



GREASBROUGH UNITED CHURCH



September 2017

"To the Jews Jesus said "If you hold to my teaching, you really are my followers – then you will know the truth and the truth will set you free." They answered: "We are sons of Abraham and have never been slaves to anyone. How dare you say we need to be set free?"

Jesus replied: "Anyone who sins is a slave of sin. A slave has no legal place in the family but a son belongs to it forever. If the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed." John 8: 31-36)

The world is in political and social turmoil. Where there is such turmoil people are clamouring for freedom. So many moral issues now centre round the freedom to choose what to think, to say and to do. Freedom is a front line of a cultural war in which the church now finds herself.

But Jesus offers a radically different definition of freedom – not **permission** to think or say what we would like, but **power** to do what is right – and so escape the “enslavement” of sin. True freedom is not about abandoning boundaries but living joyfully within them. We do this by holding to Jesus' teaching, knowing its truth with a capital T. And we hold to the Truth by belonging to our Heavenly Father, not as a slave, but as a child.

Identity is crucial to this discussion between Jesus and the Jews. They claim to be children of Abraham because of their culture, birth and tradition, by outward things. Jesus warns that they have abandoned his teaching inwardly, in their hearts and minds – and so they do not actually know neither God nor true freedom – they have lost their true identity. Likewise, we cannot appeal to traditions and outward religion but must hold on to the teaching of Christ in our hearts and so sincerely hold onto the Truth revealed in Christ.

But Truth is not about arid doctrines, rule-keeping or intellectual belief, but it is about knowing our identity as children of God – an identity which is the gift of God, in Christ. It is not just the Truth that sets us free but the Son.

It is this wonderful truth about the relationship we can have with our loving Heavenly Father, through Jesus, that we can share with the world that has let go of Christ's teaching and now, as a result, wanders lost in enslavement to despair, meaninglessness and isolation from God.

Simon

News

Well many of you have had a break away for a few days or managed a longer holiday and I do hope that you had good times and have stored up many memories and in time are able to share them with others.

Our church has also had a break away from social events and we thought it was now time to put that right and so on Monday 11th September at 6.30pm please come along for a buffet tea and social afterwards (content yet to be decided). Why don't you take this as an opportunity to invite friends or family members along for a time of friendship and fun?

It is now that time of year when we start thinking about collecting items for the Shoe Box Appeal run by the Samaritan Purse Organisation. You may remember that our last boxes were sent to Swaziland and the children who received them were so excited and grateful.

As you know, I told you about a church that Pat and I had visited in Lake Como well Val told me about a church she visited while on holiday in Llandudno. It is called Saint Trillo's at Rhos-on-Sea. It is said to be the smallest chapel in Britain seating just 6 people. Under the altar, there is a natural spring of clear water that was dedicated to St Trillo and St Elidan. This spring water is used for baptisms within the parish and a Eucharist service is held every Wednesday in the chapel.



Val said it is a beautiful church built of simple stone and well cared for, situated right near the shore line. She sat in the chapel and found it a most beautiful, peaceful and calming experience. So even very small churches, have their part to play in the grand scheme of things, providing havens for anyone to have a quiet reflective time. Again, dedication is providing a place of worship for members and visitors alike.

