

GREASBROUGH UNITED CHURCH

February 2019

A Cross can be a Kiss

Dear friends,

As I write, I am looking out on a cold and snowy landscape – it is lovely to be snuggled in my warm study. Perhaps all we want to do on these short and dark winter days is to hibernate in the warmth – by a nice log fire or heater? Is that why February is the month in which we celebrate St Valentine's Day? We need to be reminded of the warmth of human and homely love, when the world outside is cold and devoid of comfort.

But Valentine, the saint of cosy romance, was **martyred** on 14th February, precisely because, as a priest, he married young Christian couples against the wishes of the Roman Emperor Claudius, who didn't want them to marry and increase...

Christians, today, are still the most persecuted group in the world, facing imprisonment, torture and execution in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Middle East. It may be a matter of time before we face similar threats in the UK, according to a group that monitors threats against Christians here.



Love and sacrifice go hand-in-hand. We are called to love the world very differently: not affirming people's behavior but bringing the challenge of God's transforming love. Sometimes that will make people fear and hate us. A kiss at the bottom of our cards and letters is written as a cross!!

Jesus warned that persecution is a sign of the apocalyptic end-time, before He returns to establish, His Kingdom on earth – one sign among many, with wars, earthquakes and the spread of the Gospel to every corner of the globe.

These things are happening now! Jesus warns that "...with the increase of wickedness, the **LOVE** of most will grow **COLD**," so to watch and stand firm (see Matthew 24: 9-13).

When the world outside and around is getting colder, let us be full of the warmth and love of God – whatever it may cost! Much warmth and love to you...

Simon - xxxx

PS: please pray for my postman - his back is still suffering from carrying the heavy sack of cards up my front path, on 14th February, last year...

News

At the time of writing this, it is very cold but lovely sunshine so I can't really say let's get rid of the January blues by having a social, but we are. It is on Saturday 16th February @ 1.00pm enabling those who don't like to come out at night in Winter to come along. As always, there is a lift available if you need one. We will start with lunch followed by fun and games.

We have been informed that Gwen Copley's funeral will just be at the crematorium on Monday 18th February. Our thoughts go to her family and friends at this sad time and having to wait so long for the funeral.

As you are aware this is the time of year when we collect the Mission Money to help support Andrea through his schooling in Israel. £111 has been donated so far but if you still wish to give to this important work that we support, then please give it to Martyn or any elder.

You may be interested to hear that our Shoe Boxes collected for the Samaritan Purse Appeal in Britain before Christmas went to Romania this time. See below for an excerpt of the email I received from them:

"In 2018 , together you packed an amazing 511,200 shoebox gifts and equipped thousands of churches and

groups in Eastern Europe, Africa, Central Asia and the Middle East to reach out generously to children in need, with the joy of a shoebox gift and the good news of the Christmas story. Every shoebox, packed with love and fuelled by prayer, has the potential to impact a child's life in a very special way! A global family which enabled 10.6 million precious children, in over 100 countries, to receive a shoebox gift this season."

"And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds." Hebrews 10:24

Jean



WORDSEARCH



Paul

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: _ _ _ _ _

- | | | | | |
|-----------|----------|---------|-----------|-----------|
| Ananias | | Gentle | | Saint |
| Antioch | Disciple | James | Love | Saul |
| Apostle | Enemies | Jewish | Martyr | Spirit |
| Arrest | Epistle | Journey | Persecute | Stephen |
| Basket | Escape | Kind | Peter | Synagogue |
| Blindness | Faithful | Law | Preach | Tarsus |
| Christ | Gamaliel | Legacy | Prisoner | Tentmaker |
| Church | Gentiles | Letters | Roman | Timothy |
| Damascus | | Light | | Zeal |

The Perfect Minister

Following the results of a computerised survey, expectations of church members now indicate the following characteristics of the perfect minister:

- He preaches exactly 15 minutes and includes all the Bible has to say on the sermon subject.
- He condemns everybody's sin except yours and never says anything anyone might disagree with.
- He works from 6am to midnight and gets 8 hours of sleep and stays healthy.
- He prepares a sermon every week for 30 years and never repeats an idea, an illustration or a joke.
- He makes £100 a week, wears good clothes, buys good books, drives a new car and gives £50 a week from his salary to the poor.
- He is 38 years old and has been in the ministry for 25 years.
- Half of his hair is youthful and the other half is grey to give him that distinguished look.
- He has a burning desire to work with teenagers and spends all of his time with senior citizens. He is a close friend to every church member.
- The perfect minister smiles all the time with a straight face because he has a sense of humour with keeps him seriously dedicated to his work.
- He makes 15 visits a day to church families, and visits all of the sick every day. He spends all of his time evangelising and is always in the office when you need him.
- He has 4 children that never get in trouble and a wife who cooks like Nigella Lawson, comforts like Mother Theresa, prays like Joyce Huggett and looks like Ariana Grande, without making anyone else jealous.



