

THE MAGAZINE

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TINSHILL FREE CHURCH

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Pastoral Letter — April 2014

Resurrection Power

As Christians we speak often about the death of Christ for us, and rightly so. We rejoice in the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross, where God “*made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.*” (2 Corinthians 5: 21). The cross is our guarantee of reconciliation with God, because there the price was paid for our every sin, and there is nothing left for us to do to atone for our sin. The cross is a place of healing, of victory, of hope for the Christian. We look to the cross of Christ, and the Christ of the cross, and we see that God works through weakness and through those willing to humble themselves to obey His will, even unto death.

Paul describes the way that the cross divides people: “*the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.*” (1 Corinthians 1: 18). It seems a shameful nonsense to those who do not understand it, and have not benefitted from the forgiveness bought at the cross: mere foolishness to them. The cross is also a symbol to the Christian that he or she has died to sin, along with Christ, and a reminder that our old life has ended at the foot of the cross (Romans 6: 1-11).

One church I know, had the words “*we preach Christ crucified*” above their pulpit for many years, (quoted from 1 Corinthians 1: 23), to remind everyone that there is no Christian faith without the cross, and we must not shy away from this fact. So, we rightly proclaim the effectiveness and power of the cross of Christ, whenever we can.

I wonder how often we speak of the resurrection of Christ though, in comparison with His death. We are always talking about the death of Christ for us, but how often do we dwell on the resurrection of Christ for us? I’m sure we know the reasoning that without the resurrection the cross would have been a failure, since Christ would have been conquered by death, and shown to be deserving of it, had He not been raised up from it by God. Perhaps most of us celebrate the resurrection of our Lord, and

delight in it. But what difference does it make to us? Sometimes we might speak of Christ's resurrection as a guarantee of our own bodily resurrection yet to come, (which it is): but it is also so much more than that.

We also meet on a Sunday because this is the day of Christ's resurrection: but is all this as far as the benefits of the resurrection extend to us now? Not at all! The resurrection is not just the "icing on the cake" of the work of Christ for us, but it stands at the very heart of it. We do not have a dead Saviour, but a risen Saviour. We do not have to rely on many great leaders and high priests to keep bringing us to God year after year with sacrifices and ceremony, but we have one High Priest, who not only "*offered up Himself*" "*once for all*" but also "*always lives to make intercession*" for us, (Hebrews 7: 27, 25). The risen and ascended Christ is one who is now able to bring us to God, to pour out the Holy Spirit upon His people, and always to plead on their behalf in God's presence. The risen and ascended Christ is the one who conquers His enemies: whom "*God has made... both Lord and Christ*" and to whom the Father said "*Sit at My right hand, Till I make Your enemies Your footstool.*" (Acts 2: 34-36). In short, the risen Christ is the victor, and only as the risen Christ can He save us.

So, Jesus' resurrection is vital to His saving work for us, but it is also vital for the Christian's daily life. In Ephesians, Paul prays for the church, that they may know "*the exceeding greatness of [God's] power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places*" (Ephesians 1: 19-20). Amazingly, Paul stresses that the same power of God which raised Christ from the dead is at work in us even today, and he wants us to know this power of God. Elsewhere, he tells us that "*just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.*" (Romans 6: 4). The believer's life now is lived not just in the light of the resurrection, but in the power of the resurrection.

As Easter comes and goes, and we perhaps have the resurrection of Christ brought to the forefront of our minds, let us not allow it to fade away again later into the background. Jesus' resurrection is not just for Easter, or even

just for Sundays, but is significant for every day of our lives here on earth, and will be for eternity.

Joseph Cresswell

University of Warwick Christian Union

By God's grace, evangelistic mission work continues in universities across the country and it is amazing how many students come under the sound of the gospel during their time at a university. In spring time, most university Christian Unions (CUs) hold events weeks which are especially aimed at reaching as many students as possible with the good news of Jesus Christ. At Warwick we are no different and a few weeks ago we held our own main events week.

Evangelistic work still happens throughout the year with regular events, international work, personal witness to friends and coursemates and through "Mini Events Weeks" which are run twice a term. So far this year God has been wonderfully working through this. We have been privileged to see many hear and start to understand the truth and it has been a joy to see some come to faith in Jesus Christ, so we were excited to see what He would do during the main events week in late February.

Our speaker for the week was Andrew Evans from Christchurch, Liverpool and he spoke each day at lunchtime on an apologetics issue and each evening from Luke's gospel. All of the events during the week were full of people and there was a great atmosphere of serious questioning and thinking about the gospel message. In the evenings in particular, the messages were direct and led many to have long conversations at their tables with Christians about what had been said and to take Luke's gospels away with them to read.

