

# THE MAGAZINE

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TINSHILL FREE CHURCH

APRIL / MAY 2015



## Pastoral Letter—April 2015

### Peace for all time

You may know that on Thursday May 7th this year the next UK general election will take place, amid widespread media predictions of a hung parliament, where no party is expected to win outright. However, I can say for certain that there will be a celebration of a great victory on Friday May 8th! That day will be the 70th anniversary of VE Day — Victory in Europe — as we remember the end of World War Two in Europe.

On 30th September 1938 the British Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain had returned from Germany jubilantly clutching the Anglo-German Declaration when he landed. Later that day, outside 10 Downing Street he said: “My good friends, for the second time in our history, a British Prime Minister has returned from Germany bringing peace with honour. I believe it is peace for our time.” His words are remembered today largely because they proved to be so spectacularly wrong, and less than a year later our country was at war with Hitler’s Germany. Peace would prove to be far more costly than anyone in Britain imagined at that time.

The Second World War would turn out to be the most widespread and most deadly war in all of history, with over 50 million people dying before it ended. The war and its aftermath shaped the course of world history for the rest of the 20th century, and it was certainly one of the most significant events ever. The UK alone lost over 450,000 of its citizens, both killed in action, and on the home front. This was a very costly victory: and on VE Day we remember many lives laid down in order to bring peace to Europe. Peace was bought at a very high cost.

As we reflect upon Jesus’ death for us on the cross we see this too. That it was not only a great moment in history, but THE great moment of history! In fact the whole hinge of human history turns around this one event: the death of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. His death didn’t just have an effect on the lives of people for a century or more to come; but its effects will continue to echo on into eternity. The Lord Jesus’ work on the cross is the very focus of all God’s plans for the world, and can never be forgotten.

In Revelation 5 we hear the praise of those in heaven for Jesus, *“the Lamb who was slain”*, who takes up the scroll containing God’s purposes for history:

*“You are worthy to take the scroll, and to open its seals; for You were slain, and have redeemed us to God by Your blood out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation, and have made us kings and priests to our God; and we shall reign on the earth.”* (Revelation 5:9-10).

We know that the death of Jesus Christ was the death of the innocent in place of the guilty. At the cross, God gave His very best to save us from our very worst. It was a very costly victory indeed. But it was a victory, and did achieve exactly what God intended it to: as was demonstrated by His being raised to life again on the third day. And this was no temporary truce; no false “peace” which will last but a short while. He has brought us peace with God: forever.

Surely then, as we approach Easter, and are reminded afresh of the price of peace with God, we can join in with that call which resounds in heaven and echoes on into eternity:

*“Worthy is the Lamb who was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom, and strength and honour and glory and blessing!”* (Rev. 5:12).  
Amen.

*Joseph Cresswell*

## A note from Lubumbashi – February 2015

Dear Ladies,

Thank you very much for the parcel of knitted baby blankets and teddies which arrived safely in the middle of January. I can see these represent a lot of time and effort on your part and so I do want to thank you all very much for your kindness and hard work firstly in knitting



the squares and then putting the squares together to make the lovely blankets. It will be a pleasure to give them out to needy mothers in the maternity section of the clinic and I know they will be very welcome and appreciated. The 3 teddies are very sweet and will certainly be appreciated too! Many thanks for sending them out to me. May the Lord bless you and encourage you in your work for Him, as the ladies who receive these blankets and teddies will also be blessed and encouraged.

With thanks and best wishes,

*Rachel Newby*  
*(Democratic Republic of Congo)*

## **Some thoughts on voting**

The following thoughts are taken from my Second Tuesday paper on how Christians should view the state. I'm not going to try to tell you how to vote; but simply want to encourage you to think through the principles we might want to apply to voting as a Christian.

The Apostle Paul was a Christian who was prepared to use his rights as a Roman citizen to get a fair hearing for the gospel, and to advance God's work. One of the rights that we have today as free adult citizens of this country is the right to vote in elections. Should we use this right to try and influence the government for good when elections occur? The question was put to me "Who should Christians vote for?" I think the question was raised perhaps because many Christians feel that the moral and spiritual attitudes of most of the major UK political parties aren't currently very reflective of Biblical values.

Here are some of the options we have if we are going to use our vote:

We can vote for "Christian" independent candidates, if there is one standing in our constituency. This can be fraught with problems. How "Christian" are they really? Would we agree with their understanding of the gospel, or do they just call themselves Christian? But even if they were a genuine born-again Christian, if we are realistic about it, as we are living in a country with only a tiny percentage of true Christians, they are very

unlikely to get elected campaigning as an outwardly Christian candidate. Does this matter? Should we vote for them anyway to try and make a point, even if it means we are “wasting” our vote in comparison to voting for a more mainstream candidate?

