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| ALLERTON  CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH |



September 2018 Newsletter

Dear Friends

What is prayer? According to Google’s dictionary it is “a solemn request for help or expression of thanks addressed to God”. At one level it seems like a reasonable kind of description, although I think there’s something missing and I’m not sure the word ‘solemn’ is really needed. At a more basic level prayer is conversation with God. Not only do we speak to God, but we also need to be listening to Him. Prayer, like the conversations we have with each other, is two-way.

If we think about our closest relationships there are several things that are important. Regular open and honest conversations, spending time together, sometimes without the need to even say anything, and an ongoing care and concern for each other. Our relationship with God should be like that too if we want to grow in our walk with Jesus. There’s an old adage that goes like this, seven days without prayer makes one weak! In other words, if we don’t pray then we’re going to struggle.

Perhaps a problem we have with prayer is that we can take it for granted. We assume new Christians know how to pray, so we don’t take time looking at the ‘how’ and ‘why’ of prayer. Maybe we need to take time to focus on that and why its important. Thankfully we’re in good company when it comes to asking questions about prayer – the disciples asked Jesus how to pray, and He taught them. Jesus responds with the Lord’s prayer that we pray week by week in our Sunday worship, but it’s not just a prayer to recite. It’s a pattern that we can follow as a structure to pray. If you look at each part of the prayer you will find a particular focus and a definite order.

Firstly the prayer addresses God – ‘Our Father, who art in heaven’. We not only speak to God by name, but also recognise who He is and what He is like. Elsewhere in the New Testament Jesus refers to His Father as Abba, which closely translates to something like ‘Daddy’. That is the privilege we have through Jesus to know God as our Father, and we can call Him that.

The next phrase of the prayer begins to express our praise to God – ‘hallowed be thy name’. God is holy and He is awesome, and we need to approach Him with the reverence that is due to Him. How does this fit in with Him also being our Heavenly Father? It’s one of those wonderful mysteries of our faith – yes, He is our Father, but He is also the creator of all things.

Next month I’ll return to the topic of prayer and look at the next couple of phrases in the Lord’s Prayer so watch this space!

Yours, Fred.

Pulpit

September 2nd Robert Waddington Communion Service

September 9th Rev Fred Rich

September 16th Jenny Cousens

September 23rd Rev Fred Rich Harvest Festival

September 30th Alan Harris

Collection

June 24th £ 97.80

July 1st £103.90

July 8th £127.07

July 15th £114.60

July 22nd £124.50

July 29th £122.10

August 5th £126.47

August 12th £132.60

August 19th £120.60

Flowers

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

September 2nd *Vacant/Flower Fund*

September 9th *Vacant/Flower Fund*

September 16th Mrs B Lowther

September 23rd Mr McMurray

September 30th Mr & Mrs C Thorp

Mrs Y Hippey will be responsible for arranging and distributing the flowers throughout this month.

Harvest Festival

This years Harvest Supper is to be held on Saturday September 22nd at 6:30pm and is in the form of a Bring & Share meal.

Our Harvest Festival Service will be on Sunday September 23rd. Usual donations of dry goods please.

Coffee Morning

On Saturday October 6th, Jane & Julie will be holding a Christmas Card Coffee Morning. The Coffee Morning will be held from 10am untill 12noon with admission £1 which includes tea/coffee and biscuits. Get your cards, wrapping paper and gift tags from the Christmas Stall and be tempted by a selection of cakes and buns on the cake stall.

We look forward to seeing you all there.

Shared Event

There will be a Shared Event/Afternoon Tea Service with Riddlesden on Saturday October 13th at 2pm. It would be helpful if numbers of those wanting to attend could be know so if you are planning on attending please let Fred know or Janet & David. Thank you.

Southfield Lane Quiz

Come & enjoy a Pie & Pea Harvest Supper evening at the upcoming quiz night on Saturday September 29th from 7:30pm at Southfiels Lane Methodist Church .

You can tackle the quiz individually or come as a team. £5 per person includes Pie & Peas and some table snacks. Soft drinks on sale at 50p per glass.

Tickets available from Trevor Kershaw – 07811888348

Every Sunday Family Service 10.30am

Addresses:

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## Website: allertoncongregationalchurch.org.uk

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