Also during the week we had open air style questions boards to engage with passing people and this proved to be a great way of starting off Christ centred conversations with complete strangers, and many left with a Luke's gospel and the intention of reading it, which is probably not what they expected that day!

It was a particular joy for me that one of my friends from first year halls of residence came along to one of the evening talks. He has shown a little bit of interest in the Bible in the past but at this talk he was really asking a lot of questions afterwards and seemed to have realised the importance of what was being said. Since then we have been meeting to go through Luke's gospel together and it is really encouraging that he is really keen to read more and more. His name is Ben and he is graduating this summer so we don't have much time left to look at the Bible together.

The follow up from an events week is very important and so we are praying that those who took Luke's gospels would be reading them, that God would bless the one to one Bible studies that are happening and that many would come to know Jesus Christ as their own Saviour.

Please remember the work of CUs around the country in prayer. It is a real joy to be part of a fast paced area of gospel witness and to see many hear of Jesus Christ, but all of this is a small dent in the vast number of students in this country and there are so many students who do not ever hear the truth! The task is often daunting but it is comforting and emboldening to remember that *“Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb”* (Revelation 7: 10) and that He is more than able to gather His people; we are just His servants and salvation is His work!

It would be great to pray:

- For the follow up from CU missions around the country.
- For Warwick CU, as we seek God's guidance for the next year ahead.
- For my friend Ben, that God would open His eyes to see the truth and lead him to saving faith.
- That many students around the country would come to faith in Jesus Christ.

Matthew Hibbard

Which crowd are you in?

This question jumps out at you from a reading of Luke 7: 11-17 – the account of Jesus raising the son of the widow of Nain. Here is told the meeting of two crowds at the entrance gate of the city of Nain – Jesus was

coming in with His disciples and a large crowd and a widow was coming out with a funeral procession carrying out her only son for burial with a large crowd from the city. There is a meeting of the two. They do not just pass. Why? Because v13 tells us of the compassion that Jesus has for the widow who has lost not only her husband but now also her only son. As He looks on her his heart goes out to her – He can feel her grief and loss and her pain. The response of the Lord Jesus is clear and decisive – He raises the young man back to life and presents him back to his mother. What relief and joy and what reverent fear came upon the many witnesses who saw what happened. *“God has visited His people”* they said and they were right – this is one of the many incidents which show us the greatness of Christ – that He is the Messiah and that He has power over death and the grave and can bring about reconciliation. He is also gracious and compassionate giving us great hope in Him. I wonder what happened then? I am sure the widow and her son would turn around and head back into the city as there was no longer a need for a burial – perhaps they followed Jesus and that would be completely understandable given what had happened. We are not told.

I wonder which crowd we are in? Are we just getting on with life unprepared for the shock and sadnesses which come? We never know when we will come face to face with the dreadful realities of death and the separation it brings. Or are we following as a disciple of the Lord Jesus because not only does He care for us but He has the answer to death and power over it and gives us an eternal hope beyond death which does not involve separation from a Holy God but reconciliation and forgiveness. That is possible of course because of the death of the Lord at Calvary where God did not hold back from judgement on His only Son in our place and also because of the resurrection which demonstrates the price has been paid and that death has been defeated.

May we learn from this account of what happened at the entrance to Nain and make sure we are in the right crowd.

Martin Sellens

MAF News to Share — April 2014

Serving South Sudan

Despite the difficulties arising from recent inter-tribal conflict, aviation mission MAF continues a service to South Sudan that began over 60 years ago.

Bastiaan de Waal, MAF's South Sudan Programme Manager, says, 'Many of our South Sudanese team members have lost relatives in the latest fighting, and stories were shared about the death of brothers and sisters.'

'One staff member found refuge in a UN compound and is still too afraid to move back to his own home. Another fled to his village and remains there, waiting for peace. We have provided temporary shared accommodation to some staff members.'

'Some are from different tribes, but they are educated people who reject any tribal issues and happily live together with their MAF colleagues.'

Fleeing for sanctuary

Although MAF personnel were preparing to celebrate the arrival of 2014, they began the year with uncertainty. In December 2013 heavy gunfire racked Juba, the capital, bringing the progress made since the country's independence in 2011 to a halt.

Within days, violence between South Sudan's two largest ethnic groups – the Nuer and the Dinka – shattered the country. As clashes engulfed several large population centres, huge numbers of local residents fled for sanctuary. With the conflict escalating, western nations sent planes to Juba to rescue their citizens.

