

# GREASBROUGH UNITED CHURCH

## January 2018

Dear friends

The Christian year starts with the feast of Epiphany when we remember the wise men coming to worship the infant Jesus. Someone once said: "Wise men sought Jesus – they still do!"

Wisdom is not about intelligence or knowing a lot. Wisdom is about knowing the best thing to do in any given situation or the right path to take or the way to respond to circumstances. Wisdom is not necessarily about knowing the difference between right and wrong; sometimes it's about the choice between one or more courses of action, even when they could all be good or even when you face a "Hobson's Choice"!! Wisdom is freely available to us all if we ask God. He will give it generously (James 1).

Yes, life can be confusing and we are continually bombarded and confused by more and more choices and more complex issues facing us.

Likewise, the wise men looked up into the night sky and saw millions of stars. But they chose the one star that led them to Christ. They followed it unwaveringly, even when it seemed to be leading to some very unexpected places.

As we enter 2018, and an increasingly confused and confusing world, I pray that we may choose the one direction that leads us, through Christ, to a life of simple trust, health and holiness - and to the peace which Christ promises those who trust in Him.

With much love

*Simon*



# News



Well A New Year is upon and I am sure many of you have made some plans for the coming year. Once everyone has shaken off all the bad health issues around, I trust that we may all look forward to the coming year in our church with anticipation.

We finished off the old year in style with great carol services at the Nursing Homes followed by our Christmas Party. They were a great success and it was a chance to celebrate with friends old and new.

The collection for Christian Aid amounted to £100, but if you would still like to make a donation via the envelopes, it is not too late.

To finish, I would now like to take this opportunity to Wish Everyone a Truly Blessed and Peaceful and Healthy New Year.

*Jean*



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

The Bible is a letter God has sent us: prayer is a letter we send to him.

**Matthew Henry**



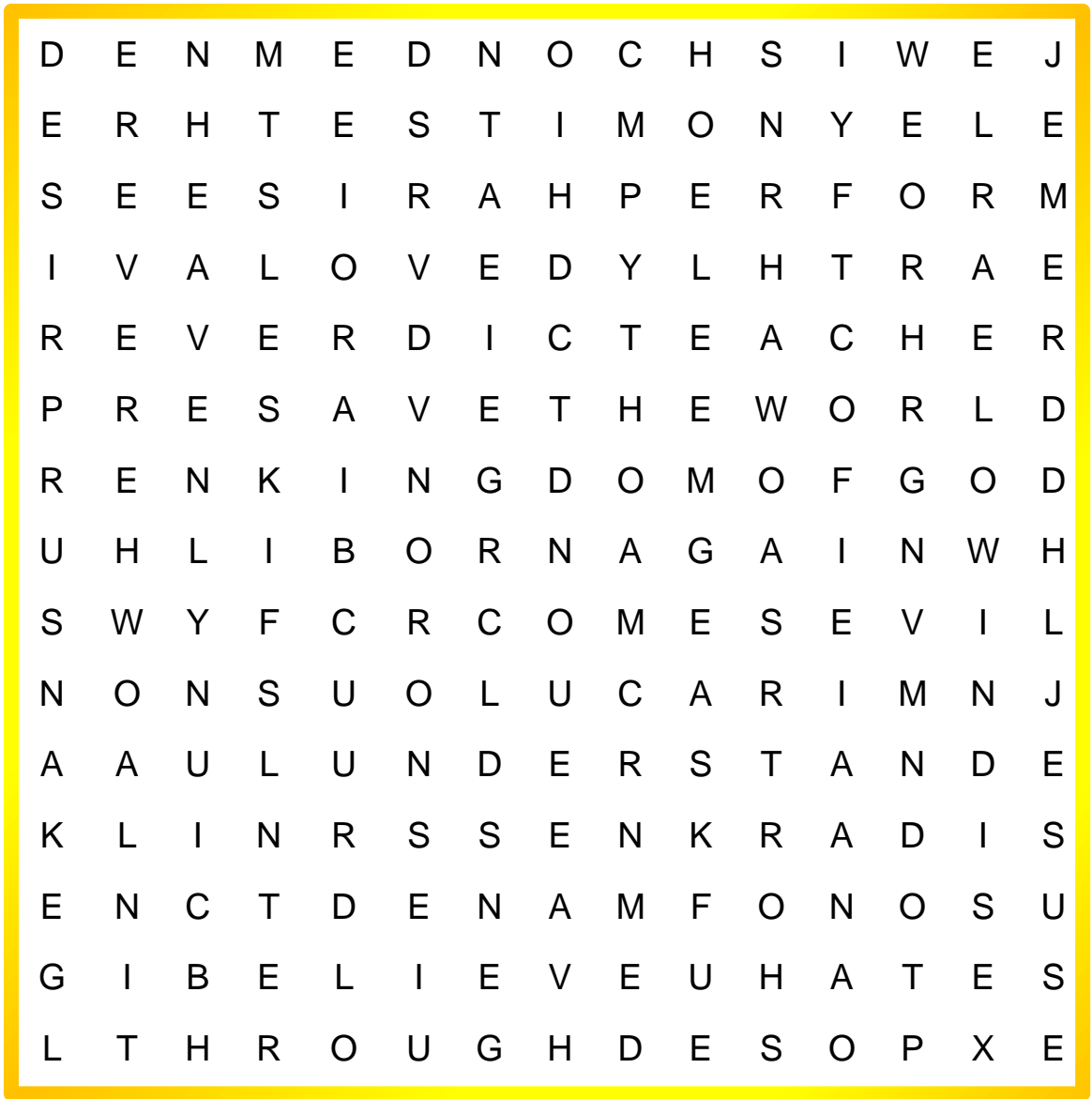
"WELL, I SUPPOSE THIS RULES OUT THE 'HALLELUIAH CHORUS'..."