We can vote for candidates of one of the major parties. All of the major parties will have had some Christian influence in their past, (however small); and probably all of them have at least one or two MPs who are Christians: maybe more. This is where it gets complicated, at least in our parliamentary system. When we vote for someone we need to bear three things in mind:

1. We vote for an individual candidate to represent our constituency in Parliament.
2. The candidate we vote for is (usually) a member of a political party which is represented in Parliament, and the MP elected for our constituency counts towards whoever has the majority of seats in Parliament and therefore forms the government.
3. The leader of the party with the most MPs in Parliament will almost certainly become the Prime Minister and lead the government.

So we have at least these three levels to think about as we vote, and it would be irresponsible to not consider all three when we cast a vote for a candidate. Why do I say that? Well, imagine, that we are very fortunate and we have a local candidate who is a Bible-believing Christian, (and, for the sake of argument, has a realistic chance of being elected). We might say, “I think this person will make a good, honest MP, and will vote in a godly and Biblical way on the issues that come up”. But, that candidate is also a member of a political party. Are we satisfied with all the policies and proposed policies that that party is putting forward? Can we agree with the basic ethos of the party: is it driving towards and motivated by godly ideals? If we cannot agree with the party’s aims, we have a problem: because in electing that candidate we think so highly of, we are helping to hand power to their party by giving it a majority in Parliament, or a place in government. You could take that further and say that perhaps you can wholeheartedly commend both the candidate and the party, and are entirely happy with them, (and that is rare perhaps!), but are you also

completely happy with the character and ideals of the party leader, whom you are helping to make Prime Minister or place in a position of great influence?

Many of these problems are done away with if you vote for an independent or very minor party candidate, but it must be said these are very, very rarely elected to Parliament. Only 13 different independent and very minor party candidates have been elected to the House of Commons since 1950: so this is far from the norm.

So there are a number of factors to consider when voting as a Christian, and I have perhaps only scratched the surface of the topic. When Christians seek to influence government for good, not only to aid the spread of the gospel but also to spread justice and righteousness in everyday good works, we are loving our neighbours, as we should. Jesus and the writers of the New Testament state the central importance of this command from Leviticus 19:18 which sums up what our attitude should be to others: *“You shall love your neighbour as yourself”*. This is a way in which you can serve God and please Him, if you truly love your neighbour as you love yourself. So we should approach the issue of voting prayerfully, and thoughtfully.

Personally, I don't feel any strong affiliation to any particular political party, but I will vote in the coming election, and pray that God will use my vote for the good of this country. I myself don't want a leader who is right wing or left wing or centre ground on the supposed political scale. Rather, I want someone who will honour God and do justice and righteousness. Whomever is elected into the next government of this country, we should pray for them, that they will honour God in their important work.

*“Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men, for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence. For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour, who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.”*  
(1 Timothy 2:1-4).

*Joseph Cresswell*

# Kidz Zone – Starting off

Hello and welcome to kidz zone with me, Rachel, and my friend Kerin. This month we will be writing about becoming a Christian and talking a little bit about a Christian Holiday we went on last year...

But first let us tell you about where Kerin grew up and how she became a Christian.

## **Where did you grow up?**

I come from York, I am 13 and I live with my parents, two brothers and sister.

## **Are your family Christians?**

Me, my parents, my older brother and my older sister are all Christians.

## **Was it easy becoming a Christian in a Christian home?**

Yes and no! It meant that I went to church and bible clubs every week but because it was something that was in conversation around me a lot I didn't realize how amazing the bible was and I didn't believe it for myself. I knew that going to church didn't make you a Christian and I needed to change.

## **What helped you to become a Christian?**

Going on Christian Holidays have helped me a lot because they teach me what being a Christian really is, and the leaders really inspired me as they showed me how I should live my life as a Christian as I become a young woman.

Also Rachel who is also a Christian (who I met on a Christian camp) has helped me because she is someone who I can encourage and someone who will encourage me. We can also talk about what we have learnt from our bible readings.

Last year both me and Kerin went on a Christian camp. We did loads of exciting things like Rock climbing, Ghyll scrambling and horse riding but there were also talks in the evening about the bible. We learnt lots of things from the talks like...

## **How we should encourage and help other Christians and really try and**

**help out at our Churches.**

We also learnt that life can be very short so we need to live life to the best by putting God and our faith first.

**What does the bible say about becoming a Christian?**

*'If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.'* 1 John 1:9

*'For God so loved the world, that He gave his only son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life'* John 3:16

*'For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.'* Romans 6:23

Becoming a Christian is all about knowing you are a sinner and accepting that you need God's forgiveness in order to get to heaven and knowing that Jesus died for you.