MAF aircraft remained on hand to evacuate staff from partner NGOs who were serving in remote locations and couldn't reach the capital. These included a Tearfund team in Yuai who had limited food supplies.

In January, MAF flew Dr Jill Seaman to a clinic in Old Fangak to help 50 gunshot victims. The plane also contained urgent medical supplies. Local women helped by cooking for the wounded, and prayed with Dr Seaman

that healing and forgiveness would come to South Sudan.

Another flight, by MAF Pilot Michael DuPuis, carried a tonne of medical supplies to Doro, where Medair assists tens of thousands of South Sudanese who live in very basic conditions, awaiting resettlement in regions of the country that can welcome them.

Michael says, 'Our despatch team also boarded ten doctors along with South Sudan's national Health Minister and her assistant. I felt an unusual concern knowing our 14-seat aircraft was carrying a sizeable percentage of the country's doctors into Bor – an area that had seen thousands of combatants killed and many more wounded.'

Flying the Archbishop

Another MAF passenger, Archbishop Justin Welby, flew to Bor, where he saw overturned vehicles lining the road and several dead bodies on the streets.

At St Andrew's Cathedral, in the town centre, the Archbishop joined the community in its grief and led prayers at the mass grave prepared for the bodies of 5 ministers and 20 lay readers.

'This is the second time I have flown with MAF,' Archbishop Welby explained, 'and I think it is a reminder that MAF just keeps on taking the presence of Christ in practical ways into some of the most difficult places on earth.'

Serving Christ

Despite the tragic circumstances in which they find themselves, MAF personnel continue to serve Christ, happy in the knowledge that God has called them to South Sudan for such a time as this.

A Yorkshire Mixture

We're such a funny mixture –
To 'God's Own Country' led,
Some Yorkshire by adoption
Some Yorkshire born and bred.

Some Viking blood, some Saxon blood
Some blonde, some red, some brown;
From North and East, from South and West
From country and from town.

Some round, some square, some sharp, some sweet
But never two the same –
We're all bagged up together
Under the Yorkshire name.

We're such a funny mixture –
To God's own Kingdom brought:
All children by adoption,
By blood of Jesus bought.

In Christ, no human differences
No greatest and no least:
He mixes us together
And calls us to a feast.

So may this church of Yorkshire spice
Be ready to proclaim
God's answer to a hungry world –
The sweetness of His name.

*By Pat Wray
(Submitted by John Lewin)*

A testimony – John Lewin

It was in the late 1960s that I was booked to take the services at a church near Bedford called Ravensden Chapel. Regarding the afternoon I had a clear message, but the evening was a different matter. Starting early in the week I began to give it thought and prayer. Day followed day and all I could get was one word "Ahitophel". Lord, I said, I do not want to speak on this man, apart from being mentioned in the Old Testament I don't know anything about him. It got to Saturday evening and I had nothing. So the voice continuing to be insistent, I gave in, and reluctantly began to

study Ahithophel. I discovered that he had a son called Eliam, who had a beautiful grand-daughter called Bath-sheba, how delighted he must have been when the reliant captain Uriah fell in love with her.

But soon news was brought that shattered Ahithophel, and angered him. In fact he was so incensed that he would determine to get his own back on David.

This then was the message I took to Ravensden. At the start of the message I said, “I do not know why the Lord has given me this message, ‘The man who could not forgive’, but this is all the Lord has given me.”

The next week I received a letter from a lady who was there. She wrote “when you said you did not know why you must speak as you did I wanted to cry out ‘It’s for me, it’s for me’”. Apparently she and another lady had not spoken for a long time having quarrelled. She went on to say how the Lord had spoken to her that she must put things right. “I went” she wrote “to her after the service, and tearfully apologised. We put our arms around each other, and were reconciled.”

Through this I was taught a salutary lesson – do not grieve the Holy Spirit by resisting Him. In Stephen’s defence before his martyrdom he said *“You always resist the Holy Spirit”* Acts 7: 51.

If I had not yielded it would have robbed those dear ladies of blessing, and I would have sinned by disobeying the prompting of the Spirit. Needless to say I kept that letter, as it means a great deal to me.



Colette Hickman with Emilia and Veronica Cresswell with Elijah after the thanksgiving for the safe arrival and blessing of both children

Wearing the right label

Have you noticed how many of us these days wear labels? I'm not referring to the designer clothes labels but to those plastic cards which show who you work for. Some have their ID cards clipped to their shirt pocket or jacket lapel. Many of us, myself included, wear a lanyard around the neck with the card attached to the end of the ribbon.

