just Seventeen* magazine and then won a competition in *The Daily Telegraph* to write a weekly column about teenage life. After university, she became a freelance journalist and broadcaster. In 1999, she adapted the newspaper columns of John Diamond into a play *A Lump in My Throat*, and then into a TV play for BBC2.

Victoria writes a weekly column for *The Observer*, a monthly column for Elle and is the resident agony aunt for GQ. She presents the BBC quiz show *Only Connect*, presents and produces the Radio 4 comedy series *Heresy*. She is also a professional poker player, being the first woman to win an event on the European Poker Tour. On 17th November 2012 she married actor and comedian David Mitchell; they have one child.

Victoria is also a Christian. In 2010 she wrote an article in The Guardian in which she encouraged readers not to be embarrassed about saying that they believe in God:

...There is a new, false distinction between "**believers**" and "**rationalists**". The trickle-down Dawkins effect has got millions of people thinking that faith is ignorant and childish, with atheism the smart and logical position.

I interviewed the comedian Miranda Hart recently. She told me she believes in God but was nervous of being quoted on it. "*It's scary to say you're pro-God,*" she said. "*Those clever atheists are terrifying.*"

"*Oh, nonsense,*" I said. "*Let them tell you it's stupid to believe in something you can't explain. Then ask them how an iPad works.*"

Atheism itself is fine; good luck if that's what you sincerely (don't) believe. But the proselytising, fundamentalist new atheist movement sets itself up as more "**logical**" than faith, which is ridiculous. Given the incomprehensible scale of the creator we'd be talking about, the only "**logical**" position is agnosticism.

...Come on; let's make this a fair fight, at least. Identify yourselves, thinking believers! Don't be cowed into silence by the idea that faith is the weakness of a halfwit.

I'll start: I believe in God and I'm perfectly intelligent and rational.