

GREASBROUGH UNITED CHURCH

May 2019

Yesterday a new film hit the Cinemas, **Tolkien**. It tells the early years of John Ronald Reuel Tolkien the author of The Hobbit and The Lord of the Rings.

Tolkien was a devout Christian and played a role in his friend C S Lewis converting from atheism to Christianity.

In 1937 Tolkien wrote The Hobbit. It's a story about Bilbo Baggins who goes off on an adventure with a group of dwarves and the wizard Gandalf to reclaim the mountain home of the dwarves from a fearsome dragon.

The book was made into three films in 2012. In the first film there is a scene that isn't included in the book. This is a conversation between Gandalf and the Elven Queen Galadriel.

Galadriel asks Gandalf why he chose to include Bilbo in the adventure. Now hobbits are peace-loving people, about half the size of a human, who like home comforts, and renowned for being extremely well-mannered. They also look down on **any** kind of adventure.

In response to Galadriel's question, Gandalf replies: ***I don't know. Saruman believes it is only great power that can hold evil in check. But that is not what I have found. I've found it is the small things, everyday deeds of ordinary folk that keeps the darkness at bay. Simple acts of kindness and love. Why Bilbo Baggins? Perhaps it is because I am afraid... and he gives me courage.***

In our world today, we hear daily new reports of evil acts. We probably think that there is little that we can do. That it's up to Governments and politicians to stop such evils.

I think what we need today is some of that hobbit wisdom. We need to do the small things, the little acts of compassion, friendliness, respect not just to those we know but especially to those we don't know.

Love never fails.

1 Corinthians 13: 8

Phil

News

As you may have gathered, we are still in a state of flux regarding our future and any ministerial cover that we may receive. The powers that be in the United Reformed Church and the Methodist Circuit have still not resolved many issues. We await resolution of these and hope that all problems are overcome soon so that our energies can be directed towards the future of our church work.

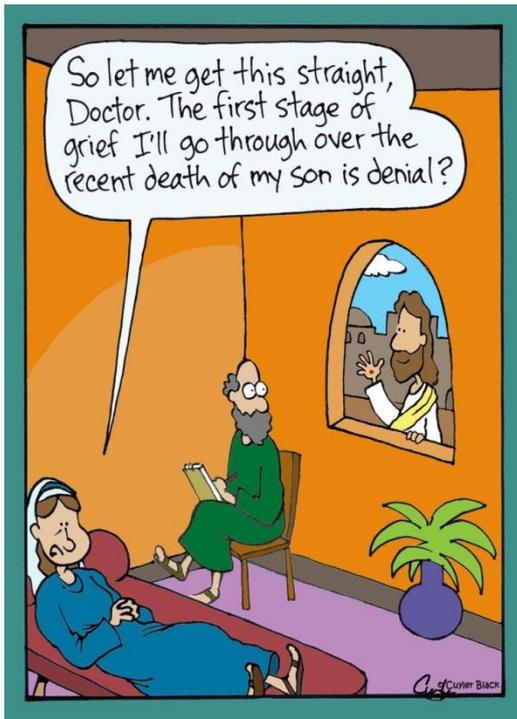
Margaret White has been laid low recently with an infection in her foot which did include a short hospital stay and she has also had an accident injuring her other leg but I am pleased to say that she is now improving.

It is with sadness that we have learnt that Phyllis's daughter passed away recently after a short stay in the

Hospice. She has been very brave in her fight against cancer. Her close family have been with her every step of the way and it was also good to hear that bridges have been mended within the family before it was too late. Our heartfelt sympathies are offered to Phyllis and the rest of the family at this difficult time.

It is with pleasure that I am able to let you know that there is going to be a Celebration Service at our church on Sunday the 2nd June at 5.00pm. This has been organised by the United Reformed Church Mission & Care Group. All local URC churches have been invited and it will start with a faith tea followed by a Celebration Service. This should be a pleasurable occasion meeting with our fellow members from other churches as we Praise Our Lord.

Jean



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

WORDSEARCH



Because He Lives I Can Live

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
Angels
Baptism
Bethesda
Betrayal
Blessed
Calvary
Counselor

Deliverer
Devil
Elizabeth
Father
Heaven
Holy Spirit
Jesus

Jordan
Joseph
Lord
Love
Mary
Passover
Redeemer

Redemption
Revelation
Risen
Sacrifice
Salvation
Savior
Servant

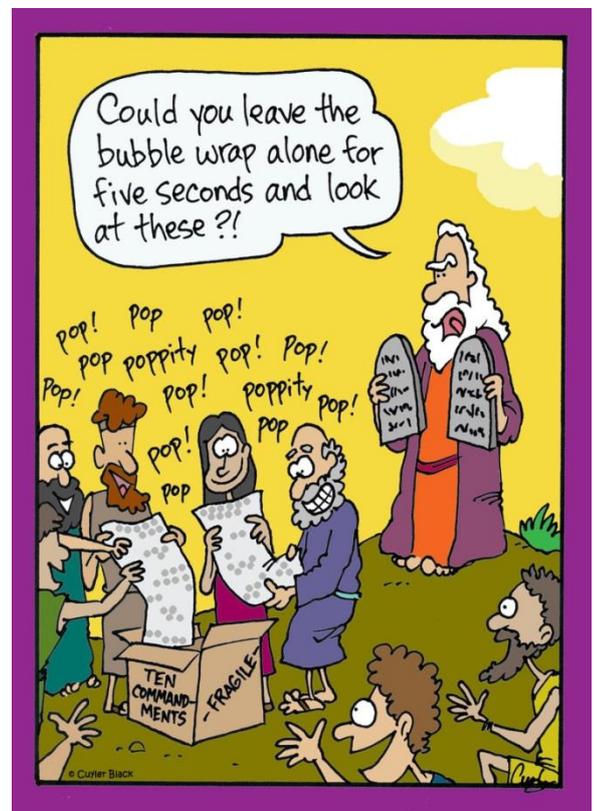
Sin
Tabernacle
Temple
The Light
The Truth
The Way
The Word
Trinity

