

GREASBROUGH UNITED CHURCH

February 2018

Neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow. 1 Corinthians 3:7

Dear friends

A number of us attended a special Church conference before Christmas: *Leading Your Church Into Growth (LyCiG)* – It gave us much to think about!

LyCiG addresses three different kinds of growth: **Numerical** (More people coming to Jesus), **Spiritual** (More people becoming more like Jesus), **Missional** (More ways of taking the love of Jesus into our community).

All of these aspects are important and inter-linked: we want people to be added to our number, certainly (**numerical**), but WHY? Not simply to fill the chairs and massage our egos! We want people to deepen their relationship with God (**spiritual**), but WHY? Not just so they overcome their own difficulties! We want people to grow by finding a way to serve the needs of the community and the world (**missional**) – In fact serving is half the battle in overcoming our difficulties!

But the needs of the world are so great – we cannot possibly meet even Greasbrough's without driving ourselves into the ground, and this is not the

Father's will for His children! So, we need more people to work with us in fulfilling our mission – bringing us, full circle, to **numerical** – and so we begin again.

Whatever sort of growth we are going to experience in the next year, we can be certain that growth is a natural process that happens at God's pace. Because only He can make it happen in the end. But we do need to co-operate with Him, create the loving, inviting and nurturing atmosphere which helps growth – and, of course, ask God, through prayer, to bring growth – so that we can love and serve Him more, as He deserves. There is a simple prayer you can use to do that, at any time, in this newsletter.

Jesus said: "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field."

Pray that our love and vision to serve both grow, so that our church grows in number, to keep pace!

With love and vision

Simon

News

Celebrations have been in order this past month as Margaret White reached her 80th birthday and had a family meal out in Wentworth on the weekend before the event and an afternoon tea at church on her actual birthday. Many congratulations Margaret on this special occasion.

As you may already know, Betty has received an award from the community for her unstinting work of arranging the Remembrance services at Greasbrough Cenotaph for many, many years. A very well deserved award Betty.

I have received an e-mail from Operation Christmas Child Appeal to say that our shoe boxes were sent to Central Asia. A total of 678,942 children in Eastern Europe, Central Asia, Africa and the Middle East received a box. How pleasing to think

that we were able to spread a little Joy and Pleasure to these needy children.

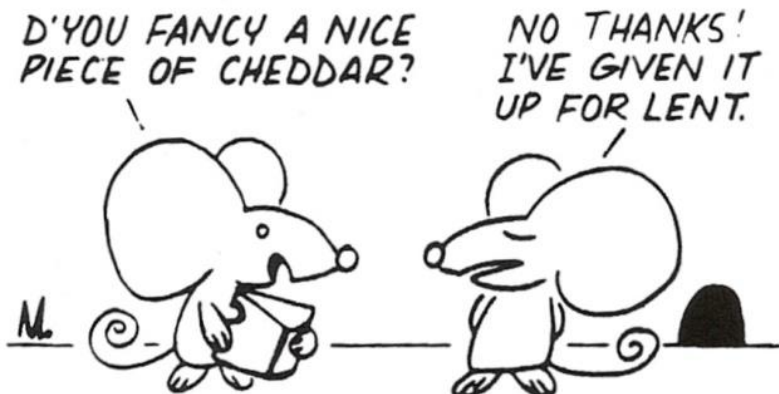
At our last church meeting, it was mentioned that we now need a new church charity for this year. If you have any suggestions, then please speak to an elder.

As you will see in the forward notices, Lent studies are to be held on the 1st and 8th March and these will be at 34 Green Street at 7.00pm and will be led by Rev Simon.

It is that time of year again where we appeal for funds to help support our sponsored child Andrea through his schooling. If you can make a donation (no matter how small) then please will you give it to Martyn or put it in a marked envelope into the collection plate. Thanking you in anticipation of your generosity supporting Andrea.

It just now leaves me to mention that our first Social Event of the year will be on Monday the 26th February at 6.30pm starting with Soup and Sweet.

Jean



Prayer this month

We ask that you pray for:

- **Church growth;**
- **Worship leaders.**

WORDSEARCH



God's love and the Bible

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: _ _ _ _ _

- | | | | | |
|-----------|--------------|---------|--------------|------------|
| Abraham | Church | Eternal | Mary | Risen |
| Angels | Comforter | God | Mercy | Romans |
| Apostles | Commandments | Good | Moses | Salvation |
| Ark | Confession | Jesus | Paul | Shepherd |
| Baptism | Corinthians | John | Peace | Sin |
| Believe | Creation | Lamb | Peter | Son |
| Blessed | Cross | Lazarus | Resurrection | Spirit |
| Christian | Easter | Love | Revelation | Temptation |
| | | | | Victory |

Prayer for Growth

God of Mission

Who alone brings growth to your Church,
send your Holy Spirit
to give vision to our planning,
wisdom to our actions,
and power to our witness.