If your minister does not measure up to these expectations, simply send this letter to six other churches whose ministers fail to reach these reasonable standards. Then bundle up your minister and send him to the church on the top of the list.

In one year you will receive 1,432 ministers and one of them should be perfect.

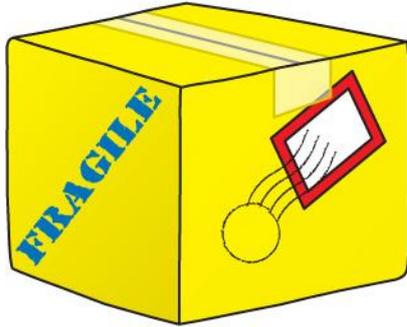
Warning: Keep this chain letter going. One church broke the chain and got its old minister back.

**GIVE THANKS TO THE LORD, FOR HE IS GOOD; HIS LOVE
ENDURES FOREVER. PSALM 118: 1**

Recorded Delivery

A lady was posting a gift of a Bible to a relative. The post office clerk examined the heavy parcel and asked if it contained anything breakable.

“Nothing,”
said the lady
“except the Ten
Commandments.”



**I believe in the sun, even
when it isn't shining.
I believe in love, even
when I do not feel it.
I believe in God, even
when he is silent.'**

Found scratched into a
cellar wall in Cologne
where Jews had hidden in
World War Two.

Sunday Services

Held at 10.30am every Sunday.

Preachers

3 rd Feb	Val Morrison
10 th Feb	Rev Brenda Hill
17 th Feb	Chris Houghton
24 th Feb	Rev Simon Copley
3 rd Mar	Val & Mike Ede

Friendship Group

Held at 2.00pm every Wednesday.

Speakers

6 th Feb	Open Meeting
13 th Feb	Rev Simon Copley
20 th Feb	Rev Jenny Park
27 th Feb	Rev Brenda Hill
6 th Mar	Open Meeting

What's on

Church Meeting –

5th Feb @ 7.00pm

Church social –

16th Feb @ 1.00pm
Lunch followed by games

Nursing Home Service –

21st Feb @ 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

Website: www.greasbroughunitedchurch.org.uk

Who's who: Paul

Paul was born between 5BC and 5AD in Tarsus, an influential city in Asia Minor (now Turkey). He was a Roman citizen by birth. His Jewish name was 'Saul,' as a Roman citizen, he also had a Latin name, 'Paul.' The Bible reveals very little about Paul's family. We know his father was a Pharisee as in Acts 23:5 he says that he was "a Pharisee, the son of a Pharisee." In Romans 16:7 he states that his relatives, Andronicus and Junia, were Christians before he was and were prominent among the apostles. While he was still fairly young, he went to Jerusalem to receive his education at the school of Gamaliel, a noted rabbi.

Prior to his conversion, Paul was dedicated to persecuting the early disciples of Jesus in the area of Jerusalem, taking an active part in the martyrdom of Stephen. In c36AD, Paul was traveling on the road from Jerusalem to Damascus on a mission to "arrest them and bring them back to Jerusalem" when Jesus appeared to him in a great light. He was struck blind, but after three days his sight was restored by Ananias of Damascus. Paul was then baptised and began to preach the Gospel.

He travelled extensively in his ministry but also he spent a lot of time in Antich, which had become an alternative centre for Christians following the dispersion of the believers after the death of Stephen. When a famine occurred in Judea, around 45AD, Paul and Barnabas journeyed to Jerusalem to deliver financial support from the Antioch community. Paul's first missionary journey began in 48AD travelling round the eastern Mediterranean and Asia Minor.

In 50AD Paul and Barnabas attended the Council of Jerusalem where the key question of whether Gentile converts needed to be circumcised was discussed. Despite the agreement achieved, Paul recounts how he later publicly confronted Peter over his reluctance to share a meal with Gentile Christians in Antioch because they did not strictly adhere to Jewish customs. Writing later, Paul recounts, "*I opposed him in public, because he was clearly wrong.*"

In 57AD, after his third missionary journey, Paul arrived in Jerusalem. Acts reports that he initially was warmly received but after 7 days some Jews accused him of defiling the temple by bringing gentiles into it. He was dragged out of the temple by an angry mob but narrowly escaped being killed by surrendering to a group of Roman soldiers. Paul was held as a prisoner for 2 years until the new governor, Porcius Festus, proposed to send Paul back to Jerusalem for trial. But Paul exercised his right as a Roman citizen, and was sent to Rome to stand trial. On the way, Paul was shipwrecked on Malta and finally arrived in Rome around 60AD, where he spent another two years under house arrest before being acquitted.

Paul's death is believed to have been between 64 and 68AD. Clement of Rome wrote in c95AD that Paul and Peter were martyred, and Eusebius of Caesarea wrote in 320AD that Paul was beheaded and Peter crucified. According to legend, Paul's body was buried outside the walls of Rome, at the second mile on the Via Ostiensis, on the estate owned by a Christian woman named Lucina. In 2002, a sarcophagus, was discovered; bone found inside was carbon-dated to the 1st or 2nd century.