Jean



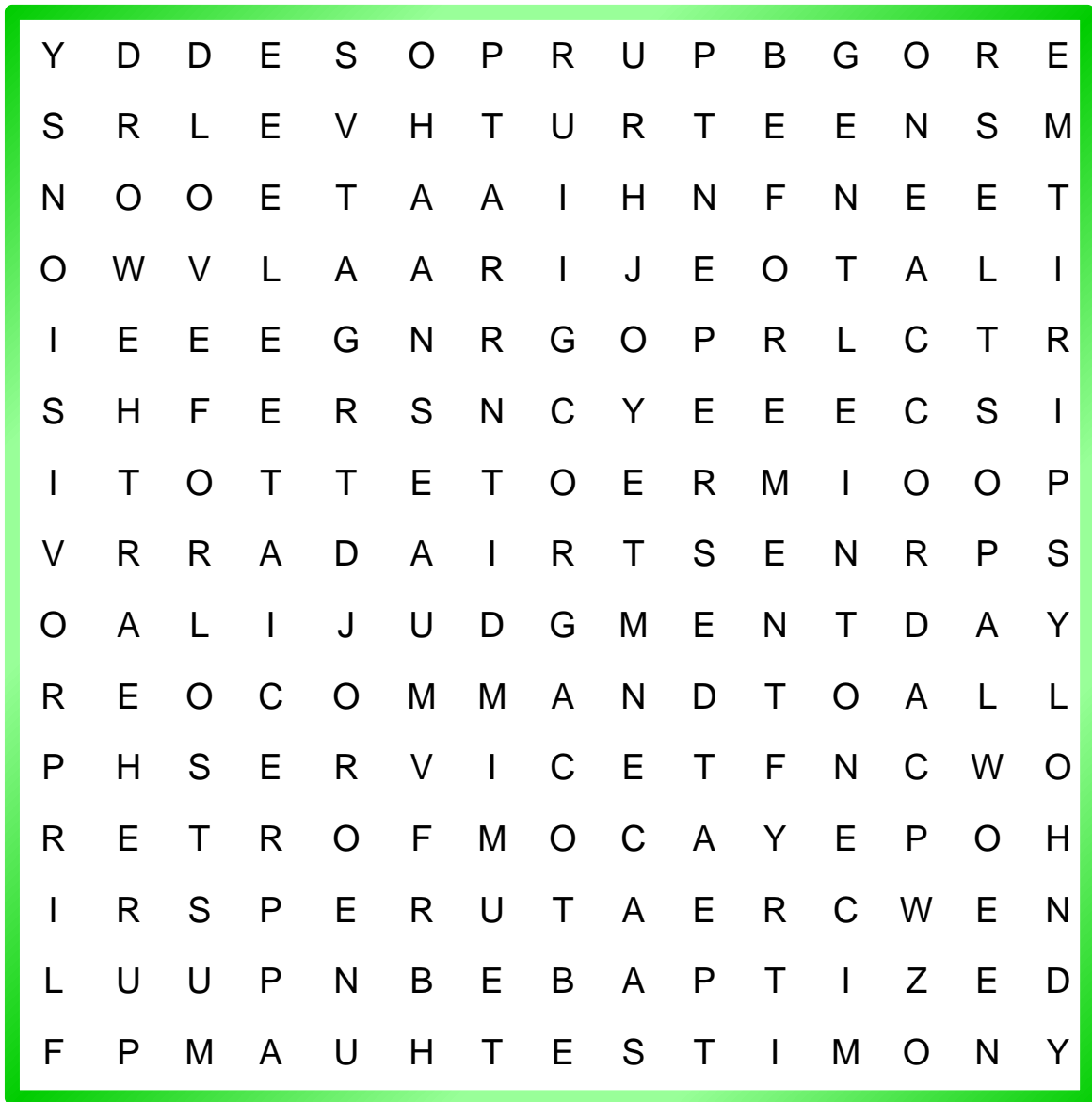
Prayer this month

We ask that you pray for:

- The affected by the flooding in India and the USA;
- A peaceful resolution to the tensions with North Korea.



WORDSEARCH



Christ's salvation plan

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: _____

- | | | | |
|----------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|
| Apostles | Glory | Must | Sovereignty |
| Appreciate | Hear the Word | New Creature | Testimony |
| Be Baptized | Holy Spirit | One accord | Thirst |
| Before Men | Hope | Provisions | Triad |
| Comforter | Joy | Pure Heart | Truth |
| Command to All | Judgment Day | Purpose | Watery grave |
| Consecrated | Lean Not | Repent | |
| Gentle in tone | Love for Lost | Service | |

A prayer of St Anselm

I pray that I may so
know You and love You
that I may rejoice in You.
And if I may not do so
fully in this life,
let me go steadily on
to the day when I may
come to that fullness...
Let me receive
that which You promised
through Your truth,
that my joy may be full.