Help our church to grow in numbers,
in spiritual commitment to you,
and in service to our local community,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen



" I HEAR HE USED TO BE AN
OLYMPIC ATHLETE... "



Bank Account

A few years ago a Church Treasurer received a cheque representing a proportion of an annual promise. The following letter was attached:-

"My church account seems to be overdrawn. I deposited myself; I withdrew a way of life. I deposited my wedding vows; I withdrew a wonderful and satisfying marriage. I deposited my children for baptism; I withdrew the joys and privileges of parenthood. I deposited time; I withdrew the friendship of young and old.

"I deposited money. Now that's a touchy subject. What did I get for my money? a beautiful building, yes, but much more ... an investment in my children and others. A place where I feel good deep within, and the knowledge that I am at one with God ... A place to worship, a place to meet friends ... A Minister ... well who can measure the value of people who present us with God and visit the sick and comfort the bereaved and love us when we are not so loving?

"I know of no other organisation where I am free to decide how little I want to deposit and am still free to withdraw as much as I need. I will try in the future to make greater deposits, but, please don't count on me not being overdrawn, for I am already so deeply in debt."



The man who moved the mountain
began by carrying away small stones
Chinese Proverb

Pancakes

A mother was preparing pancakes for her sons, Kevin 5, and Ryan, 3. The boys began to argue over who would get the first pancake. Their mother saw the opportunity for a moral lesson.

"If Jesus were sitting here, He would say, 'Let my brother have the first pancake, I can wait.'

Kevin turned to his younger brother and said, ***"Ryan, you be Jesus!"***



Sunday Services

Held at 10.30am every Sunday.

Preachers

4 th Feb	Rev Jenny Park
11 th Feb	Morag Walder
18 th Feb	Alan Taylor
25 th Feb	Rev Simon Copley
4 th Mar	Val & Mike Ede

Friendship Group

Held at 2.00pm every Wednesday.

Speakers

7 th Feb	Rev Simon Copley
14 th Feb	Open Meeting
21 st Feb	Anne Holmes
28 th Feb	Rev Matt Stone
7 th Mar	Rev Jenny Park

What's on

Care home services –
15th Feb @ 2.00pm

Social evening Soup & Sweet –
26th Feb @ 6.30pm

Lent Study, at 34 Green Street –
1st & 8th Mar @ 7.00pm

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

Meet the disciples: Bartholomew, aka Nathanael

Very little is known about Bartholomew because he was so infrequently mentioned in the Bible – in the books of Matthew, Mark, Luke and Acts he is mentioned just once in the list of the disciples.

Most Bible scholars believe Bartholomew is the same person as Nathanael. Bartholomew is a family name, meaning 'son of Tolmai.' Bartholomew always follows Philip in lists of the Twelve. In the Gospel of John, Bartholomew is not mentioned at all; Nathanael is listed instead, after Philip. His full name would then be Nathanael bar Tolmai (ie Nathanael Bartholomew).

If Bartholomew and Nathanael were one and the same, then he was born in Cana in Galilee. He is usually associated with Philip who introduced Bartholomew to Jesus.

His initial reaction to Jesus was sceptical saying, *'Can anything good come from Nazareth.'*

Jesus' response was somewhat different *'Here is a real Israelite; there is nothing false in him!'*

Whilst the Bible doesn't say much about Nathanael, we can learn a little about his characteristics:

He had prejudices: When Philip told him that he had found Jesus of Nazareth, Nathanael's response was *'Nazareth! Can anything good come from there?'*

He was quick to believe: immediately upon meeting Jesus he said *'Rabbi, you are the Son of God; you are the king of Israel.'*

He had periods of weakness: like most of the disciples, he abandoned Jesus during his trial and crucifixion.

According to the 4th Century historian Eusebius, Nathanael travelled to India and preached about Jesus to the people who lived in the northeast portion of the realm.

Other traditions record him as travelling to Ethiopia, Mesopotamia (modern-day Iraq), Parthia (modern-day Iran), and Lycaonia (modern-day Turkey).

Popular traditions say that he went on with Jude to the Roman province of Armenia. The men gained a lot of converts for Christ in the region and even convinced the Armenian King Polymius to turn to Christianity.

He was killed in 68AD on the orders of the king's brother Astyages in revenge. Most legends say his skin was flayed off his body and he was crucified upside down.

