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| ALLERTONCONGREGATIONAL CHURCH |



June/July 2022 Newsletter

Dear Friends

Sometimes in life we can feel uninspired and downhearted. There could be very good reasons for that, whether it’s a chemical imbalance or the reality of our situation at a particular time in life. If you’re feeling that way, what do you do to try and get yourself into a better frame of mind? Perhaps you listen to some favourite music, or go out for a walk in the countryside? Maybe you like to get into a good book that takes you out of your current circumstances, or even open the Good Book, the Bible and read a favourite Psalm? But sometimes that doesn’t work, or it can even make us feel worse.

As I write this article I’m having one of those occasions where nothing much seems to be helping. As I’ve been reading Christian articles online and devotional emails I’ve been incensed by people mishandling God’s Word and ripping Bible verses out of context. Reading some of these I’ve been saddened by the state of once solid denominations heading ever more quickly towards compromise and appeasing the world. The ever more apparent reality is that we are living in a fallen world, and there are signs that may indicate that the return of Jesus is particularly close at hand.

As we look at this world, we may feel some of the sadness and sorrow that God feels as He looks at His marred creation. So what are we to do? How can we keep on going when we are weary of this world and its ways? Thankfully we are not alone, for God is with us. Jesus, Emmanuel, God with us, has sent His Holy Spirit to dwell within all those who are saved by grace through faith. However bad things may get in this world, we are not alone. We can also look to the wise counsel of Scripture, and in particular one story that Jesus tells about building houses, which happened to be one of Aidan’s Bible stories this past week.

In Matthew 7:24-27, Jesus concludes His Sermon on the Mount with the picture of two men building houses. One builds on the solid foundation of stone, and the other on a quick and easy foundation of sand. Of course, when the storms come only the house built on rock survives. Jesus explains that those who listen to His teachings and apply them are those whose faith will stand through the storms of life. To get through hard times we need to look to God, and to His Word as our solid foundation.

In the Psalms, God has given us reassurance and hope, and upon those wonderful promises we can depend. The Psalmist speaks of meditating on the Word (or Law) of God day and night (Psalm 1:2), and by doing that we can be encouraged. Elsewhere in the Psalms we are reminded that “God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble” (Psalm 46:1). Even when we are in the worst of situations we can look to the experience of the Psalmist, whom God “drew… up from the pit of destruction, out of the miry bog, and set” his “feet upon a rock, making” his “steps secure” (Psalm 40:2).

Recently we heard the words of the Apostle Peter, who writes of the devil prowling round like a lion, wanting to devour us (1 Peter 5:8). However, he encourages Christians by telling us that we can resist him by standing firm in our faith, and then after that time of trial God will restore us. But how do we resist the devil, and come through those really tough times in life? John MacArthur suggests one very practical way of standing firm in our faith – “Make sure Satan has to climb over a lot of Scripture to get to you!” It’s certainly not the only thing we can do, but knowing God’s Word and relying on it certainly helps. Look at how Jesus uses the Scriptures to resist the devil during his temptations after 40 days in the wilderness (Matthew 4:1-11)!

So whatever life throws at us let us look to God for our strength and our foundation. Let us draw comfort and reassurance from His Word. Let us cast our cares on to Him because He cares for us and has demonstrated His love for us by sending Jesus. We can bring our concerns to Him in prayer, and He listens and grants us His presence. Life may not improve, or get easier, but if God is with us then we will make it through, knowing that we have a wonderful hope set before us in Jesus Christ for eternal life!

Yours, Fred

**Flower Rota** – flowers provided by:

 Sunday 12th June Miss N Abbott

 19th June Mr & Mrs P Barfield

 17th July Mrs S Coldwell

 24th July Mrs J Holdsworth

On Sundays not listed, silk flowers will be used.

**Secretary's Thoughts**

Coffee Mornings
At the AGM you will remember I said we would try to plan coffee mornings to help us return to a more normal routine.
I will be doing the rounds to check if the various organisers are willing to ‘leap into action’, hopefully in the next few weeks.

Rotas
We still need to fill the gaps on the Readers and Coffee rotas – I’m sure more people would be willing.

Meetings
At the AGM it was suggested that we hold a meeting to discuss ways to enhance our church life and consider future plans as we move forward into the future.
There will be a sheet on the table for the next 2 weeks for you to sign up for either or both dates to assess which will be the favoured date.
A further sheet will also be on the table for people to sign up for the Fellowship Group meetings commencing on Thursday 16th June at 12.30pm.

Thank you. Janet.

**Dates for your Diary**

Thursday 16th June 12.30 pm – Fellowship Group restarts

**Preaching list for June and July**

5th June Rev Terry Hepworth (Communion)

12th June Rev Fred Rich

19th June Rev David Muschamp

26th June Rev Fred Rich

3rd July Trevor Hippey (Communion)

10th July Rev Robert Waddington

17th July Janice LeBlancq

24th July Trevor Hippey

31st July Rev Fred Rich

**Coffee Rota**

 As we have returned to having coffee after services, it would be really helpful if those on the rota could come a little earlier to set things up. You will not need to bring milk.

 The coffee rota is on the notice board in the vestibule and will be on the table in the hall on Sundays.

**Bible Reading Rota**

 If you would like to offer to read the Bible for Sunday services, the Bible reading rota is on the notice board in the vestibule and will be on the table in the hall on Sundays.

**Finance Committee** – A message from the Financial Secretary

Following the report given by Chris Ing at the AGM on Sunday 15 May, there is nothing further to report.

**Note from the Editor**

 The next newsletter is due on 27th July – please let me have any items for inclusion by 20th July.

 Thank you – Carole

Sundays - Services at 10.30 am.

Addresses:

Pastor: Secretary & Treasurer: Editor: Fredrik Rich Janet & David Muschamp Carole Brook 1 The Sycamores Thimble Stones View

Riddlesden 56 Rudding Avenue

Keighley Allerton, Bradford BD20 5EF BD15 7DS

 01274 542859

01535 531966 07837 441784 (Janet)

07570 801863 07530 727616 (David)

Frich107uk@sky.com david.muschamp47@btinternet.com

## Website: allertoncongregationalchurch.org.uk

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