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| ALLERTONCONGREGATIONAL CHURCH |



October 2019 Newsletter

Dear Friends

As I write this letter our church’s Harvest weekend is almost upon us. We shall enjoy a time of fellowship and food together on the Saturday evening, and then on the Sunday our focus will shift to our thankfulness to God for creation and the food that is harvested. This is a good thing for us the be doing – remembering that every good gift comes from our Heavenly Father. He made the world with everything in it that we need to live, from oxygen to crops. It is right and fitting that we respond with praise and thanksgiving to God for His wondrous generosity.

However, when we come across the word ‘Harvest’ in the pages of Scripture it is usually referring to something else. By the time you are reading this we will have hosted Paul Jones and Fiona Hendley who will have spoken about the difference that Jesus has made to their lives. When people come to faith in Jesus Christ there is much rejoicing in heaven, and perhaps from the evening we will have been able to join in that celebration with one or two people giving their lives to Jesus. In several places in the Bible this is called a Harvest.

Jesus, speaking to the disciples on one occasion said this, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.” (Matthew 9:37 & 38)

During His earthly ministry the Lord Jesus often saw the hunger of the people for God. This is exactly what Matthew has described just before this quotation. Men, women and children coming to faith in Jesus is called a Harvest by Jesus. There are still people choosing to follow Jesus today, and so there is a harvest that requires reaping, or bringing in. Jesus instructed the twelve disciples to pray for more workers, and perhaps this could be something for us to reflect in our prayers too?

There is another part to this Harvest, though, and this is it. How can people come to faith in Jesus if they do not hear the Gospel message? The simple answer is that they cannot. The Apostle Paul addresses this issue as follows,

“How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!” But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah says, “Lord, who has believed what he has heard from us?” So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.” (Romans 10:14-17)

We need to speak out about the good news of Jesus Christ to others. We are to tell them about the cross and the resurrection of Jesus from the dead. We must offer the message of forgiveness and repentance to salvation in Christ and the hope of eternity.

Yours, Fred.

Pulpit

October 6th Gordon Sitch Communion Service

October 13th Rev Fred Rich Church Anniversary

October 20th Jenny Cousens

October 27th Rev Fred Rich

Collection

September 1st £131.30

September 8th £161.50

September 15th £137.40

September 22nd £147.20

Flowers

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

October 6th Mr & Mrs P Barfield

October 13th Mr & Mrs B Haley

October 20th Mrs Brown

October 27th Mrs A Henderson

Mrs C Brook will be responsible for arranging and distributing the flowers throughout September.

Ladies Circle

On October 23rd the ladies of the Ladies Circle will be going to Northcliffe Golf Club for their annual meal.

Coffee Morning

On Saturday 5th October Jane and Julie will be holding a Christmas Card Coffee Morning. The coffee morning will run 10-12 Noon 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 there.

Every Sunday Family Service 10.30am

## Website: allertoncongregationalchurch.org.uk