

THE MAGAZINE

N^o 306



TINSHILL FREE CHURCH

FEBRUARY / MARCH 2015

Pastoral Letter – Feb.-Mar. 2015

A Leader for the people...

Wanted: A new leader for the people.

He must be someone who can inspire and encourage all his people. Everyone in the kingdom must be able to get behind him, and be willing to take his lead. The candidate must have a flawless record to be appointed to this office, and must also carry out this role to the best of his ability. The candidate must completely fulfil all the requirements for this office, or else he cannot be considered. This position is permanent.

The countdown has begun. The race is on. The battle has commenced. You may not yet know it, but the 2015 UK general election campaign has already begun! We are now in the period known as the “long campaign”: the 100 days leading up to the dissolution of Parliament on 30th March, before the busy final weeks of campaigning begin, and then the election itself takes place on May 7th.

You may have seen that the BBC recently ran a special event called “Democracy Day”, on 20th January, showing a number of programmes focusing on the issues of democracy and how government works. The date marked the 750th anniversary of the de Montfort Parliament — the first parliament to which “commoners” were summoned, (rather than just barons and knights). This year will also see the 800th anniversary of the creation of Magna Carta: a document which asserted the rights of free men, and attempted to hold the king to account.

With all this celebration of democracy itself as a form of electing our leaders, the rights of free men to be governed justly and well, and the anticipation of a lot of political campaigning yet to come: I am put in mind of a quote from Winston Churchill. In 1947 he said in the House of Commons: “No one pretends that democracy is perfect or all-wise. Indeed, it has been said that democracy is the worst form of government except all those other forms that have been tried from time to time.” In other words, he was saying that perhaps the most honest thing we can say about

democracy is that it is the least worst system of rule, and of appointing a leader!

Democracy may perhaps be the most fair system of human government, but it can only deliver so much. We must certainly pray for our leaders, and those in authority, (1 Timothy 2:1-2), and also submit to them, (Romans 13:1, 1 Peter 2:13-17), but let us not idolise democracy in a fallen and lost world.

We've recently started studying the book of Judges at our Men's Fellowship. We discover that the big problem for the people of Israel in the book of Judges is that "*In those days there was no king in Israel*", with the effect that: "*everyone did what was right in his own eyes.*" (Judges 17:6, 21:25).

Surely we are living in a day when everyone does what is right in their own eyes: when no-one is willing to accept the claim of God's authority over them. We have a fairly stable democracy, but it doesn't give us the perfect ruler: nor can it!

Like Israel in the times of the judges, we need a perfect ruler: a king. And I'm not talking about a resident of Buckingham Palace, and someone to attend state functions. We need someone whose rule never wavers, never ends, and who never makes mistakes. Someone who never acts out of self-interest, (as all our leaders do to some extent), but who genuinely has the best interests of his people in mind: always. Someone who will not be kicked out of office in a few years' time once we have seen too much of him.

Know anyone who fits the bill?

In May we will elect a leader whom we already know will not do a perfect job: as fallible human beings they never do. In contrast, we have in the Lord Jesus Christ, one who not only reigns justly, with the best interests of His people at heart, but reigns forever. He does not change: so put all your hope in Him, and I promise you will not be disappointed!

“And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end, upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, to order it and establish it with judgment and justice from that time forward, even forever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this.” (Isaiah 9:6-7).

Joseph Cresswell

Away in a Manger — Tots Club style.

It has become a tradition over the years in our Tots Club for the team to sing a suitable carol/Christmas song to the tots and their carers at the close of our Christmas party. This last Christmas party, 2014, was no exception.

Preparations for this were well under way months in advance. One of our team members, Rosemary Hilton, had composed some extra verses (telling the Christmas story) to the carol ‘Away in a Manger’. Whilst the traditional first verse remained unchanged, three more verses (Tots Club style) were added. We felt as a team that this would, for the purpose of our Tots and carers, be a suitable and thoughtful way of communicating our “Christmas present” to them.

