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| ALLERTONCONGREGATIONAL CHURCH |

March 2020 Newsletter



Dear Friends

Have you heard the one about the two pastors meeting for the first time in ages on a crowded station platform waiting to found out what was happening with the delayed train for London? No, well I’m not surprised really! It’s not a joke, but it is, however, what happened to me recently at Leeds railway station. I’m not saying it was a particularly significant or special moment, because it wasn’t. As my friend said at the time, “stuff happens!”

Why am I telling you about this chance meeting then? Well, some Christians make a habit of attaching significance and purpose to every little thing that happens to them or around them. The reality, however, is that most of the time, things just happen. Good things happen to good and bad people just the same, as do bad things. The Bible puts it like this, “For he (God) makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust.” (Matthew 5:45)

In life a lot of things just happen, sometimes for very natural reasons. If you study hard for a test you are more likely to pass it than someone who doesn’t study. Whether you are wearing your ‘lucky pants’ will have no impact on your test score at all. The reason it snows on a particular day is not because you’ve done something unusual, but rather because there is a cold weather front!

Working out what God’s will for our lives might be is not about reading special signs (usually). In the Bible certain individuals have special calls from God to do something specific, like Samuel, the prophet Jonah, or John the Baptist. However, they are the exceptions rather than the rule. Instead, the Bible gives everyone clear and simple teaching about God’s will for our lives.

Passages such as Romans 12:2 tell us “Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.” God’s Spirit helps us to think differently and see the world the way that God our Father sees it, so that we can do God’s will. Another Bible verse that applies to all (Ephesians 2:10) says this, “God has made us what we are, and in our union with Christ Jesus he has created us for a life of good deeds, which he has already prepared for us to do.”

These verses and many others too apply to all Christians without exception. We are all greatly loved by God and special to Him, and we are all called to place our faith in Jesus Christ for salvation. In working out our salvation we are also to do good works that show we are God’s people. May we all seek to do God’s will for our lives today and every day!

Yours, Fred.

Pulpit

March 1st Rev Fred Rich Communion Service

March 8th David Robinson

March 15th Rev Fred Rich

March 22nd Trevor Hippey Mothering Sunday

March 29th Rev Richard Lewis

Collection

January 26th £156.11

February 2nd £157.80

February 9th £ 82.02

February 16th £149.00

Apologies for not putting these in last months newsletter:

The retiring collection at the Christingle Service raised £50.00 for the Children's Society.

The retiring collection on Christmas Day raised £120.77 for the Yorkshire Air Ambulance.

Thanks very much for your generosity.

Flowers

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

March 1st In Memory of Mary & Denis Cockroft

March 8th Miss F Hardy

March 15th Mrs Smith & Mrs St. Claire

March 22nd Mr & Mrs D Muschamp

March 29th *Vacant*

Mrs C Brook & Mrs B Lowther will be responsible for arranging and distributing the flowers throughout January though.

Ladies Circle

This months Ladies Circle will be their AGM on Wednesday 4th March.

World Day of Prayer

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

Coffee Morning

The next Coffee morning will be in aid of the Leprosy Mission on Saturday March 21st from 10am – 12noon.

Dates for Your Diary

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

April 4th Ladies Circle Coffee Morning

April 9th Maundy Thursday Service 12noon

April 10th Good Friday Service in Lady Hill Park 11:30am

April 18th Riddlesden Coffee Morning 10am-12noon

Every Sunday Family Service 10.30am

## Website: allertoncongregationalchurch.org.uk

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