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| ALLERTON  CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH |



July/Aug 2019 Newsletter

Dear Friends

It is very sad that many Christians today do not know the Bible particularly well. They may have a reasonable knowledge of Jesus’ teachings in the Gospels and the basic facts of Jesus’ life, death and resurrection. Many will know some Old Testament stories about Abraham, Joseph, Moses and David, but beyond that there will be a lot of gaps. Some have even said that because Jesus came we don’t need to bother with the Old Testament. This, however, misses the important point that God’s Word is a single story.

The Old Testament points us towards Jesus, God’s Son, the Messiah. If we want to understand the New Testament better we need to know the Old Testament. So often the background and context to the New Testament is found in the Old Testament. The New Testament often uses examples that refer back to how God related to His people Israel in the Old Testament. Thankfully God has sent His Holy Spirit to dwell within us and help us to understand the Bible. However, the more we know the Scriptures, the more God’s Spirit can draw our attention to other parts of the Bible to help us understand what we read or hear.

Have you ever read the whole of the Bible? Some people recommend trying to read the whole Bible each and every year of your life, and certainly I can see the value of that. If you enjoy reading and have the time, then it’s a great habit to have. To be honest, I have never managed it yet, but I believe that we can never spend too much time reading the Bible. Many people find it helps them to use a study guide, and if you want some pointers on what to use please do have a chat with me. There are books as well as many resources on the Internet.

What does our daily life look like? Where does God fit in to our day to day routines? Do we get up, make ourselves a cup of tea and read the paper, for example? Perhaps we have a shower, get dressed and go to work. For some of us fitting in 10 minutes to read the Bible and pray every morning would be relatively straightforward. For others this might be easier in the evening. Whatever might work for us individually, can we honestly say we don’t have time to pray and read the Scriptures each and every day of our lives?

Perhaps this letter could be the prompt that you need to take time to read the Bible more regularly. Maybe start with a chapter (or less) each day. Why not try reading the New Testament letters, or one of the Old Testament prophets like Isaiah? The more we read God’s Word the more we will know God and know about Him. It will also help us to live out the Christian life day by day. We are all called to be disciples (learners) and make disciples. We can pray and ask God to help us be disciplined in reading the Bible and also to help us understand what it means. God will certainly answer such simple heartfelt prayer with a ‘yes’!

Yours, Fred.

Pulpit

Juy 7th Rev Fred Rich Communion Service

July 14th Rev Alan Holmes

July 21st Rev Fred Rich

July 28th Trevor Hippey

August 4th Rev David Muschamp Communion Service

August 11th Alan Harris

August 18th Rev Fred Rich

August 25th Trevor Hippey

Collection

June 2nd £103.71

June 9th £152.60

June 16th £143.40

June 23rd £127.50

June 30th £153.00

Flowers

We are very grateful to the following friends who have kindly promised to provide flowers for the months of July & August 2019.

July 7th Mr & Mrs Elliott

July 14th Mrs Winterburn

July 21st Mrs S Coldwell

July 28th Mrs J Nanson

August 4th *Vacant*

August 11th *Vacant*

August 18th Mr & Mrs Breen

August 25th Mr & Mrs Roper

Mrs I Relton will be responsible for arranging and distributing the flowers throughout July and Mrs C Thorp & Mrs S Hardy throughout August.

Ladies Circle

In August the Ladies Circle evening will be lead by Alan Davies who will be showing us some slides to stir up some memories.

Quiz Evening

A quiz evening will be held on Saturday 20th July 2019 at 7.30 pm. Raffle and supper. Tickets price £5, from Irene Relton (phone 01274 493763)

Sunday School Mugs

A Centenary Sunday School  Anniversary Plate and a Bi-Centenary  Mug are available to anyone who wants them. Please see Irene Relton.

Away-day in Keld

Tuesday 11th June saw 5 Deacons set off, travelling uphill and down dale to join Fred and some of the Elders from Riddlesden for an Away-Day. We were heading for Keld, a tiny village in Swaledale which is referred to as a ‘Thin Place’, because spiritually you really do feel Heaven is that bit closer.

The day was for sharing; fellowship, fun and food (mentioning no names but a certain person from Allerton didn’t bring any lunch). A little Bible Study was thrown into the mix based on Mark 1 and 1 Corinthians, reminding us that we are all part of one body, the Church, and that we all play a vital role to keep that body alive and functioning whatever our talents and abilities.

Fred displayed another of his talents, that of playing the guitar to accompany our singing. So if we are short of an organist …..!

Despite the weather being cold and cloudy, the atmosphere between us all was definitely warm and sunny.

Date For Your Diary

Saturday July 20th  Quiz Evening Tickets £5 to include refreshments

Wednesday August 7th Ladies Circle meeting at 7.30 Speaker Alan Davies

Saturday September 21st Church Bring and Share Harvest Supper at 6.30

Sunday September 22nd Harvest Service - Dried good and tins for Food Bank Please

Saturday sept 28th An Evening with Paul Jones and Fiona Hendley - More information later

Saturday October 5th Christmas card Coffee Morning  10.00 - 12.00

Every Sunday Family Service 10.30am

## Website: allertoncongregationalchurch.org.uk

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