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| ALLERTON  CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH |



February 2019 Newsletter

Dear Friends

As I write this letter, I am staring out of the window at home at what the latest Met Office yellow warning of snow has brought! Blue sky, with the odd white cloud over a slightly damp and wet patch of tarmac. So much for the ‘Beast from the East Mark II’! The reality is that weather forecasting is far from a precise science. Even with all the specialist equipment we have to measure atmospheric pressure and monitor weather fronts, the forecasters are still very much fallible.

Predicting the future is something that fascinates a lot of people, and yet very few people seem able to consistently do so with any real degree of accuracy. How often do football pundits predict the scores of matches correctly? How often do political polls get the results just right whether it’s in a General Election or the Brexit vote? Then there are the so-called fortune-tellers, the type whose little stalls I love to see ‘closed due to unforeseen circumstances’! Basically it’s a right load of rubbish that to which we’d do well not to pay any attention.

Thankfully as Christians we do have a reliable source to find about the future – God’s words that we know as the Bible. If we want to know whether Bradford City will get back into the Premiership anytime soon, the Bible isn’t going to be a lot of help. However, if we want to know what the big picture for us and our world looks like, we can find that in Scripture. Many hundreds of years before Jesus was born to Mary in Bethlehem this was foretold by the prophets, which we find in the Old Testament. What God says about the future we can trust to be true and accurate.

As we look forward with the uncertainties surrounding Brexit, the frailty of human life and the suffering of thousands, if not millions of people around the world, we can know that God is still in control. We can know that Jesus will return, and judge all people and nations fairly. We can know that if we have placed our faith in Jesus we shall spend eternity with God and our brothers and sisters in Christ. We may not know all the details, but we know God wins, and we can trust in Him!

Yours, Fred.

Pulpit

February 3rd Rev Fred Rich Communion Service

February 10th Alan Harris

February 17th Rev David Muschamp

February 24th Trevor Hippey

Collection

December 2nd £114.65

December 9th £121.95

December 16th £176.43

December 23rd £161.50

December 30th £124.04

January 6th 2019 £131.22

January 13th £139.45

Donations for the church received in memory of Mary Cockroft at the funeral on January 11th amounted to £140.64.

Christmas Donations

The Christingle Service retiring offering was £50, which has been sent to The Children's Society.

The Christmas Day retiring offering was £100, which has been sent to Yorkshire Air Ambulance.

Flowers

We are very grateful to the following friends who have kindly promised to provide flowers for the month of February 2019.

February 3rd Mr & Mrs R Hardy

February 10th Mr & Mrs T Hippey

February 17th Mrs M Jones & Mrs C Simpson

February 24th Mr & Mrs I Hastings

Mrs J Roper will be responsible for arranging and distributing the flowers throughout this February.

Ladies Circle

February’s Ladies Circle meeting will be a talk by John Holdroyd about Iceland.

This year we are collecting Easter Eggs for the children supported by Barnardo’s. Your donations of Easter Eggs or money will be gratefully appreciated. Donations to church before March 31st 2019. Thank you, Carole.

Condolances

Our deepest condolance, with our thoughts & prayers go to Julie, Rebecca, Sophie & Ronnie Lee and family after the sudden passing of Philip Lee on Wednesday January 16th 2019. He will be dearly missed by all who knew him. His funeral will be held on Monday February 4th at 12noon at church followed by Nab Wood Crematoriam and then The Bankfield Hotel.

World Leprosy Sunday

On February 17th our service will be for the World Leprosy Sunday Campaign "Heal Nepal". There will be a retiring offering at the service and this will be added to the proceeds of the Leprosy Mission Coffee Morning on March 9th.

The amazing news is that thanks to UK Aid Match, the UK government will match all donations received between January 27th and April 27th. This means that our donations will be doubled by the UK government. Please give as generously as you are able, to help the wonderful work done by The Leprosy Mission. This is a rare opportunity to double our gift. It won't last long and we may not get this opportunity again.

Many thanks. David - Leprosy Mission Representative.

Every Sunday Family Service 10.30am

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