

GREASBROUGH UNITED CHURCH

September 2018

“I urge you, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice – this is your true and proper worship...Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is – his good, pleasing and perfect will.” Romans 12: 1-2

I suspect none of us would commit to anything unless we knew what was involved. But Paul, in Romans, gives a very different picture of Christian life! He encourages us to present our bodies to God as a living sacrifice (our bodies – thus showing how practical our Christian service should be...). Then, after we have done this, Paul asserts that we will discover how good and pleasing and perfect God’s way for us is. The order is: present yourselves first, THEN discover that God’s ways are best.

This seems appropriate as we begin another year of service and activity after our summer breaks. We do not know what this season may hold but God knows, and He encourages us to trust Him. But we will not discover how much we CAN trust Him unless we take that step of faith and commit ourselves to His way.

A man fell over a cliff, managing to grab a branch and so he clung on for dear life. The branch was slowly coming loose so he cried out: *“Is there anyone there who can help me?”*



After a while a voice answered

“This is God! What’s the problem?”

“I’m so glad You came!” shouted the man in desperation, *“Get me out of here, please!”*

“Do you trust me?” God asked. *“Of course I trust You!”* the man replied *“Please hurry!”*

“OK. Let go of the branch” said God.

There was a pause...then the man said *“Is there anyone ELSE up there who can help?!”*

Happy letting go and letting God...

Simon

News

I am pleased to say that Rev Simon is back from his holiday in the USA and Canada. He and Judith have had a great time and have many experiences to share with us.

We were are sorry to hear that Rev Brenda's older sister Cynthia has passed away recently. We send our love and thoughts to her and the whole family at this sad time and we pray that they may feel the Lord's comfort with them.

As many of you may know there has been an adverse report about Greasbrough Nursing Home which has led to Rotherham Council withdrawing their funding. This has caused great upset to the residents and staff alike. By now there will probably be approximately 7 residents left as all non self-funding residents have had to be moved to other nursing homes causing upset to them and their families and friends. Our friend

Mary New has moved to the Birmingham area nearer her relatives and we do hope that she will be happy there. Along with this is the worry of staff employed there wondering about their futures. We particularly think of Sheena, Lorraine (Margaret White's daughter) and Christine (Sheena's sister). I am sure that you will be thinking about this situation in your prayers.

As a result of all this upset, we are not sure about our continuing services there or indeed at Cherry Trees nursing home as they are also going through some changes.

You may remember Phil handing you papers about the new data protection rulings that we now have to abide by. If you have not yet completed your forms please give it your urgent consideration and please pass them onto Phil. If you have any queries about then do not hesitate to have a word with him.



Jean

the mouths of babes

by Roy Mitchell



WORDSEARCH



Jesus Christ is my friend

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: _ _ _ _ _

- | | | | | |
|----------|-------------|--------------|-----------|------------|
| Altar | Creatures | Floodwaters | Judgment | Noah |
| Animals | Decks | Food | Livestock | Rainbow |
| Ararat | Descendants | Forty days | Mankind | Righteous |
| Ark | Destroy | Forty nights | Mate | Shem |
| Balsam | Door | Fruitful | Mountains | Sin |
| Bird | Earth | Genesis | Multiply | Violence |
| Clouds | Float | Ham | Nephilim | Wickedness |
| Covenant | Floodgates | Japheth | | |

The path I walk

The path I walk, Christ walks it.
May the land in which I am in be without sorrow.
May the Trinity protect me wherever I stay,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
Bright angels walk with me
Dear presence – in every dealing ...

May every path before me be smooth,
Man, woman and child welcome me.

St Columba

Your life is a one way ticket given by God, what you say, think and do can make the journey a delight or a disaster.

Patricia Critchlow

The Man Who Touches the Heart

Every year Amnesty International appeals for people to send them Christmas cards for people all round the world who are in prison for their beliefs.

Margaret Forrester, an Edinburgh minister, put her name and address on the card she sent in and a few weeks later a letter came back from the man who had received it, a Protestant pastor in a jail in Indonesia.

Margaret could not make head or tail of it. It was a jumble of numbers and letters. The words she could make out. like Phil, Gal and Matt made no sense at all until she realised they stood for Philippians 4:14 and 1:3,4, Matthew 25:36, Galatians 6:9 and so on.

