

GREASBROUGH UNITED CHURCH

July 2018

“We have this treasure in jars of clay”

Dear friends

Jeremiah, the prophet, was directed by God to buy a field in his home town of Anathoth in Judea. He paid a considerable price in silver and jumped through all the hoops to make the sale binding and legal (see Jeremiah 32).

But he did this at a time when Judea was under siege from the Babylonian empire and everything was about to collapse. Jeremiah was, himself held captive by the Judeans because of his doom-laden predictions of calamity.

Do you ever find yourself feeling that things are falling apart? Do you find yourself, like Jeremiah, captive – perhaps to fears and doubts, and, honestly, unable to see a bright future for our nation in these difficult times?

But buying the field was an act of faith in difficult times. According to the Word that the Lord gave him, it was a sign that at some point in the future, people would “buy and sell” again in Judah – that normal life, prosperity and peace would be restored.

Jeremiah’s purchase of a small piece of land was a representative symbol of what God would do for the whole land.

Likewise we are each called to do our little part, maybe sometimes feeling like a futile gesture, but an act of faith, a lighting of a single candle in the darkness. In living out God’s purposes in our own lives and playing our small part we are holding before God the whole of His creation – one gesture, one act or word of kindness encapsulates ALL the life of the world. IN saving a soul we save humanity.

Many looked at Jesus on the cross and saw it as a futile gesture of despair, defeat and hopelessness – but it was the source of life, healing and salvation for the whole of creation.

Jeremiah stored up the title deeds to his parcel of land in a clay pot so that it would survive many days through the upheavals to come. In the same way, the treasure of God’s Kingdom is stored up in “jars of clay” – our fragile lives, until the Kingdom arrives (see 2 Corinthians 4, 7-11). We carry within us the seeds of hope for the future. It may be a long way off but it is coming. Let us act accordingly!

With all my love

Simon

News

What a very meaningful service it was last Sunday as we welcomed 2 new members into our church. It was a real family affair as firstly Darren was baptized into the family of God and then he and his Mum Karen both affirmed their faith as they became members. We wish them both Joy and Peace in their personal walk with The Lord.

I am sorry to say that Grace has had a fall at home and has injured her shoulder and had a short stay in hospital. She is now home and her granddaughter Justine stayed with her for a few days. She is now receiving help from carers and physios for a while and is in good spirits as she has received many visitors and we wish her a speedy recovery.

I just thought that I would let you know that a minister never stops learning.

Our Rev Simon is off to summer school shortly and we wish him a relaxed time of learning and contemplation with his fellow colleagues and that he comes back renewed. He will be having a 3 week holiday in the USA in late July and we wish both he and Judith a terrific holiday.

If during his absence you need a minister, then please contact an elder who will be able to arrange appropriate help for you.

Congratulations are in order for Ethel our friend from the Nursing Home as she has recently celebrated her 98th birthday. (It puts my 70th birthday into the shade Ha! Ha!)

We have another social evening scheduled for the 30th July starting at 6.30pm so make a note in your diaries. More details will be announced nearer the time.

Jean



'The Reverend must have given 'em quite a pep talk today'

Prayer this month

We ask that you pray for:

- **all who are seeking refuge in other countries;**
- **a new harmony between countries inspired by the World Cup.**

WORDSEARCH

P B S E A J W T E A C H I N G
H E E N B C E O O D E U G R A
I L L H O A C R N M M F A E C
L I P O F I R O U D I I L B O
I R I J O S T T M S E I I U N
P V C H L E B C H P A R L K F
A E S E L N B E U O A L E E E
R D I A O A R L T R L N E D S
A E D L W M O L I H T O I M S
B R O I E E T O L S S S M E E
L A U N R S H C S O T A N E D
E E B G S H E X O N V E I I W
S P T B E T R A Y E D E N D C
D P E Q U E S T I O N E D E A
S A D U J G T E S T I F I E D