## *Prayer this month*

We ask that you pray for:

- New Year, new beginnings in all peace discussions;
- New commitment to where we belong

# WORDSEARCH



## God's Great Gift

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:** \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

- |            |                |                |            |
|------------|----------------|----------------|------------|
| Believe    | Exposed        | Miraculous     | Surprised  |
| Born again | Hates          | Nicodemus      | Teacher    |
| Comes      | Heavenly       | Perform        | Testimony  |
| Condemned  | Him            | Pharisees      | Through    |
| Council    | Jesus          | Ruling         | Understand |
| Darkness   | Jewish         | Save the World | Verdict    |
| Done       | Kingdom of God | Snake          | Wherever   |
| Earthly    | Lives          | Son of Man     | Wind       |
| Evil       | Loved          | Sound          |            |



## Another Year is Dawning

Another year is dawning,  
Dear Master, let it be,  
In working, or in waiting,  
Another year with Thee.

Another year of mercies,  
Of faithfulness and grace;  
Another year of gladness  
In the shining of Thy face.

Another year of progress,  
Another year of praise,  
Another year of proving  
Thy presence all the days.

Another year of service,  
Of witness of Thy love,  
Another year of training  
For holier work above.

Another year is dawning,  
Dear Master, let it be  
On earth, or else in heaven  
Another year for Thee.

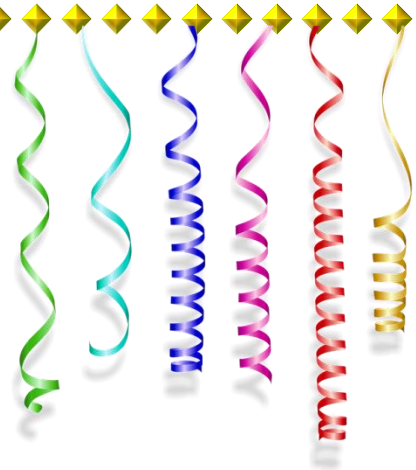
*Francis Ridley Havergal*



## A New Year Brings a New Beginning

As the new year and the old one ends  
There's no better time to make amends  
For all the things we sincerely regret  
And wish in our hearts we could somehow forget  
We all make mistakes for it's human to err  
But no one need ever give up in despair  
For God gives us all a Brand New Beginning  
A chance to start over again and repent of our sinning  
And when God forgives us we too must forgive  
And resolve to do better each day that we live  
By constantly trying to be like him more nearly  
And to trust in his wisdom and love him more dearly  
Assured that we're never out of his care  
And we're always welcome to seek him in prayer.

