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| ALLERTONCONGREGATIONAL CHURCH |



February 2020 Newsletter

Dear Friends

One of the most difficult questions or issues we face in life is why do bad things happen (to good people)? Why do people get ill when they are seemingly in good health? Why do earthquakes happen, destroying homes and lives alike? Why do children get murdered or seriously injured in accidents? As Christians I suspect many of us would love to have a simple answer for these questions, but sadly we don’t.

There are some people, who say they are Christians, claiming that as long as we have enough faith we will never be ill. What a load of rubbish, and what a bad name they give the church! Have you ever noticed just how many of these so-called ‘healing evangelists’ wear glasses? It seems that the irony of this is lost on many of them. Being serious, though, God does not promise us a problem free life of good health through His Word, the Bible.

Just look at what James wrote in his New Testament letter. “My friends, consider yourselves fortunate when all kinds of trials come your way, for you know that when your faith succeeds in facing such trials, the result is the ability to endure.” James 1:2-3, Good News Bible) God uses our struggles, hard times and illness to build patience, endurance and wisdom within us. That is not to say that God generally sends these things to us, but rather that He can use them to teach us important lessons. If you like, it’s the Christian version of ‘every cloud has a silver lining’.

In our most difficult times in life we often turn to God with a real sense of urgency and need. We might be angry with Him, and want to ask why, but that’s ok. There are some great examples of God’s people doing just that in Scripture (for e.g. Jonah and Job). God can heal us, but He doesn’t always do that. Sometimes He simply gives us the grace to endure and that in itself can be one of the most wonderful gifts that He could give us.

I recently heard that a member of one of the churches I had previously pastored died. She was in her 50s and had lived with MS for as long as I had known her. With all that she had been through you would not blame her for being resentful and aggrieved, but she simply wasn’t. Instead hospital stays were seen as an opportunity to tell others about Jesus and the difference He had made to her life. She always had a smile for others, and even at her death her desire to reach others shone through. We don’t have to like our frailty, illnesses or hard circumstances, but with the help of God’s Spirit and the example of Jesus before us, we can allow God to use them for good and to His glory!

Yours, Fred.

Pulpit

February 2nd Rev Fred Rich Communion Service

February 9th Trevor Hippey

February 16th David Kenyon

February 23rd Neil Harris

Collection

November 24th £109.50

December 1st £129.30

December 8th £151.25

December 15th £146.10

December 22nd £169.15

December 29th £108.71

January 5th 2020 £156.90

January 12th £125.75

January 19th £162.92

Flowers

We are very grateful to the following friends who have kindly promised to provide flowers for the month February 2020.

February 2nd Mr & Mrs R Hardy

February 9th Mr & Mrs T Hippey

February 16th Mrs M Jones and Mrs C Simpson

February 23rd Mr & Mrs I Hastings

Mrs J Roper will be responsible for arranging and distributing the flowers throughout January though.

Ladies Circle

The next Ladies Circle meeting will held on Wednesday February 5th at 7:30pm. The speaker will be Michaela Henderson from West Yorkshire Police, talking about home security. She will make home visits to anyone requesting one. This meeting is open to everyone.

World Day of Prayer

World Day of Prayer is to be held on Friday march 6th at Allerton Methodist church from 2:30pm

Dates for Your Diary

February 8th Riddlesden Coffee Morning 10am – 12noon

March 14th Riddlesden Coffee Morning 10am – 12noon

March 21st Allerton Leprosy Mission Coffee Morning 10am – 12noon

March 28th Leprosy Mission Afternoon Tea @ Allerton 2:30pm

Every Sunday Family Service 10.30am

## Website: allertoncongregationalchurch.org.uk

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