



GREASBROUGH UNITED CHURCH



June 2017

“Soldiers of Christ arise and put your armour on...”

Dear friends

Our thoughts and prayers are with the victims and families caught up in the terrible bomb-attack in Manchester at this time. We also need to pray for the work of our amazing emergency and security services as the threat to the UK is raised to critical.

I have heard many leaders in recent days calling defiantly for us to deny the terrorists victory by carrying on as “normal”. I think these leaders are “false prophets”! With soldiers on our streets, we are in something approaching a state of war. And no war was ever won by a people who tried to carry on as normal! Our response must go way beyond what is “normal”.

This is because our warfare is not conventional. We cannot fight false ideas in dark hearts with human weapons: intelligence, vigilance, security, police and soldiers, barriers and weapons will not prevail. We can only fight hatred with love, violence with kindness and falsehood with Truth.

The reaction of Manchester showed this in a wonderful way – but it is a reaction. The time has come to be proactive in right loving and living, right thinking and giving. Let us counter lies with the One who is the Truth; clinging to Him for dear life, living out His way with burning commitment and proclaiming His message of peace and reconciliation with humility and love. The answer to religious extremism is not “no religion” but “True religion”!

For a start, imagine the impact of a wholesale turning from anti-social behaviour, vandalism, drunkenness, petty crime and even traffic offenses. This would help our emergency services at a time when they need to be most alert and have every resource at their disposal. This would contribute to keeping us all safe, immeasurably!

But, on a larger scale, let's forsake self-indulgent lives to seek answers that will address root causes of the dangers we face: a new foreign policy (that no political leader has mentioned in the election campaign), social justice that will tackle some causes of disaffection and a wholesale return to Christian faith that underpins everything that is right, safe and compassionate in our society (and,

paradoxically, is the only course that will enable people of other faiths to enjoy peace and tolerance).

This will mean change. This will mean life as we have never experienced it before; but a life with God's abundant blessing for all. For He says: "*If my people will humble themselves, turn from wickedness and seek my face, I will hear from Heaven, forgive their wrongs and heal their land.*" So let us keep praying, and seeking and living for Jesus, who is the Truth!

Let us stop being "normal"

Simon

News

You may be interested to know that the final amount received for the Christian Aid Appeal was £130. Thank you for all your recent charity donations.

Mary New has not been too well recently and has not felt sure enough of herself to attend church. We were able to catch up with her at the Care Home service and we do hope that she is soon feeling better.

It was disappointing that Roger's funeral was not at our church but I am pleased to say that a good number were able to attend the service at the Crematorium.

We had an afternoon of prayer last week in response to the nationwide initiative to pray for the needs of our country. It proved to be a useful time of concentrated prayer and meditation.

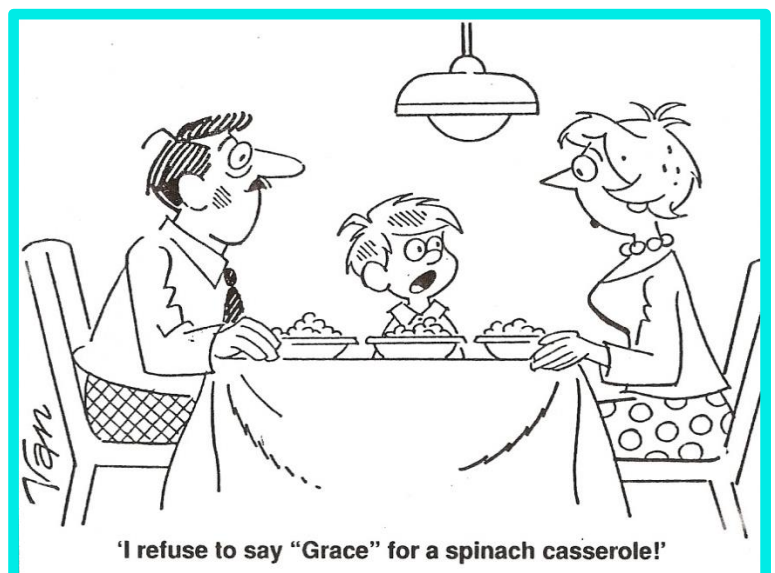
Summer seems to be coming now and I know quite a few of you are planning holidays so do take time to spoil yourselves and enjoy your new experiences and come back refreshed and tell us all about them.

