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| ALLERTON  CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH |



August/September 2024 Newsletter

Dear Friends

There certainly used to be two topics of conversation that people were advised to stay away from, and they were religion and politics. In my letter to you this month, though, we are going to be focusing on both of those subjects! Like it, or not, politics has a key role to play in society with politicians creating and changing the laws of the land by which we must live or face the consequences. In the United States, politics got very real recently with the attempted assassination of former President, Donald Trump. It came on the back of some very violent rhetoric against the man, likening him to Adolf Hitler and making veiled threats against him.

In this country we had a General Election almost a month ago now that brought in a new government with a new Prime Minister and new cabinet. Whatever our political opinions might be, these folk still have an influence on our lives and the many nations of the world. We may be happy with a change of government, or we may be fearful and concerned about what changes might occur. Regardless of all that, our primary responsibility towards them, as Christians, is to pray for them.

How can we pray for people that we may not like? It comes down to an act of the will where we make ourselves do it because we know that it is what God wants from us. In his first letter to Timothy, the apostle Paul spells out the necessity of praying for our leaders, those with political power. He writes, “I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way.” (1 Timothy 2:1-2) The reason for such prayer is so that we can live out our lives well in accordance with God’s ways. It recognises that God is in control of everything, including leaders and politicians whom He has placed to rule over us.

Elsewhere, in his letter to the Roman church (Romans 13:1-7), Paul writes about the importance of submitting to and obeying those who rule over us. If we think we have it bad, just remember what Paul and the early Church had to go through under Roman emperors like Nero who deliberately and brutally persecuted Christians, sending them to the lions. Yet, the Scriptures tell us that we should obey them and do what is good and right. Paul is not saying that we should obey laws that are opposed to God’s law, but in all other things we should obey.

So, as we look forward let us remember to pray for those in positions of power and authority. Let us pray for our government, our local MP and even our local council. May we ask that God would grant them wisdom to know what is good and right so that they may make laws and decisions that reflect God’s standards. It is good to pray for fellow Christians in government that they would be strong to speak out against those things that are ungodly and destructive. We should also pray for the King and the royal family, asking for God to guide them. In doing this we are obeying God and seeking His glory!

Fred

Secretary’s Thoughts

We seem to be having glimpses of summer, but in amongst some of us are still wearing winter woollies – it’s been too wet to do anything in the garden and we are all getting fed up with having to wear raincoats.

There is always hope though, as I write my thoughts for the

newsletter, the sun is shining, I can see our neighbours in their gardens, and I can hear a mower – let’s hope it lasts.

We held our Deacons Meeting yesterday; it still seems odd without Chris Thorp being there. We are down to 4 deacons, plus David and myself. I keep hoping and praying that someone in our congregation will come forward to join us.

Please give it some serious thought and prayer.

A question for you – has anyone any idea where the Tombola drum is – I haven’t been able to locate it. Here’s hoping…

Janet

Dates for your Diary

Saturday 21st September – Harvest Supper – 4.00pm

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

Sunday 20th October – Church Meeting – 12 noon after service

Saturday 23rd November – Christmas Coffee Shop –

10am-12noon.

Treasurer’s Reflection

At the Deacons Meeting yesterday, we agreed to a suggestion that we reinstate the taking of the offering at our weekly services. The offering box will be removed after the service on 28th July and the offertory bags will be brought back in for the service on 4th August.

My hope is that all those who began making regular payments by bank standing order during lockdown will continue to do so, as this reflects your ongoing support for the work of God here in Allerton.

If you wish to make additional payments, that would be great, but please do not feel obliged to put something in the offertory bag each week, please allow it to pass by.

Thank you

David

Finance Report

Three weeks ago the Church lost all electric power, the first real issue we have experienced with the “aging electrics”.

Thanks for the detailed investigations carried out by Chris Roper allowed a swift identification of the issue and power was restored.

We were fortunate it proved simple to fix but this was a stark reminder of the issues we face.

This incident follows shortly after an issue was found with the kitchen floor which necessitated half of the floor being replaced. Once again we were extremely fortunate that this work could be carried out almost immediately.

They both remind us all of the issues facing the ongoing use of the building and one which will take more and more of the church’s finances.

Chris Ing Financial Secretary

Flower Rota – flowers provided by:

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| August 2024 | | September 2024 | |
| 4th | The Hastings Family | 15th | Mr A Jones |
| 11th | Mrs K Clough | 22nd | Mr & Mrs D Muschamp |
| 18th | Mr & Mrs R Breen |  |  |
| 25th | Mr & Mrs C Roper |  |  |

On Sundays not listed, silk flowers will be used.

Preaching list

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| June 24 | |  | July 24 | |
| 2nd | Rev Fred Rich |  | 7th | Rev Richard Lewis |
| 9th | David Robinson |  | 14th | Rev Fred Rich |
| 16th | Rev Fred Rich |  | 21st | Trevor Hippey |
| 23rd | Trevor Hippey |  | 28th | Janice LeBlancq |
| 30th | 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.

Note from the Editor

The next newsletter is due on 29th September 2024 – please let me have any items for inclusion by 22nd September 2024.

Thank you – Carole

Sundays - Services at 10.30 am.

Addresses:

Pastor: Secretary & Treasurer: Editor: Fredrik Rich Janet & David Muschamp Carole Brook

01274 542859

01535 531966 07837 441784 (Janet)

07570 801863 07530 727616 (David)

[Frich107uk@sky.com](mailto:Frich107uk@sky.com) [david.muschamp47@btinternet.com](mailto:david.muschamp47@btinternet.com)

## Website: allertoncongregationalchurch.org.uk

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