Noticeboard eye-catchers

There is a well known story about a church noticeboard with had 'Jesus saves' on it, and underneath someone had written 'but Dalglish gets the rebound.'

Some churches don't need any help and can produce their own eye-catching slogans. Here are a few:

- Moses was the first person with a tablet to download data from the cloud.
- You like carbs? Jesus is the bread of life.
- Adam and Eve the first people not to read the apple terms and conditions.
- Never be afraid to try something new – remember amateurs built the ark, professionals built the Titanic.
- Cremation is out last chance for a smoking hot body.
- Live your life well, so we don't have to lie at your funeral.
- Looking for a life saver? Ours walks on water.
- Fight Truth Decay - Brush up on your Bible every day
- Come in for a faith lift
- Come to Ch**ch. What's missing?
- Be Right or Be Left
- It's impossible to lose your footing on your knees
- Sing a hymn to Him
- Jog to Church and keep spiritually fit
- Bank on God for a higher rate of interest
- Danger! Live Church!
- Unlike the Post Office we have two collections every Sunday



You never know ...

Nine year old Joey was asked by his mother what he had learned in Sunday school. *"Well, Mom, our teacher told us how God sent Moses behind enemy lines on a rescue mission to lead the Israelites out of Egypt. When he got to the Red Sea, he had his army build a pontoon bridge and all the people walked across safely. Then, he used his walkie-talkie to radio headquarters for reinforcements. They sent bombers to blow up the bridge and all the Israelites were saved."*

"Now, Joey, is that really what your teacher taught you?" his mother asked.

"Well, no, Mom. But, if I told it the way the teacher did, you'd never believe it!"

“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

Matthew 28: 19-20

Prayer this month

Please pray for:

- **an end to disharmony both at home and abroad;**
- **our church as we enter a new phase in our Christian life.**

Sunday Services

Held at 10.30am every Sunday.

Preachers

5 th May	Tim Fulchar
12 th May	Peter Drabble
19 th May	Margaret Gould
26 th May	Rev Brenda Hill
2 nd Jun	Judith Harrison

Friendship Group

Held at 2.00pm every Wednesday.

Speakers

8 th May	Open meeting
15 th May	Rev Lyn Broadhead
22 nd May	Rev Brenda Hill
29 th May	Ruth Frowen
5 th Jun	Rev Matt Stone

What's on

Faith Tea followed by Celebration Service organised by the URC Mission & Care group –
2nd Jun @ 5.00pm

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:

➤ Phil Critchlow (01709 555704)

Email: Greasbrough.United.Church@sky.com

Website: www.greasbroughunitedchurch.org.uk

Who's who: Mary Magdalene

Mary Magdalene was a Jewish woman who, according to the four gospels, travelled with Jesus as one of his followers and was a witness to his crucifixion, burial, and resurrection. She is mentioned by name twelve times in the gospels, more than most of the apostles.

The word '*Magdalene*' most likely means that she came from the town of Magdala, a thriving fishing village on the western shore of the Sea of Galilee. The site of the village has been excavated extensively by archaeologists in recent decades. It is home to the oldest known synagogue in the Galilee, where a stone bearing the likeness of the Jewish Temple in Jerusalem was found, as well as a marketplace, ritual baths and fishing harbour.

In Luke 8 Mary is listed as one of the women who travelled with Jesus and helped support his ministry '*out of their resources,*' indicating that she was probably relatively wealthy. The same passage also states that seven demons had been driven out of her, a statement which is repeated in the longer ending of Mark.

Tradition is that Mary was, or had been, a prostitute. However, there is no reference in the Bible that would suggest that she was a prostitute.

Modern scholars have adopted a different understanding of Mary Magdalene and regard her as one of Jesus' most prominent disciples, who stood by him to the end while his most devoted apostles did not.

In all four gospels Mary is a witness to Jesus's crucifixion, burial and resurrection. The gospels tell that Mary, along with several other women, watched Jesus's crucifixion from a distance.

Mark recounts that Mary witnessed the burial of Jesus and then also to his resurrection. In Mark 16 Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome went to the tomb just after sunrise on the Sunday and found that the stone had already been rolled away. They went inside and saw a young man dressed in white, who told them that Jesus had risen from the dead and instructed them to tell the male disciples that he would meet them in Galilee.

In John's gospel, Jesus spoke to Mary asking why she was crying. Initially, she didn't recognise him until he said her name. Mary then went to the disciples saying '***I have seen the Lord!***'

After the resurrection there is no other mention of Mary in the Bible.

