|  |
| --- |
|   |
| ALLERTONCONGREGATIONAL CHURCH |



June 2018 Newsletter

Dear Friends

About six years ago I visited Yosemite National Park in California. The park is a true wonderland that stretches for mile on mile. It’s rugged beauty has captivated poets, artists and film-makers alike, and yet it is also known for people going missing. If you like conspiracy theories and the like, a quick Internet search will come up with all kinds of crazy reasons why people disappear (or at least haven’t been found yeti!)

In reality, most of the disappearances are likely down to a lack of respect by the missing hikers. As beautiful as Yosemite National Park undoubtedly is, there are many dangers. Sheer drops, uneven terrain, quick changes in the weather and wild animals are all easily found just a few steps away from the main paths. Those who fail to treat the park with the respect and caution it deserves will likely find themselves in trouble.

I think that in some ways God is a bit like Yosemite National Park. He is awesome, amazing and truly vast, beyond our ability to fully grasp. Also, if we don’t treat Him with the respect He deserves then there are going to be consequences. In the Bible we come across the phrase “fear of the Lord” on a number of occasions. We are encouraged to fear God, and I suspect it’s one of those things that we easily forget as Christians today. This doesn’t mean that we should be frightened of God, worried that He’s going to ‘get us’ the moment we stray from His path. Rather it’s all about respect, honour and not taking Him for granted.

As Christians we must remember that we are saved because of what God has done for us in Jesus Christ, and not by anything we can do. We approach Almighty God as our Heavenly Father, but if we’re not careful we can forget who God is, and what He is like. We are called to honour Him, love Him and walk in obedience with Him. The book of Ecclesiastes concludes with these wise words,

   “Now all has been heard; here is the conclusion of the matter:

     Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the duty of all mankind.” (Ecclesiastes 12:13)

What does this look like in practice?

If you’re going hiking you need the right footwear and clothing, and you need the necessary supplies of food and water. In the same way as God’s people we need to be prepared. We need to pray, read the Bible and share fellowship with other Christians. If we don’t maintain our relationship with God and one another it’s a bit like trying to climb the three peaks with slippers and a dressing gown. We are not properly prepared, and we are likely to stumble and fall. Keeping close to God through prayer, worship and reading the Scriptures is essential. We can also support each other on our walk of faith through shared fellowship and prayer. By doing these things we can help one another to fear/revere God and keep His commands.

Yours, Fred.

Pulpit

June 3rd Rev Fred Rich Communion

June 10th Chris Thorp

June 17th Trevor Kershaw Christening Service

June 24th James Greig from Leprosy Mission

Flowers

We are very grateful to the following friends who have kindly promised to provide flowers for the month of June.

June 3rd Mr Roberts

June 10th Memory of R Tomlinson

June 17th Miss N Abbott

June 24th *Vacant*

Mrs A Henderson will be responsible for arranging and distributing the flowers throughout this month.

Ladies Circle

This months Ladies Circle will be held on Wednesday 6th where the speaker will be Alan from JAK Travel speaking about “It Shouldn’t Happen To A Coach Operator”.

Fred's Welcome Service

Fred’s Welcome Service to Allerton Congregational Church will be held on Saturday June 2nd at 2:30pm. This will be followed by Tea & Cakes. Volunteers needed to bake please. See Janet Muschamp for more details.

Thornton Singers Charity Concert

Thornton Singers are holding a charity concert in our church hall on Wednesday June 13th in aid of Williams Syndrome. Tickets are £7 to include refreshments and available from Faye Hardy, Susan Hardy & Sue Thorp. There will also be a raffle and if you have any items for the raffle please bring on the night. Thank you for your support.

St Saviour’s Church

St Saviours are inviting you to a Dabbling Day on Saturday June 16th from 10am until 2:30pm in the church hall. Try your hand at a new craft such as Weaving, Stitched Cards, Flower Arranging or Artifical Flowers. Cost £7.50 to include drinks on arrival, lunch and two activities. Booking is essential, contact info@stsavioursfwg.org.uk for more information.

Future Dates for Your Diary

July 7th Ladies Circle Coffee Morning

September 22nd/23rd Harvest Supper/Festival

Every Sunday Family Service 10.30am

## Website: allertoncongregationalchurch.org.uk

 **facebook.com/allertoncongregationalchurch**