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| ALLERTONCONGREGATIONAL CHURCH |



May 2018 Newsletter

Dear Friends

Recently we hosted the Bible Times Exhibition, run by John and Sheena Froud of Zephaniah Trust. I enjoyed seeing two group presentations to local school children during the week, and was captivated by the children’s lively engagement with what they were being told about the Bible. John’s main focus this year was on the story of how we came to have Scripture translated into English. I wonder how many of us would have gone on to translate the Bible and distribute it, knowing that it would likely lead to our arrest and execution under Henry VIII, just as John Wycliffe did?

That story of faith in action, great bravery and martyrdom makes me pause and wonder what we do with our opportunities as Christians today? In the early 15th Century it was illegal to own an English Bible. Not only that, discussing what it said outside of church was likely to lead to your arrest. Supposedly this was a Christian country at that point, although I’m not sure it really was by the sounds of that!

Today we have many different translations of the Bible easily available for us to read. We can go into Waterstones or WHSmiths (other book retailers are available!) and pick one up relatively cheaply. We can go on the Internet and find the Bible free to access or even download as an eBook. Discussion of the Bible and its message are not banned either, so we have some amazing opportunities, but do we use them? Sadly people’s knowledge of the Bible is probably at its weakest in many generations, even in the church.

Many Christians speak about the Bible being the word of God. Basically what we read or hear is what God has revealed to us and as such they are words that can bring life and hope to the reader. The letter of James puts it like this, “Do not deceive yourselves by just listening to his word; instead, put it into practice.” (James 1:22) Reading and/or hearing the Bible is important, and a really good thing for us to do as followers of Jesus, but we also need to do something about what it says to us.

I believe that we are called to obediently respond to what God says, and we are also called to share the Good News of Jesus with others. That Good News is found in God’s word, which we can help others discover for themselves. We can also show what it can do for us when we put it into practice, through the example of our lives. Now that’s a good way of showing that the Bible isn’t simply an interesting old book that belongs in a museum or an exhibition only. Instead it is a living book, that when followed can truly transform the world!

Yours, Fred.

Pulpit

May 6th Chris Thorp Communion

May 13th Alan Harris

May 20th Rev Fred Rich

May 27th Trevor Hippey

Flowers

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

May 6th Mrs Evans

May 13th Mrs Garrard & Family

May 20th Mrs Joan Dibb

May 27th *Vacant*

Miss F Hardy & Mrs S Hardy will be responsible for arranging and distributing the flowers throughout this month.

Collections

February 25th £ 79.74

March 11th £148.50

March 25th £140.90

April 1st £109.73

April 8th £105.41

April 15th £ 76.30

April 22nd £ 83.40

The services on March 4th and 18th were cancelled due to bad weather.

Ladies Circle

The next Ladies Circle meeting will be on Wednesday May 2nd and will be a bingo and games evening.

AGM

Our Annual General Meeting will be held on Wednesday May 9th from 7.30pm. There will be an agenda pinned up on the notice board in the vestibule. There will also be a list to put nominations on for Deacons. Please if you feel a calling to this position, consider it and get your name on the list as soon as possible. Thank you.

Coffee Mornings

Our next Coffee Morning will be on Saturday May 12th at the usual time of 10am to 12 noon. This is in aid of Christian Aid. £1 entry to include tea/coffee and biscuits.

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.

Southfield Lane Beetle Drive

Southfield Lane are pleased to announce that they raised £165 towards church funds from the recent Beetle Drive they held which many of us attended.

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

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