Jesus and the Twelve

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: _ _ _ _ _

Accompanied
Appeared
Argued
Bartholomew
Believed
Bethsaida
Betrayed
Brothers

Confessed
Disciples
Doubted
Fishermen
Followers
Galilee
Gethsemane
Healing

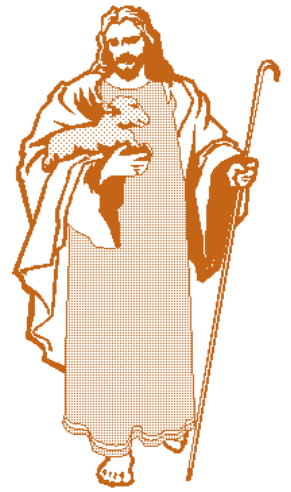
Instructions
Jerusalem
John
Judas
Listened
Loved
Parables
Philip

Questioned
Rebuked
Tax collector
Teaching
Testified
Wondered

The Lord is my Shepherd

A Sunday School teacher decided to have her young class memorize one of the most quoted passages in the Bible; Psalm 23. She gave the youngsters a month to learn the verse. Little Bobby was excited about the task. But, he just couldn't remember the Psalm. After much practice, he could barely get past the first line.

On the day that the kids were scheduled to recite Psalm 23 in front of the congregation, Bobby was so nervous. When it was his turn, he stepped up to the microphone and said proudly, "***The Lord is my shepherd ... and that's all I need to know.***"



Then Jesus took his disciples up the mountain and taught them saying:

Blessed are the poor in spirit for theirs is the kingdom of Heaven
Blessed are the meek
Blessed are they who mourn
Blessed are the merciful
Blessed are they who thirst for justice
Blessed are all the concerned
Blessed are you when persecuted
Blessed are you when you suffer
Be glad and rejoice for your reward is great in Heaven.

Try to remember what I am telling you.

Then Simon Peter said; 'Will this count for continuous assessment?'
Andrew said; 'Will we have a test on it?'
James said; 'When do we have to know it for?'
Philip said; 'How many words?'
Bartholomew said; 'Will we have to stand up and say it in front of the others?'
John said; 'The other disciples didn't have to learn it by heart.'
Judas said; 'What is it worth?'

And the other disciples likewise.

Then one of the Pharisees who was present asked to see Jesus' aims and objectives, and his list of priorities, and inquired of Jesus his profile components, his attainment tasks and his personal record of achievement.

And Jesus wept.

Quaker literature



John Wesley's Rule

*Do all the good you can,
By all the means you can,
In all the ways you can,
In all the places you can,
At all the times you can,
To all the people you can,
As long as ever you can.*

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Sunday Services

Held at 10.30am every Sunday.

Preachers

1 st Jul	Phil Critchlow
8 th Jul	Peter Drabble
15 th Jul	Margaret Gould
22 nd Jul	Rev Simon Copley
29 th Jul	Rev Jo Archer-Siddall

Friendship Group

Held at 2.00pm every Wednesday.

Speakers

4 th Jul	Open Meeting
11 th Jul	NO MEETING
18 th Jul	Rev Lynn Broadhead
25 th Jul	Rev Simon Copley
1 st Aug	Open Meeting

What's on

Care home services –
19th July @ 2.00pm

Church Meeting –
26th July @ 7.00pm

Social evening –
30th July @ 6.30pm

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: James, son of Zebedee

James, along with his brother John, was one of the first to be called as a disciple by Jesus. He came from Bethsaida in Judea. He was the son of Zebedee and it is believed that his mother was Salome, who went to the tomb with Mary Magdalene after the crucifixion.

James was fishing with his father and John the Apostle when Jesus came to the shores of the Sea of Galilee and called for the fisherman, who were unable to catch any fish that day, to dip their nets in the water once again. When the fishermen followed Jesus' instructions, they found their nets full, and after emptying the fish on board, the boats nearly sank from their weight.

Together with Peter and John, James was a close confidant of Jesus, being present at many important events, including the resurrection of the daughter of Jairus, Jesus' transfiguration, and the agony in Gethsemane.

In the Gospel of Mark, Jesus nicknames James and John the "sons of thunder" for their tempers. When James and his brother wanted to call down fire on a Samaritan town, they were rebuked by Jesus.

Following Christ's Ascension, James spread the Gospel across Israel and the Roman Empire as well. He later returned to Jerusalem but was martyred for his faith by King Herod, who had him beheaded with a sword. He is the only apostle whose martyrdom is recorded in the Bible.

Some people confuse the James, son of Zebedee, as the author of the Book of James but that was a different James. The Book of James was written after James' death, around 44AD.