For some weeks before our party the team would gather after Tots Club to practice our newly formed carol. Finally at the conclusion of our party, on December 10th, the team sang Away in a Manger, Tots style. A hush descended upon the group and in the light of a single candle the tots and carers listened to our rendition. What a beautiful moment. A pocket of time well spent, never to be repeated. What a wonderful opportunity to share the Christmas story simply in song.

Our heartfelt thanks to Rosemary for spending time and thought in preparing our gift and also playing it for us.

May each one attending have felt a special touch from God in being amongst us on that occasion.

Away in a Manger (alternative version).

Away in a manger No crib for a bed,
The little Lord Jesus Lay down His sweet head.
The stars in the bright sky Looked down where He lay,
The little Lord Jesus Asleep on the Hay.

An angel came to shepherds Who were watching their sheep;
He told them of Jesus In the manger asleep.
The shepherds went to find Him, Their hearts full of joy
When they saw Him they worshipped The new baby boy.

Some wise men made a journey Guided by a bright star;
They were searching for Jesus And they came from afar.
They found him and opened The gifts they did bring,
Special presents for Jesus The new baby king.

The shepherds and the wise men Came to worship their king;
Let us join them in wonder As with gladness we sing;
“We love you, Lord Jesus, Tiny new baby boy”;
Our Saviour is born now, Let us praise Him with joy.

Carole Brearley on behalf of Tots Club Team.

In Safe Hands

Jesus answered them, “I told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in My Father’s name, they bear witness of Me. But you do not believe, because you are not of My sheep, as I said to you. My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand. My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of My Father’s hand. I and My Father are one.” John 10; 25-30

His were the hands that broke the bread
For crowds in Galilee

And those same hands were pierced with nails
Upon dread Calvary's tree.

Those precious hands laid hold of me
I can't be snatched away.
The loving voice is known to me
I hear it every day.

My soul is compassed round about
By His sustaining hand
And He will guide me safely home
Into His promised land

He holds me in His loving grip
And calls me to obey
What can I do but honour Him
And fold my hands to pray.

Angela Mathers

An Unexpected Conversion

Ivor Powell recounts a story which has been shared on three continents. It is the account of an atheist's conversion, totally unexpected. A Christian man called at the young man's home to express sympathy in the death of his father, but received a most cool reception. "I might as well make things plain" said the son "my father was a Christian but I never shared his views. He wasted his time on fables, and while I appreciate your interest, I do not want any preachers calling at my home. I am going abroad hunting."

Months later it was made known the atheist was now an unashamed Christian. His father's friend finding it difficult to believe, decided to call once more upon the young man, who told him what had happened.

"I was hunting with my friends in the forest. The beaters were attempting to drive the wild life into the open. I was very tired and in a clearing I sat on a log to rest. I heard the cries of a frightened bird, its terror was obvious for its little wings were flapping and it was very agitated. Then I saw the

reason, a snake was approaching the tree intent on raiding the nest. Suddenly another bird flashed through the branches. In some strange way the female communicated the danger. The frantic cries caused the male partner to fly off, while the mother bird sat placidly on the nest, apparently without fear.

Meanwhile the snake was almost at the tree and began its climb. As quickly as it had gone the male returned and seemed to deposit something on the nest. The snake was now almost in reach, and preparing to strike. To my unguarded astonishment, its head suddenly went back and it began to slither down the trunk. I climbed the tree to discover that the male bird had spread over the nest the leaves of the only plant poisonous to snakes.

I returned to my seat on the log, and asked myself, who gave the bird the knowledge that only certain leaves would save the young family? who gave that bird the knowledge as to which leaves were needed?

I was driven to the conclusion that only the great creator could have given a little bird such wisdom.

Then I thought that if a small bird needed such help from God then I needed it too. I bowed my head and prayed, and that is how I came to trust my father's Saviour. A tiny bird led me to Him."

When I read this incident my thoughts turned to Psalm 139v6 "*Your infinite knowledge is too wonderful for me. It is high above me, I cannot reach it*". (Amp. Bible)

Submitted by John Lewin.