Jean

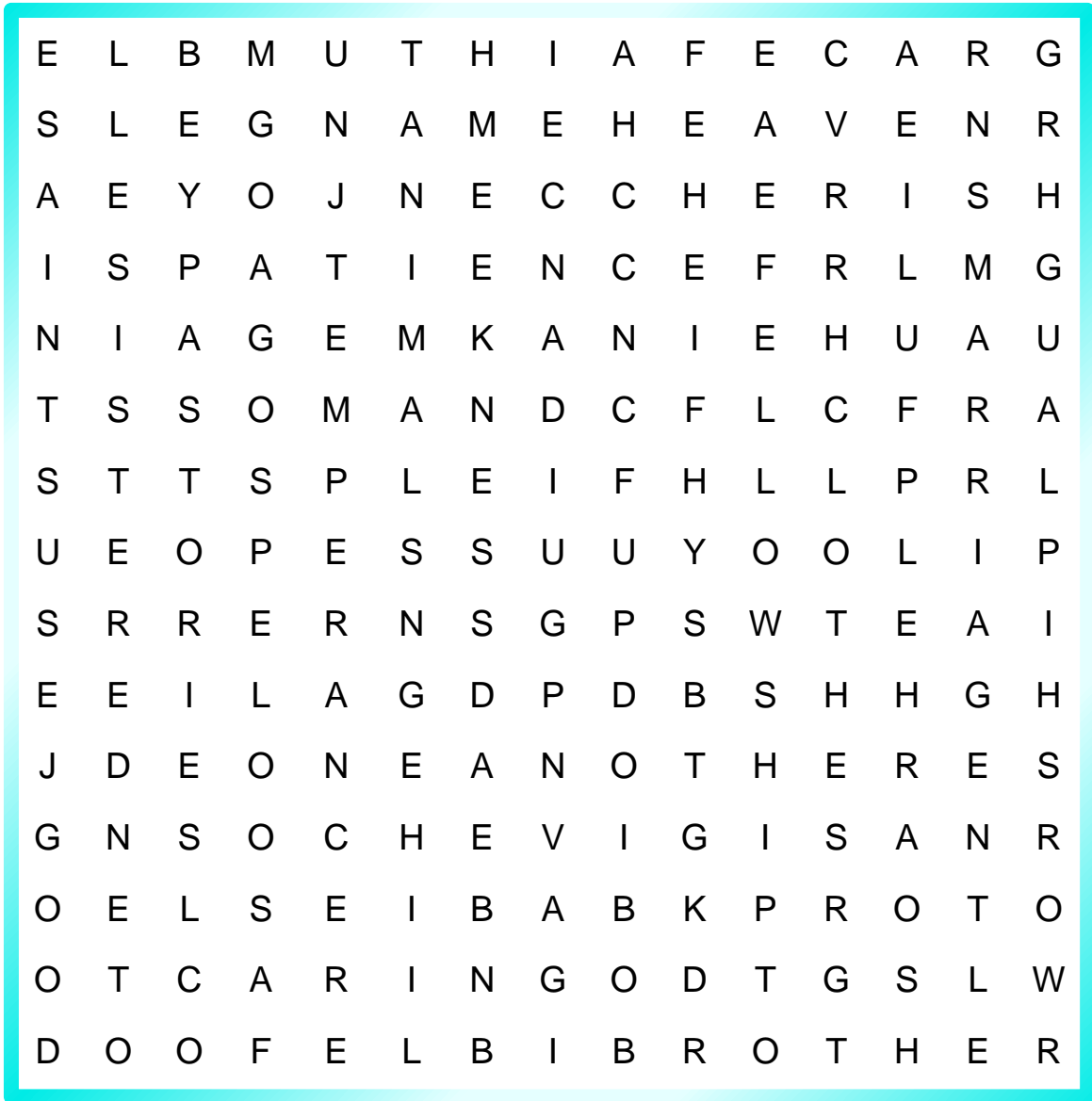
Prayer this month

We ask that you pray for:

- those affected by the Manchester bomb attack;
- the General Election.



WORDSEARCH



Loving

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: _ _ _ _ _

- | | | | | |
|------------|------------|----------|----------------|------------|
| Angels | Enjoy | Gospel | Jesus | Saints |
| Animals | Faith | Grace | Kindness | Sister |
| Babies | Fellowship | Guidance | Laugh | Stories |
| Bible | Food | Happy | Long suffering | Temperance |
| Brother | Friends | Heart | Marriage | Tender |
| Caring | Gentle | Heaven | Meekness | Worship |
| Cherish | Give | Helpful | One another | |
| Clothes | God | Hug | Pastor | |
| Each other | Good | Humble | Patience | |

If Jesus came to your house

If Jesus came to your house to spend a day or two -

If He came unexpectedly, I wonder what you'd do.

