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| ALLERTON  CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH |



September 2019 Newsletter

Dear Friends

When we hear the words ‘mission’ and ‘’ what do we think? Mission is at least used in other contexts, such as in the military or in business. There was a time when pretty much every business had a mission statement, although I think that may have fallen out of fashion more recently. When we turn to evangelism it’s even more difficult - on several occasions over the years people have told me not even to mention ‘evangelism’! Having said that, I believe it is a key part of what we are all called to do as followers of Jesus Christ.

What does evangelism mean, anyway? Well, it comes from a Greek word that means ‘good news’. It is a verb, so it actually means sharing or proclaiming good news, particularly the good news of Jesus Christ. When Christians talk about evangelism, and our role in it, often the Bible passage people turn to is found at the end of Matthew’s Gospel (Chapter 28). Following the resurrection of Jesus from the dead, He appears to His disciples on several occasions, and just before He ascends to heaven He gives the disciples some final instructions.

This is what He says, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.” (Matthew 28:18-20, NIV)

Some people question whether this applies to us as in this passage Jesus is specifically talking to the eleven disciples. However, based on the examples of the early church found in the book of Acts, the letters of Paul and elsewhere, I think we can say that it does. We are called as God’s people to ‘go and make disciples’. Making disciples (or learners) must involve telling people the good news of Jesus so that they can hear and believe. We are then called to baptise and teach them about the commands that God has given to us.

This can sound quite difficult, but it isn’t really. As we walk with Jesus ourselves, praying and reading His Word, the Bible, we learn more and come to know God better. We can share with one another so that we are all encouraged and grow together in our relationship with God. Also God does not leave us to do it on our own. By His Spirit who dwells in each of us He gives us courage to speak to others about Jesus.

We have a great opportunity on the 28th September to invite friends, family members and strangers alike to come to church to be entertained, but more importantly to hear something of the Gospel message. I would like to suggest that each of us tries to invite at least a couple of people to come to the event with Paul Jones and Fiona Hendley. Yes, there will be songs and refreshments, but there will also be conversation about Jesus. It is a time when the Gospel will be proclaimed.

It is God the Holy Spirit who gives to people the gift of faith to believe that Jesus is the Son of God who died for our sins on the cross. We simply need to share the message with them so that they might hear it, but God will convict them of their sin and bring them to repentance. We can help them to grow in faith and knowledge after that so that they might live as disciples of Jesus. Let us be praying that visitors who come to the event will be receptive to what they hear. May we pray that some would come to faith in Jesus, and also that we would be ready to help them grow in faith.

Yours, Fred.

Pulpit

September 1st  Revd  Fred Rich      Communion Service

September 8th  Trevor Kershaw

September 15th  Chris Thorp

September 22nd  Revd Fred Rich        Harvest Service

September 29th  Janice LeBlancq

Collection

July 7th      £141.50

July 14th      £107.40

July 21st      £108.21

July 28th    £172.70

August 4th     £149.51

August 11th     £172.70

August 18th     £  90.87

August 25th     £147.30

Flowers

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

September 1st *Flower Fund*

September 8th *Flower Fund*

September 15th Mrs B Lowther

September 22nd Mr McMurray

September 29th Mr & Mrs C Thorp

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

Harvest Supper

This years Harvest Supper will be held on Saturday September 21st in the form of Bring & Share. The evening starts at 6pm.

An Evening with Paul Jones & Fiona Hendley

Hear how faith in God has changed their lives, an evening with Paul Jones & Fiona Hendley is to be held at our church on Saturday September 28th at 7pm. Entry by ticket only – free entry – available from David Muschamp.

Coffee Morning

Our next coffee moring will be held on Saturday October 5th held by the ladies of the Christmas Card Stall. Usual time of 10am to 12noon.

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.

Every Sunday Family Service 10.30am

## Website: allertoncongregationalchurch.org.uk

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