BIBLE MEDITATIONS

When you're troubled, tell the Lord	Psalm 46:1
When you're puzzled, read His Word	Psalm 119:105
When you're downcast, start to Praise	Isaiah 61:3
Prove Him on your darkest days	Psalm 34:1

When you long to know His will	Romans 12:2
Listen hard and keep quite still	Psalm 46:10
When you're lonely, seek His face	Deuteronomy 31:8
He will give sufficient Grace	2 Corinthians 12:9
When you feel you can't hold out	Matthew 14:30-31
Believe and overcome the doubt	James 1:6
When you're tempted, don't give in	James 1:12
Pray for strength, then fight and win	Psalm 29:11
Yes, when'er you have a need	Philippians 4:19
Kneel before His throne and plead	Psalm 55:17

*Submitted by John Lewin
seen in magazine of Lincoln Evangelical Church*

How do we face up to our modern age?

Last Bonfire Night I had the privilege of speaking to the church and others who gathered with us at the Bible Study. We were looking at Exodus chapter 5 - Moses first meeting with Pharaoh. After the Bible Study one of our brethren asked if I would write up part of my talk for the magazine.

At the end of the passage we are told *“Moses spoke to the children of Israel; but they did not heed Moses, because of anguish of spirit and cruel bondage”* (Exodus 6:9). In other words the children of Israel didn't hear what Moses had to say to them because they couldn't see past their current situation. My contention was that the response of the Israelites to Moses in those days (who, in that case, was speaking in the name of the LORD) is similar to the response we often give to the LORD's word in our day and age.

In our land today people are leaving churches in droves and around our city places that once were used for the worship of God are now used to sell carpets or secondhand furniture or have been turned into offices or private

homes. We hear the cry that we need revival and far too often the impression is given that only revival can change our current situation. I don't know if there is going to be another revival and neither do you. The Bible tells of people leaving the faith, of people falling away, of false teachers and apostasy. Before the end comes, according to Thessalonians, there will be **the** apostasy, **the** falling away (2 Thessalonians 2:3) this is going to happen and we mustn't be deceived into thinking it isn't. But finally, despite all this, there will be a new heaven and a new earth wherein dwells righteousness. We will all see the return of the Lord Jesus Christ. All who remain faithful will gain the prize and will be forever with the LORD.

I finished the Bible Study by asking these questions and I ask them of you readers of the magazine as well: Do you believe that regardless of what the situation is today and of how bad things get God is in control and will overcome? and if so will you cling to that truth?

In the days of the Egyptian captivity Moses and the LORD had a lot of work to do with the children of Israel to turn them into a true people of God. How much needs to be done with us?

Richard Brown

What's new in the church library?

Biography

Peter Barnes — Lamp unto my feet: how God has used His Word through the ages. This book is a collection of bite-size biographies from the first century to the present day. Reading this book will make you want to find out more about these godly men and women.

Devotional/Christian Life

John MacArthur — Worship, the ultimate priority. This book clearly shows us that worship isn't just for Sundays but is the central issue in all of creation. Real worship should be the full-time, non-stop activity of every believer.

R. Kent Hughes — Disciplines of a godly man. 'This is a book for men who are eager to learn how to be more effective.' 'An outstanding volume for

men and women alike!’ ‘An inspiring and practical guide for men who seek to reflect God’s glory in their lives.’ These are a few comments about this book.

Commentaries/Scripture reading and study

John MacArthur — A tale of two sons: a study guide. Of all of Jesus’ parables, the prodigal son is one of the best known. In this study guide the author examines the parable and its profound lessons about repentance, forgiveness and the heart of God towards sinners.

Greg Harris — The darkness and the glory. This book takes us from Gethsemane to the ascension. Doctrinally sound, yet warmly devotional, this book is for all those who desire a better understanding of the glories of the cross.