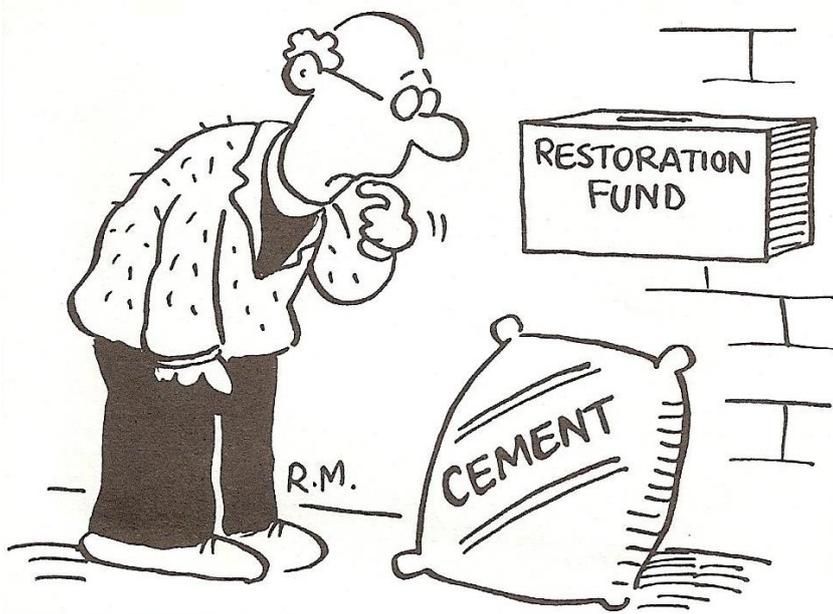
As she looked up each text in her Bible and wrote down, to her amazement a letter appeared.

It read "It was kind of you to share the burden of my troubles. I thank God whenever I think of you and when I pray for you all, my prayers are always joyful. When I was ill, you came to my help and when in prison you visited me. May God bless you all the days of your life and may you live to see your children's children. Let us never tire of doing good for if we keep going, we shall in due time reap harvest. God is with us!"

She realised the Indonesian prisoner, unable to write in English had used his knowledge of the Bible to send her a courageous message which bridged all barriers of language, censorship and distance, thanking her and assuring her that he was in good heart.

That Sunday, as Margaret told her congregation the story of the letter and read it out, she could not hold back the tears and there was scarcely a dry eye in the kirk.

(This story is an extract from Francis Gay's column in the Sunday Post.)



*Faithless is he
that says farewell
when the road
darkens.*

J R R Tolkien

Sunday Services

Held at 10.30am every Sunday.

Preachers

2 nd Sep	Gary Dowling
9 th Sep	Judith & Margaret
16 th Sep	Rev Jenny Park
23 rd Sep	Rev Simon Copley
30 th Sep	Rev Jo Archer Siddall

Friendship Group

Held at 2.00pm every Wednesday.

Speakers

5 th Sep	Patricia Critchlow
12 th Sep	Open Meeting
19 th Sep	Rev Jenny Park
26 th Sep	Rev Simon Copley
3 rd Oct	Val Ede

What's on

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: Matthew

Matthew, or Levi, was the son of Alphaeus. It is likely that he was the brother of James, who was also a 'son of Alphaeus.' It is thought that he was born in Galilee.

He was a tax collector. As such, it is likely that he would have been literate in Aramaic and Greek. He would also have been shunned by his fellow Jews, who would have despised him for what was seen as collaborating with the Roman occupation force.

Jesus' calling of Matthew is mentioned in the Gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke. He isn't mentioned at all in John.

Jesus was in Capernaum when he went for a walk down by the lake. There he found Matthew sitting at his tax collector's booth. Jesus said "Follow me" which he did, leaving everything behind. Jesus then went for dinner at Matthew's house. As expected, the dinner party wasn't with the 'respectable' people of Capernaum, but rather tax collectors and 'sinners.' The Pharisees criticised Jesus for this, at which he responded "*It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but those who are ill. ... For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners.*"

Nothing much more is mentioned in the Bible about Matthew.

The rest of Matthew's life is not recorded in the Bible. Irenaeus and Clement of Alexandria claim that Matthew preached to the Jewish community in Judea, before going to other countries. Tradition is that he died a martyr's death.



"... AND ITS A LOT LESS TROUBLE THAN A CHOIR..."

*Thy word is a
lamp to my
feet and a
light to my
path.*

Psalm 119:105

a smile's a smile
in
any
language!

