

# GREASBROUGH UNITED CHURCH

## March 2018

### *George's Best Decision*

The story of Naaman in the Bible is well known (2 Kings 5). Naaman was a great man; honourable and a mighty man of valour. But he was a leper. George Best, the famous footballer had the world at his feet. He had looks, talent, fame and fortune. But he was an alcoholic.

George's WORST decision must have been to take his first drink. George's lifestyle had caught up with him. He was very ill.

Both Naaman and George were given the opportunity to make life-changing decisions. God was working in both their lives. In Naaman's home he has a little captive maid who told of the prophet Elisha in Samaria who would be able to help him. Naaman decided to seek out the prophet and then following his Instructions he was healed of leprosy.

In the hospital God had Joyce, a nurse, who read the Bible and prayed with George at every opportunity. About three weeks before his death George accepted the Lord Jesus Christ as his Saviour; making without doubt the BEST decision of his life.

George enjoyed many privileges as a celebrity. His status meant he was treated like royalty on many occasions. However his place in heaven was gained when he took his place as a sinner and not as George Best, world famous footballer.

On the 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2005, the day of George's funeral, his sister got assurance from God about where George was now. The Daily Reading was ***"This thy brother was dead and is alive again, was lost and is found."*** The story of the prodigal son is found in Luke 15:11-32.

It is never too soon to come home to God. But you could leave it too late. Dear friend please do not put off salvation in the hope of a last minute conversion, you may not get that chance.

***"Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation"*** (2 Corinthians 6:2).

**The above is extracted from literature produced by Mr John McIntosh of Northern Ireland.**

# News

**Thankyou** so much as the response for supporting Andrea through his schooling has been terrific as £160 has been donated towards the cost of our sponsorship of him.

I have emailed Operation Christmas Child Appeal for more specific details as to where our boxes had been sent to but as of yet I have not had a reply.

So far, no suggestions have been put forward for our church charity this year so please give this your further consideration.

As you will see in the forward notices, we will hold a Lent Study on 8<sup>th</sup> March at 34 Green Street at 7.00pm, which will be led by Rev Simon. This will be a very casual gathering and if you have not been before then we would love to see you there.

Please don't forget the service on Good Friday (30<sup>th</sup> March) at 7.00pm led by Rev Simon.

You will have heard LYCIG (Leading Your Church into Growth) mentioned several times recently. Several of us will be going along with Simon to Bolton Villas church in Bradford on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> March to learn more about this and to hear how other churches are progressing. Please let me know me if you would like to come along as you would be most welcome.

Well we had our first social evening of the year last Monday and we had good fun as usual. I never knew beetles could be drawn in so many ways Ha! Ha! The very tasty soups and sweets were most welcome on a cold winter's night. A big thank you to all, who made this such a pleasurable event and at the same time we raised £93 on the night which will help towards the running costs of our church.

## Jean



"DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING FOR FORTY DAYS AND FORTY NIGHTS?"

### *Prayer this month*

**We ask that you pray:**

- **For growth in churches across the land;**
- **against the use of guns in America.**

# WORDSEARCH



## Passover

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

- |                |             |               |               |
|----------------|-------------|---------------|---------------|
| Aaron          | Doorframes  | Israelites    | Roasted lamb  |
| Bitter herbs   | Exodus      | Lord's Supper | Sacrifice     |
| Blood of Jesus | Feast       | Loud wailing  | Springtime    |
| Body of Jesus  | Firstborn   | Matzo         | Staff in hand |
| Celebration    | Generations | Moses         | Traditions    |
| Circumcised    | Haste       | Pharaoh       |               |
| Consecration   | Horseradish | Remembrance   |               |

## Get painting

Jock, the painter, often would thin his paint so it would go further. So when the Church decided to do some deferred maintenance, Jock was able to put in the low bid, and got the job. As always, he thinned his paint way down with turpentine.

One day while he was up on the scaffolding – the job almost finished – he heard a horrendous clap of thunder, and the sky opened.

The downpour washed the thinned paint off the church and knocked Jock off his scaffold and onto the lawn among the gravestones and puddles of thinned and worthless paint.