Oh, I know you'd give your nicest room to such an honoured guest,

And all the food you'd serve to Him would be the very best,

And you would keep assuring Him you're glad to have him there –

That serving Him in your own home is joy beyond compare.

But when you saw Him coming, would you meet Him at the door

With arms outstretched in welcome to your heavenly visitor?

Or would you have to change your clothes before you let Him in?

Or hide some magazines and put the Bible where they'd been?

Would you turn off the radio and hope He hadn't heard?

And wish you hadn't uttered that last, loud, hasty word?

Would you hide your worldly music and put some hymn books out?

Could you let Jesus walk right in, or would you rush about?

And I wonder - if the Saviour spent a day or two with you,

Would you go right on doing the things you always do?

Would you go right on saying the things you always say?

Would life for you continue as it does from day to day?

Would your family conversation keep up its usual pace?

And would you find it hard each meal to say a table grace?

Would you sing the songs you always sing, and read the books you read,

And let Him know the things on which your mind and spirit feed?

Would you take Jesus with you everywhere you'd planned to go?

Or would you, maybe, change your plans for just a day or so?

Would you be glad to have Him meet your very closest friends?

Or would you hope they'd stay away until His visit ends?

Would you be glad to have Him stay forever on and on?

Or would you sigh with great relief when He at last was gone?

It might be interesting to know the things that you would do

If Jesus Christ in person came to spend some time with you.



Lois Blanchard Eades



Say a prayer

Little Johnny and his family were having Sunday dinner at his Grandmother's house. Everyone was seated around the table as the food was being served. When Little Johnny received his plate, he started eating right away.

"Johnny! Please wait until we say our prayer," said his mother.

"I don't need to," the boy replied.

"Of course, you do," his mother insisted. *"We always say a prayer before eating at our house."*

"That's at our house," Johnny explained. *"But this is Grandma's house and she knows how to cook!"*



Sunday Services

Held at 10.30am every Sunday.

Preachers

4 th Jun	Oliver Buckley
11 th Jun	Peter Drabble
18 th Jun	Rev Gill Newton
25 th Jun	Rev Simon Copley
2 nd Jul	Tim Hewson

Friendship Group

Held at 2.00pm every Wednesday.

Speakers

7 th Jun	Open meeting
14 th Jun	Rev Simon Copley
21 st Jun	Alan & Joyce Taylor
28 th Jun	Rev Brenda Hill
5 th Jul	Rev Jenny Park

What's on

Nursing home services –
15th June @ 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: Constance Coltman

Constance Mary Todd was born on 23rd May 1889 in Putney, to George Todd, a headmaster, and his wife Emily, who was one of the first few women to study medicine. Her family attended Putney Presbyterian Church. After attending boarding school in Southwold she studied history at Oxford.



She soon felt a call to the ministry but the Presbyterian church did not allow women to study for the ministry. However, she persuaded William Selbie, the principal of the Congregational college in Oxford, that her call was genuine and in 1913 she was accepted as a student there. Whilst studying there she became engaged to a fellow student, Claud Coltman. One of the greatest influences on Constance's life was the minister of the King's Weigh House Congregational Church in Mayfair, Rev William Orchard. She and her husband-to-be had started attending his church during vacations, and were deeply influenced both by his pacifism and by his sacramental theology.

Constance and Claud were ordained as Ministers together at King's Weight House on the evening of Monday 17th September 1917. She was the first woman to be ordained in a mainstream British denomination. The ordination was presided over by Rev Orchard and assisted by four Congregationalist ministers. However, her ordination had not received prior approval and she had to wait another couple of months before the Congregational Union gave approval. The morning after the ordination Constance and Claud were married.

Constance and Claud had been called to the assistant ministry of Weigh House, to work in the East End, at the Darby Street Mission, Wapping. They began their ministry on 1st October. They divided the work between them; Claud did most of the preaching and chairing of meetings, Constance did most of the baptisms and weddings. They lived on one ministerial stipend, and Constance used her private money to subsidise the household.

In 1922 she and her husband Claud moved to be the ministers at Greville Place, Kilburn, before moving to Cowley Road, Oxford in 1924. She always supported younger women who felt called to ministry, and helped found the Fellowship of Women Ministers and the Society for the Ministry of Women in 1930. Constance and Claud continued their joint ministry at Wolverton from 1932 and then at Haverhill from 1940. In 1946 they returned to King's Weigh House, where Constance served until 1949 and Claud until 1957.

In the 1950s she learned Swedish in order to support women seeking ordination in the Church of Sweden. A lifelong pacifist, Constance was a vice-president of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom and was one of the founders of the Christian Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament.

Constance and Claud retired to Bexhill-on-Sea where she died on 26th March 1969.