St Anselm

1033-1109



With God all things are possible.

An Ancient Prayer

Give me a good digestion, Lord,
And also something to digest.
Give me a healthy body, Lord,
With sense to keep it at its best.

Give me a healthy mind, O Lord,
To keep the good and pure in sight,
Which seeing wrong is not appalled
But finds a way to set it right.

Give me a mind that is not bored,
That does not whimper, whine or sigh.
Don't let me worry overmuch
About that fussy thing called "I".

Give me a sense of humour, Lord,
Give me the grace to see a joke,
To get some happiness from life
And pass it on to other folk.

Shovelling

The story is told of a farmer who was known for his generous giving, and whose friends could not understand how he could give so much and yet remain so prosperous.

One day a friend said, *"We can't understand it. You give far more than any of the rest of us, and yet you always seem to have more to give."*

"That's easy to explain," the farmer said, *"I keep shovelling into God's bin, and God keeps shovelling back into mine, and God has a bigger shovel."*



Sunday Services

Held at 10.30am every Sunday.

Preachers

3 rd Sep	Oliver Buckley
10 th Sep	Judith Harrison
17 th Sep	Rev Brenda Hill
24 th Sep	Rev Simon Copley
1 st Oct	Peter Drabble

Friendship Group

Held at 2.00pm every Wednesday.

Speakers

6 th Sep	Rev Jenny Park
13 th Sep	Rev Simon Copley
20 th Sep	Anne Holmes
27 th Sep	Wayne Ashton
4 th Oct	Alan Taylor

What's on

Games night and buffet tea –
11th Sep @ 6.30pm

Care home services –
21st Sep @ 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: Bubba Watson

Bubba Watson is best known as a professional golfer. He is also a committed Christian who speaks openly about the importance of faith in his life.

Gerry Lester "Bubba" Watson Jr was born on 5th November 1978 in Bagdad, Florida, USA. He was given his nickname as a youngster because his dad thought he looked like the NFL star, Bubba Smith. He grew up in a poor family – wearing knickers hand-sewn by his grandmother until he was twelve. He was given a cut-down 9-iron from his father, and learned to play golf by hitting a plastic ball around the house.

Bubba turned professional in 2003 and won his first PGA Tour competition in June 2010 just a few months before his father died of cancer. He won the US Masters Tournament in 2012 and 2014.

He is married to Angie Ball in September 2004. Unable to have a child naturally, they adopted a baby boy in 2012 and a baby girl in 2014.

When he was 19 a neighbour invited him to church; it was his first time in a service. During college, his church attendance tapered off, but in 2004 he got baptized with his new wife, Angie. Shortly afterwards, though, he started to drift away from God. Bubba struggled with insecurity, he would have devastating meltdowns after a bad shot, and looked for people to blame when things went wrong. With every shot, Bubba grew seemingly out of control.

Things got so heated during a golf tournament that his caddie, Ted Scott, rebuked him for his behaviour on the course and threatened to quit. That was his wake-up call. With the help of his wife, his caddie, and fellow Christian golfers, Bubba admits that God has helped – and continues to help – him overcome the temperamental side of his personality.

Perhaps the most powerful Christian impact he has experienced has been the PGA Tour's weekly Bible study, held every Wednesday night during tournament weeks. Rickie Fowler, Matt Kuchar, Zach Johnson, along with Watson, are some of the regulars, with attendance ranging from 16 to 50 on any given week. The one-hour study is something Bubba looks forward to, *"Getting more in the Word and realizing that golf is just an avenue for Jesus to use me to reach as many people as I can."*

Bubba isn't ashamed of his talking about his faith. He uses his Twitter account, where he is followed by 1.56 million, to spread the message. Sometimes he'll Tweet out some of his favourite verses including **Hebrews 13:6** *"So we say with confidence, 'The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can mere man do to me?'"*



Bubba was once asked on Twitter what the most important thing was in his life. His response: ***"Most important things in my life – 1. God 2. Wife 3. Family 4. Helping others 5. Golf."***