Jock knew this was a warning from the Almighty, so he got on his knees and cried: **“Oh, God! Forgive me! What should I do?”**

And from the thunder, a mighty voice: **“Repaint! Repaint! And thin no more!”**



## In the Garden of Gethsemane

*Before the dawn of Easter*

*There came Gethsemane...*

*Before the resurrection*

*There were hours of agony...*

*For there can be no crown of stars*

*Without a cross to bear,*

*And there is no salvation*

*Without **faith** and **love** and **prayer**,*

*And when we take our needs to God*

*Let us pray as did his Son*

*That dark night in Gethsemane -*

*"Thy will, not mine, be done".*

I have been driven many times, to my knees by the overwhelming conviction that I had nowhere else to go.

**Abraham Lincoln**

**Helen Steiner Rice**



"AT LAST! - A CONGREGATION!"

## Keep to the point

One Sunday morning a minister stood up in front of his congregation.

***"Good morning. You'll be glad to know that when I asked my secretary to type this sermon out for me I asked her to eliminate anything that was dull or confusing. So, in conclusion..."***



### Sunday Services

Held at 10.30am every Sunday.

#### Preachers

4 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Margaret Gould
11 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Judith Garthwaite
18 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Clive Taylor
25 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Rev Simon Copley
1 <sup>st</sup> Apr	John Haycox (Easter)

### Friendship Group

Held at 2.00pm every Wednesday.

#### Speakers

7 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Open Meeting
14 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Rev Lynn Broadhead
21 <sup>st</sup> Mar	Rev Simon Copley
28 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Rev Jenny Park
4 <sup>th</sup> Apr	Open Meeting

### What's on

**Lent Study, at 34 Green Street –**  
8<sup>th</sup> Mar @ 7.00pm

**Care home services –**  
15<sup>th</sup> Mar @ 2.00pm

**Good Friday Service –**  
30<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:Greasbrough.United.Church@sky.com)

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

## Meet the disciples: Judas Iscariot

Judas was the son of Simon Iscariot. The significance of "Iscariot" is uncertain; there are several ideas including:

1. It comes from the Hebrew 'ishq'riyoth' meaning 'man of Kerioth.' This would indicate that either Judas or his father Simon came from Kerioth, a region in Judea as well as two Judean towns.
2. It comes from the Aramaic for 'Skaryota' which identifies Judas as a member of the Sicarii, a radical Jewish group that included terrorists intent on driving the Romans out of Judea.

Judas is somewhat of an enigma because it is so hard to see how anyone who was so close to Jesus, who saw so many miracles and heard so much of Jesus' teaching could ever betray him. Other than him being a disciple, his betrayal, and his death, little else is revealed about Judas in the Gospels. There is nothing about the circumstances of his call.

We do know that he was in charge of the group's funds and the Gospels say he had a habit of stealing the money for himself. In John 12, Judas objected when Mary poured perfume on Jesus' feet, saying that the perfume (which cost a year's wages) could have been sold and the money given to the poor. But it also goes on to say that he was a thief and used to steal from the money purse.

According to all four Gospels, Judas agreed to betray Jesus by handing him over to the chief priests to be murdered. In the Gospel of John, Judas Iscariot agreed to lead the chief priests to Jesus and identify him with a kiss on the cheek. In return, the chief priests gave Judas 30 pieces of silver.

One suggestion is that because Judas may have been part of the Sicarii he had expected Jesus to overthrow Roman rule and that he became disillusioned and betrayed Jesus because he loved his country and thought Jesus had failed it.

There are two variations of how Judas died. The Gospels of Mark, Luke and John do not mention his death, but there are accounts in Matthew and Acts:

1. According to Matthew 27, after hearing of the death sentence, he was overcome by remorse and tried to return the bribe to the priests, ending up by throwing the money on the temple floor. He then committed suicide by hanging himself. The priests, who did not want to take the blood money back, used it to buy a potter's field for use as a graveyard for strangers. The field became known as "the field of blood".
2. In Acts 1 it says that Judas himself used the money to buy a field, but fell headfirst, burst open in the middle and all his bowels gushed out.