Christine Crossley

MAF News to Share

Rescuing a wounded missionary in the Democratic Republic of Congo

MAF Pilot and Programme Manager Jon Cadd describes the recent life-saving medevac of a Northern Irish missionary from her remote village.



“Maud is a wonderful, caring woman who has given her entire adult life to the people here in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). She lives way out in the far reaches of the forest, with very little connecting her to the outside world.

The DRC is a harsh place and Maud has given over 40 years of sacrificial living for the sake of its people. She was recently awarded the Order of the British Empire, which makes her ‘Dame Maud’.

Although she is 75, Maud has more energy than 95% of the young people half her age. She’s amazing and is a favourite with the MAF team here in eastern DRC — so when we heard that she’d been shot and needed an emergency medical airlift, everyone jumped in to make it happen quickly.

I had the privilege of doing the flight. As reports came in, the needs changed. Destinations changed, the need for blood and equipment changed. But we got there and the medical team of four did an amazing job of trauma care. It was great to watch and be part of it.

Villagers guard missionary Maud

When we arrived at remote Mulita, Maud’s home, we saw hundreds of people — including high-ranking police and church workers. Heavily armed military personnel had secured a perimeter around the area and were standing guard with their weapons.

They were taking things very seriously and doing everything they could to show that they cared for Maud.

We were shown into the house, where we found about 40 people in the living room and 10 in Maud’s bedroom. Doctor Mike cleared out about half the visitors, but the room remained stiflingly hot.

The doctors had brought a portable ultrasound unit and set it up so they could assess the extent of Maud’s injuries. She was given blood to replace what she had lost, as well as intravenous fluids and medication to relieve the pain.

Urgent medevac to Nyankunde

Eventually, Maud was carried onto the plane with much ceremony. After

we had secured the stretcher, the church leaders prayed for a safe flight and for Maud’s swift recovery, and we finally took off. We climbed through the broken puffy clouds and began to feel that things would be okay.

After the two-hour flight back to Nyankunde, Maud was taken to the intensive care unit where the wound was cleaned out and everything checked. Although the bullet had gone straight through and out, it had grazed one of her lungs.

A job well done

As I closed up the plane and put it to bed, I felt a deep sense of satisfaction. I was really grateful to have had an opportunity to help my friend in her time of need and to be part of such a cool team that had pulled together so beautifully.”

supplied by MAF

PREACHING PLAN

		Morning	Evening
February	1st	David Gregson	David Gregson (Reeth)
	8th	Joe Cresswell	Joe Cresswell
	15th	Joe Cresswell	Joe Cresswell
	22nd	Alan Brearley	Martin Sellens
March	1st	Ben Hutton (Thornhill)	Joe Cresswell
	8th	Mick Lockwood	Mick Lockwood (Haworth)
	15th	Joe Cresswell	Joe Cresswell
	22nd	Joe Cresswell	Joe Cresswell
	29th	John Harris	John Harris (Thornhill)
April	5th	Joe Cresswell	Joe Cresswell (Easter)

We welcome Ben Hutton to the pulpit for the first time on Sunday March 1st. Ben is pastor at Thornhill Baptist. On February 1st David Gregson is with us from Reeth and Mick Lockwood from Haworth on March 8th — both long standing friends of our church. Mick is also a holding Trustee and attended the Annual Trustees meeting held in January.

OUTSIDE APPOINTMENTS

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

Pastor Joe Cresswell

Feb 22nd am/pm Bethel Free Church, Armley

Mar 8th am/pm Hall Green Baptist, Haworth

Martin Sellens

Feb 8th am Thorpe Edge

Mar 15th am Bethel Free Church, Armley

DIARY

February

- Wed 4 7.45pm Prayer Meeting & Bible Study
Speaker: Martin Sellens (Exodus)
- Thu 5 2pm Thursday at Two Speaker: John White
- Sun 8 2.30pm Cookridge Court Service
- Mon 9 7.45pm Elders/Deacons meeting at 68 Moseley Wood Walk
- Tue 17 7.45pm Men's Fellowship
- Wed 18 7.45pm Deputation: Paul Crossley — Nigerian update
- Thu 19 2pm Thursday at Two Speaker: Colin Mountain
- Fri 20 7.45pm Missionary Prayer Group at 1 Tinshill Mount
- Sun 22 4.30pm Fellowship tea, prior to evening service
- Tue 24 7.30pm Making & Thinking for Ladies: Thinking – “Naomi”
- Wed 25 7.45pm Prayer Meeting & Bible Study
Speaker: John Almond (Exodus)

