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| ALLERTON  CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH |

A line art of people standing in front of a rock

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April/May 2024 Newsletter

Dear Friends

If we were to ask ourselves what is the central point of the Christian faith, what would be our answer? What is the most important message for us to share with others about our faith? Undoubtedly some folk would talk about Jesus’ commandment to love one another as He has loved us, and certainly that is important for living out the Christian life, but it’s not the central message. Others may speak about God’s love for the whole world and all its people, and again this is true but it’s not quite the message at the centre of the Scriptures, although it is closely related to this most important truth.

The Apostle Paul wrote to the church in Corinth, saying, “I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas (Peter), then to the twelve.” (1 Corinthians 15:3-5) In other words, it is the Gospel that needs to always be at the centre of our faith and our conversations about God. The Gospel tells us that Jesus died for us on the cross to pay the price for our sins so that we might be forgiven and enter into eternal life. God did this because He loved the whole world, but Christ’s death was necessary because we are sinners.

It is also crucial that we speak of Jesus’ resurrection from the dead, as it shows Him to be victorious over sin and death. Only Jesus was fully God and fully man, able to die in our place as the all-sufficient, sinless sacrificial Lamb of God. Jesus’ death and resurrection are not just for Easter but must be central to our faith and our walk with Jesus at all times and in all circumstances. Some people seem to get fed up with hearing the Gospel message preached week after week in church, but we cannot and must not stop speaking about the death and resurrection of Jesus.

Christian missionary, Paul Washer said, “The Gospel is not some introductory message to Christianity. It is the message of Christianity.” In other words, even as we mature in faith and grow as Christians, we never grow out of the Gospel or get beyond it. Without the Gospel nothing of the Christian faith truly makes sense. If Jesus had not died in our place and risen from the grave, then we would have no hope for the future. This life would be followed by a guilty verdict before the judgment seat of God, and we would be rightly condemned to hell.

God’s condemnation and deserved judgment is what all those who reject the Gospel message in this life will face. That is one very good reason why we must tell others the Gospel message personally and from the pulpit. If people do not hear the Gospel, they will not believe in Jesus Christ and receive eternal life. Let us be encouraged this Easter not to forget or neglect the central Gospel message. Christ has died, Christ is risen, and Christ will come again. Hallelujah!

Fred

Secretary’s Thoughts - My tribute to Margaret Jones

During lockdown, Captain Tom Moore kept on saying that tomorrow would be a good day!

Well, yesterday was one of those “good days”.

It was a privilege to be present at Margaret’s Funeral. Every aspect of the service was a joy, and I felt Margaret would have enjoyed the service very much. To begin with, Allerton Congregational Church was full. Lots of people I didn’t know. It seemed to me that every person displayed great love for Margaret.

Yes, we were sad that for now we won’t be able to see her.

Trevor had really done his homework and put together a wonderful service. There were nods and smiles from the congregation, Margaret’s extended family. We laughed and learned lots of things about her life.

The last few weeks of Margaret’s life had not been easy for her, but through it all, she continued to love Jesus – being confident she would soon be going to meet her Lord and Saviour.

I frequently joked with Margaret that she had a ‘stroppy streak’. Nothing was going to shake the love she had for Jesus. That love was evident throughout the service and afterwards at the Bankfield.

We sang our hearts out. It was a massive privilege to be there, to be part of the celebration of a wonderful life well lived.

God Bless you Margaret.

Janet

Hello from Perth.  
  
We would like to say how much we appreciate all the lovely new home cards and good wishes you sent to us. We’ve never seen so many different cards. We think we will spend the garden voucher on a planter as the current ones are wooden and one definitely needs replacing. Thanks as well for our voucher from Ladies Circle which we haven’t used yet but have lots of ideas. We’ll let you know what we eventually decide on.  
  
We are gradually settling in and have done a fair bit of babysitting already which we’ve really enjoyed. I haven’t decided which church is best for me but have been to a few (accompanied by Ian) including the Congregational one in Perth and we’re going to try the local Church of Scotland on Sunday. Everyone has made us very welcome so I’m sure I’ll find one soon.  
  
Thanks again for your generous gifts and we’ll keep in touch.  
Best wishes Marion and Ian.

Treasurer’s Reflection

Many thanks to all those who supported the Church coffee morning last weekend which raised the sum of £130 for church funds.

David

Dates for your Diary

Thursday 28th March – Maundy Thursday Service – 12 noon

Saturday 13th April – Leprosy Mission Coffee Morning –

10am-12noon

Saturday 11th May – Christian Aid Coffee Morning –

10am-12noon

Saturday 8th June – Coffee Morning – 10am-12noon

Saturday 13th July - Ladies Circle Coffee Morning –

10am-12noon

Saturday 21st September – Harvest Supper – 4.00pm

Saturday 12th October – Coffee Morning – 10am-12noon

Saturday 23rd November – Christmas Coffee Shop –

10am-12noon.

Flower Rota – flowers provided by:

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| April 2024 | | May 2024 | |
| 7th | Mrs W Hume | 12th | Mrs J Clough |
| 14th | Mr & Mrs Breen | 26th | Mr C Thorp (Memory of Mrs S Thorp) |
| 28th | Mr & Mrs Collier-Drake |  |  |

On Sundays not listed, silk flowers will be used.

Preaching list

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| April 24 | |  | May 24 | |
| 7th | Mr David Robinson |  | 5th | Mr Trevor Kershaw |
| 14th | Rev Fred Rich |  | 12th | Rev Fred Rich |
| 21st | Rev Richard Lewis |  | 19th | Rev Fred Rich |
| 28th | Rev Fred Rich |  | 26th | Mr Trevor Hippey |
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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.

Note from the Editor

The next newsletter is due on 26th May 2024 – please let me have any items for inclusion by 18th May 2024.

Thank you – Carole

Sundays - Services at 10.30 am.

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