If you see us all standing along the platforms of Leeds station, we look like wartime children waiting for the Evacuation trains. I'm often reminded of that small Peruvian visitor, found at a London station, who wore a label saying "Please look after this bear"!

The label I wear shows that I am an employee of QBE Insurance. The card allows me to access my place of work and proclaims my right to be there. Anyone wearing a different label will not be able to let themselves in to the QBE office.

Our access to heaven is quite similar. I was born in England (in God's own county), I was christened at a Wesleyan Chapel and have Christian parents. However, none of these labels will allow me to enter heaven. It is only my personal faith in **Him** which will assure me of acceptance.

Each and every one of us has to accept Jesus as our personal Lord. We must recognise, and repent of, our sin and seek **His** forgiveness. We must accept **Him** as Lord of our lives. It is only by bearing **His** name that we will be able to enter heaven. It is only through **His** sacrifice that we can exercise our right to be there.

In the case of Paddington Bear, he was taken home by the Brown family and given their name. The Lord Jesus has promised us a place in **His** home. John 14: 2-3 *"In My Father's house are many mansions, if it were not so I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself, that where I am, there you may be also"*. The Bible has promised us that we are part of **His** family. Romans 8: 16-17 *"The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children then heirs – heirs of*

God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together". When we enter Heaven, Jesus will present us to **His** Father and claim us for **His** own.

An Advocate Above

Please look after this soul
It is one that once was lost
Please look after this soul
It was bought at personal cost.

Please look after this soul
It's one that trusted in Me
Please look after this soul
I died so that it could be free.

Please look after this soul
I made it a room above
Please look after this soul
It's a trophy of My love.

Angela C Mathers

THANKS

Rafat has asked me, through the magazine, to give his heartfelt thanks to all who have helped them in their recent move – they both deeply appreciate it.

Congratulations

Our congratulations go to Tim Hilton and Hannah Neal who have recently announced their engagement. We are delighted at the news and wish them every blessing as they plan for their future together.

Preaching Plan

		Morning	Evening
April	6th	Glyn Williams	Joe Cresswell
	13th	Joe Cresswell	Joe Cresswell

April	20th	Joe Cresswell	Joe Cresswell (Easter)
	27th	Joe Cresswell	Martin Sellens
May	4th	Stephen Emmott	Stephen Emmott
	11th	Joe Cresswell	Joe Cresswell
	18th	Alan Brearley	Glyn Williams
	25th	Martin Sellens	Joe Cresswell
June	1st	Joe Cresswell	Joe Cresswell
	8th	Glyn Williams	Joe Cresswell

Outside Appointments

Do pray for our men as they minister outside the church in the coming months as follows:-

Pastor Joe Cresswell

Sunday May 18 am Bethel, Otley
pm Bethel, Ilkley

Glyn Williams

Sunday April 13 pm Halifax

Martin Sellens

Sunday April 13 am Bethel, Armley
Sunday May 11 am Bethany, Swinton

DIARY

April

Wed 9 7.45pm Prayer Meeting & Bible Study – Glyn Williams

Fri 11 7.30pm Followers' Prayer Group at 87 Tinshill Road

Sat 12 1.30pm Bible Horrible Histories

Sun 13 2.30pm Cookridge Court Service

Mon 14 7.45pm Evangelism Group at 175 Tinshill Lane

Tue 15 7.45pm Men's Fellowship

Wed 16 7.45pm Prayer Meeting & Bible Study – Martin Sellens

Thu 17 1pm Thursday at Two Easter Special Speaker: Bill Scully

Fri 18 7.30pm Good Friday Service Speaker: Joe Cresswell
 Wed 23 1.30pm Restart of Tots Club after Easter break
 7.45pm Prayer Meeting & Bible Study – Andrew Lolley
 Thu 24 7.30pm Followers’ Prayer Group
 Sun 27 4.30pm Fellowship Tea prior to Evening Service
 Tue 29 7.30pm Making and Thinking for Ladies –
 Mary, the mother of Jesus