March

- Thu 5 2pm Thursday at Two Speaker: Rodney Steel
- Fri 6 pm North of England Conference

- “Hope for Better Days” at Central Offices
- Sat 7 am/pm Dewsbury Evangelical Church
Speaker: David Meredith (Inverness)
- Sun 8 2.30pm Cookridge Court Service
- Thu 12 7.45pm Elders/Deacons meeting at 25 Holtdale Fold
- Tue 17 7.45pm Men’s Fellowship
- Wed 18 7.45pm Prayer Meeting & Bible Study
Speaker: Martn Sellens (Exodus)
- Thu 19 2pm Thursday at Two Speaker: Peter Atkinson
- Fri 20 7.45pm Missionary Prayer Group
- Mon 23 7.45pm Financial Planning Meeting for members at church
- Tue 31 7.30pm Making & Thinking for Ladies:
Easter Crafts at church

April

- Wed 1 7.45pm Deputation: Trevor Baker — Albania Evangelical Mission
- Thu 2 1pm Thursday at Two Easter Special
Speaker: Martin Sellens
- Fri 3 7.30pm Good Friday Service Speaker: Alan Brearley

The Half term break is February 16th — 20th. There is no FYN on 20th or 27th February and the last FYN/Good News Club meetings before a 3 week break over Easter will be Friday 27th March. There will be no Good News Club on 20th February.

All other mid week meetings up to Easter if not mentioned specifically in the Diary, the speaker will be our Pastor, Joe Cresswell.

The next edition of the Magazine is due out, DV, on Sunday 5th April — all items and contributions to Martin Sellens by Wednesday March 25th.

ROTAS

Week ending

		Cleaning		
January	31	Natalie Sellens	Kathryn Hibbard	Deborah Williams
February	7	Jenny Leng	Eva Ng	Anne Sellens
	14	Ruth Holder	Rosemary Hilton	Carole Brearley
	21	Mavis Mathers	Angela Mathers	Christine Crossley
	28	Margaret Williams	Colette Hickman	Ann Mountain
March	7	Natalie Sellens	Kathryn Hibbard	Deborah Williams
	14	Jenny Leng	Eva Ng	Anne Sellens
	21	Ruth Holder	Rosemary Hilton	Carole Brearley
	28	Mavis Mathers	Angela Mathers	Christine Crossley
April	4	Margaret Williams	Colette Hickman	Ann Mountain

For Sunday

		Flowers		
February	1	Kathryn Hibbard	8	Anne Sellens
	15	Rosemary Hilton	22	Christine Crossley
March	1	Ann Mountain	8	Deborah Williams
	15	Jenny Leng	22	Ruth Holder
	29	Mavis Mathers	April 5	Margaret Williams

Sunday am

		Library		
February	1	Angela Mathers	8	Mavis Mathers
	15	Paul Crossley	22	Christine Crossley
March	1	Rosemary Hilton	8	Nigel Hibbard
	15	Angela Mathers	22	Mavis Mathers
	29	Christine Crossley	April 5	Paul Crossley

Thought for the Month

If you want to be miserable, look within;
 distracted, look around;
 peaceful, look up

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
<p>Holy Communion follows the first morning and the third evening service each month</p> <p>*A fully supervised crèche for young children is run in the church side room during the sermon.</p>		
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: Mr Joseph Cresswell, 25 Holtdale Fold, Leeds LS16 7RS {267 8250}
joseph.cresswell@yahoo.co.uk Tel. No.

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}