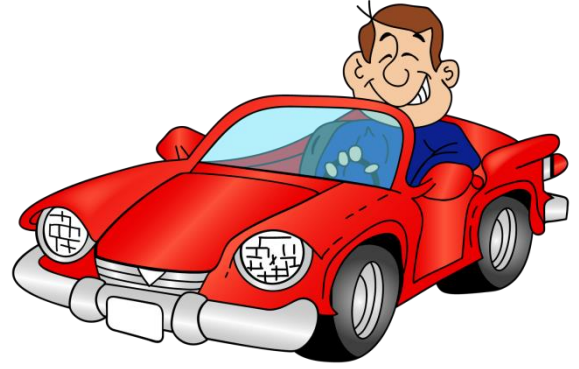
*Helena Steiner Rice*



## *In the driving seat*

A Sunday School teacher was explaining the story of Adam and Eve one Sunday morning. She then asked the children to draw a picture illustrating the story.

Little Fred was most interested and drew a picture of a car with three people in it. Driving was a man and in the back seat were a man and a woman.



The teacher could not understand how this illustrated the story of Adam and Eve. But Fred was prompt with his explanation. Pointing at the 'driver', Fred said; ***"This is God driving Adam and Eve out of the garden!"***

### *Sunday Services*

Held at 10.30am every Sunday.

#### *Preachers*

7 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Rod Morrison
14 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Jean Kirk
21 <sup>st</sup> Jan	Val Morrison
28 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Rev Simon Copley
3 <sup>rd</sup> Feb	Rev Jenny Park

### *Friendship Group*

Held at 2.00pm every Wednesday.

#### *Speakers*

3 <sup>rd</sup> Jan	No meeting
10 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Open meeting
17 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Open meeting
24 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Open meeting
31 <sup>st</sup> Jan	Open meeting

### *What's on*

#### **Church Meeting –**

11<sup>th</sup> Jan @ 7.00pm

#### **Care home services –**

18<sup>th</sup> Jan @ 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](mailto:Greasbrough.United.Church@sky.com)

Website: [www.greasbroughunitedchurch.org.uk](http://www.greasbroughunitedchurch.org.uk)

## Meet the disciples: Simon Peter

Little is known of Peter's early life. He was called Simon (Peter being the name given to him by Jesus). He was the son of John (aka Jonah). We know that he came from the village of Bethsaida, and that he lived and worked in Capernaum as a fisherman on Lake Galilee, along with his brother Andrew. We also know that he was married, as there is a Bible story of Jesus healing his mother-in-law.

The Bible says much about Peter, particularly his very human characteristics:

**He attempted acts of faith, but often failed:** When Jesus walked on water towards the fishing boat, Peter immediately got out of the boat and started walking towards Jesus, but then began sinking when his faith faltered.

**He respectful:** at the Last Supper Jesus washed his disciple's feet, Peter initially refused saying that he should have washed Jesus' feet.

**He wasn't afraid to argue with Jesus:** When Jesus predicted his own death, Peter tried to rebuke him, but he was discrete taking Jesus aside first.

**He was impetuous:** When the soldiers came to arrest Jesus in Gethsemane, Peter drew his sword and cut off the ear of the high priest's servant.

**He has moments of insight:** When Jesus asked "Who do you say that I am?" Peter answered "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God."

**He had periods of rashness and weakness:** During the Last Supper, Jesus foretold that Peter would deny him three times before the cock crowed. Peter was adamant that he would remain loyal but, following Jesus' arrest later that night, he did deny that he knew Jesus on three occasions.

After the Resurrection, Jesus appeared by the Sea of Galilee and charged Peter to "feed my sheep". Peter was the first of the apostles to preach the Word to non-Jews. This was after he received a vision from God that allowed for the eating of previously unclean animals. After which he baptised the Roman Cornelius and his family.

According to the writings of Origen (184–253) and Eusebius (260–340) Peter founded the Church of Antioch. Dionysius, bishop of Corinth, in his Epistle to the Roman Church (165-174) stated that Peter and Paul founded the Church of Rome and the Church of Corinth, and they lived in Corinth for some time and finally in Italy where they were both killed. Tradition has it that Peter went to Rome around 65AD where he was crucified head downward under the persecution of Christians by the Emperor Nero.

Two books of the Bible are attributed to having been written by Peter, although there is now some doubt about this. It is also suggested that the Gospel of Mark was written by a person named John Mark who had been an assistant to Peter for a long time, and that was written with Peter's help.