May

Thu 1 2pm Thursday at Two Speaker: Matthew Seymour
 Fri 2 7.45pm Elders/Deacons Meeting at 25 Holddale Fold
 Wed 7 7.45pm Prayer Meeting & Bible Study – Richard Brown
 Thu 8 7.30pm Followers’ Prayer Group
 Sun 11 2.30pm Cookridge Court Service
 Tue 13 10.15am Second Tuesday
 Wed 14 7.45pm Deputation Meeting: Adam Whitehouse (Blythswood)
 Thu 15 2pm Thursday at Two Speaker: Joe Cresswell
 Fri 16 7.45pm Missionary Prayer Group at 1 Tinshill Mount
 Tue 20 7.45pm Men’s Fellowship
 Thu 22 am/pm Church being used as a Polling Station for
 Local/European Elections
 7.30pm Followers’ Prayer Group
 Tue 27 7.30pm Making & Thinking for Ladies – “Spring into Bloom”
 Thu 29 2pm Thursday at Two Speaker: David Judson

June

Mon 2 7.45pm Annual General Meeting
 Wed 4 7.45pm Deputation Meeting:
 Andy Peace (UBM and Yorkshire Camps)
 Thu 5 7.30pm Followers’ Prayer Group
 Mon 16 –
 Fri 20 Bible Exhibition for local schools.

Note: There will not be a Missionary Prayer Group in April as it is Good Friday.

The next edition of the magazine (June/July) is due out on Sunday June 8th so the deadline for items will be Wednesday 28th May – all contributions to Martin Sellens please.

ROTAS

Week ending

Cleaning

April	5	Ruth Holder	Rosemary Hilton	Carole Brearley
	12	Mavis Mathers	Angela Mathers	Christine Crossley
	19	Margaret Williams	Colette Hickman	Ann Mountain
	26	Natalie Sellens	Kathryn Hibbard	Deborah Williams
May	3	Jenny Leng	Eva Ng	Anne Sellens
	10	Ruth Holder	Rosemary Hilton	Carole Brearley
	17	Mavis Mathers	Angela Mathers	Christine Crossley
	24	Margaret Williams	Colette Hickman	Ann Mountain
	31	Natalie Sellens	Kathryn Hibbard	Deborah Williams
June	7	Jenny Leng	Eva Ng	Anne Sellens

For Sunday

Flowers

April	6	Rosemary Hilton	13	Christine Crossley
	20	Ann Mountain	27	Deborah Williams
May	4	Jenny Leng	11	Ruth Holder
	18	Mavis Mathers	25	Margaret Williams
June	1	Mabel Simpson	8	Eva Ng

Sunday

Library

April	6	Angela Mathers	13	Paul Crossley
	20	Christine Crossley	27	Mavis Mathers
May	4	Nigel Hibbard	11	Paul Crossley
	18	Rosemary Hilton	25	Christine Crossley
June	1	Angela Mathers		

Diary of Services and Activities

Sunday	Prayer Meeting	8.00am
	Morning Worship*	10.30am
	Key Club (Children aged 4-11)	10.30am
	Evening Worship	6.30pm
	Holy Communion follows the first morning and the third evening service each month	
	*A fully supervised crèche for young children is run in the church side room during the sermon.	
Tuesday	Second Tuesday (monthly)	10.15am
	Making and Thinking (for ladies – monthly) venue as announced	7.30pm
	Men's Fellowship (3rd Tuesday monthly)	7.45pm
Wednesday	Tots' Club (term-time)	1.30 - 3.00pm
	Prayer Meeting and Bible Study	7.45pm
Thursday	Thursday at Two (senior citizens – fortnightly)	2.00pm
	Followers' Prayer Group (fortnightly) at 68 Moseley Wood Walk	7.30pm
Friday	Good News Club (Children aged 5-11)	6.00pm
	Friday Youth Night (Ages 11-16)	7.30pm
	Missionary Prayer Group (monthly) at 1 Tinshill Mount	7.45pm

TINSHILL FREE CHURCH
 HOLLY AVENUE, LEEDS LS16 6PL
 Registered Charity No. 511933
website: <http://www.TinshillFreeChurch.org.uk/>

Pastor: Tel. No.
 Mr Joseph Cresswell, 25 Holtdale Fold, Leeds LS16 7RS {267 8250}
joseph.cresswell@yahoo.co.uk

Elders:
 Mr Martin Sellens, 68 Moseley Wood Walk, Leeds LS16 7HG {267 9529}
martin.sellens@gmail.com
 Mr Glyn Williams, 87 Tinshill Road, Leeds LS16 7DN {267 2680}
glynwtr@aol.com

Deacons:
 Mr John Almond, 175 Tinshill Lane, Leeds LS16 6EE {267 8737}
 Mr Nigel Hibbard, 26 Woodlands Avenue, Harrogate HG2 7SJ {01423 888246}