Pray: If you want to become a Christian...

Say sorry for all your sins and ask for God's forgiveness. (He can forgive you because Jesus took the punishment on the cross that really belongs to you)

Thank God for sending His only Son to die for you.

### **Fill in the gaps:**

Jesus died for me on the \_\_\_\_\_ to save me from my \_\_\_\_\_.

Becoming a C\_\_\_\_\_ gives me eternal life in heaven.

Reading the \_\_\_\_\_ every day helps me grow in my f\_\_\_\_\_.

(Words: sins, Christian, cross, bible, faith.)

*By Rachel Williams and Kerin Hulse*

## **The Protection of God**

During what must count as one of the most painful and blackest periods of my life, I was allowed to retain a unique hymn book containing 1445 hymns of marvellous quality by Zion Independent Chapel at Morley to

help my devotional life. I will always be grateful to dear Alan Metcalfe for allowing me to do so. It has been a great help to me. It contains many wonderful hymns which, sadly, have gone out of most modern hymn books. The loss is ours! I would like to share one or two with you.

### **The Church — the Garden of Christ**

1. We are a garden wall'd around  
Chosen and made peculiar ground;  
A little spot enclos'd by grace,  
Out of the world's wide wilderness.
2. Like trees of myrrh and spice we stand,  
Planted by God the Father's hand;  
And all His springs in Zion flow  
To make the young plantation grow.
3. Awake, O heav'nly wind, and come,  
Blow on this garden of perfume;  
Spirit Divine, descend and breathe  
A gracious gale on plants beneath.
4. Make our best spices flow abroad,  
To entertain our Saviour God;  
And faith, and love, and joy appear,  
And every grace be active here.

*(Watts)*

Next hymn for the troubled Christian going through some of the difficulties of real Christian experience. Very few Christians manage to get through life without them.

### **The Egyptians pursued**

1. Tempted soul and deeply tried,  
Now in Israel's God confide;  
See Jehovah's mighty power  
Saves them in the dangerous hour;  
Hosts behind, and seas before;  
Can'st thou be exposed more?

2. See His wonder-working hand!  
While the people trembling stand!  
Seas divide and make a road,  
At the voice of Israel's God.  
Egypt strives in vain to fly;  
Waves return, they sink, they die.
3. Every enemy is lost;  
Israel in Jehovah boast.  
Tempted soul, in God repose,  
He shall vanquish all Thy foes;  
Full salvation thou shalt see,  
More than conqueror thou shalt be.

*(Anonymous)*

Longing to be with the Saviour may not suit the world very well but we long to be with Him, don't we?

### Viewing Jesus

1. I love the windows of Thy grace,  
Through which my Lord is seen,  
And long to meet my Saviour's face,  
Without a glass between.
2. O that the happy hour were come  
To change my faith to sight!  
I shall behold my Lord at home  
In a diviner light.
3. Haste, my Beloved, and remove  
These interposing days;  
Then shall my passions all be love,  
And all my pow'rs be praise.

*(Watts)*

We should always value our hymn books highly because they are a compendium of doctrine and experience that can help us in our times of greatest need. Some of the words and abbreviations may seem quaint and

old fashioned now but they contain tremendous truth which can strengthen our hearts.

*Submitted by Paul Crossley*

## Nigerian Update

*“Brethren, pray for us”* (1 Thessalonians 5v25)

Paul Crossley shared about his visit to Nigeria in 2014 at the mid-week meeting on 18th February — here are some brief notes and prayer points.

Nigeria is nearly 4 times the size of the UK and has a population of 168 million, expected to rise to some 226 million by 2030. There are 36 states, 250+ ethnic groups, 4 major languages (including English) and over 500 indigenous languages. Boko Horam and Fulani gunmen are a major threat in the North and corruption is rife in the country, with mass unemployment amongst young people. The main religions are Christianity, Islam and African traditional religions but there is a lot of mix and bureaucracy.

Paul spoke about his love for the Nigerian people and the ministry he was able to give in Kaduna, Kagoro and Kafarchan including a widows training school, Sunday School teacher training course, pastors conference and theological seminary. Paul asked for prayer for a number of specific points;

(1) For the impact of the preaching/teaching that was given during his visit, particularly that Sunday School teachers would pass on biblical knowledge and pastors would take up expository preaching in their ministries.

(2) For the ECWA Theological Seminary at Kagoro (ETSK), for Rick and Allana Creighton and Dee Grimes, an American lady missionary based there. ETSK is affiliated to Jos University and holds a summer school May-July. Pray for Paul as he wants to transform his lecture notes and develop a more interactive and practical based approach for the course in 2016 when he hopes to return. There is an issue of funding for the students as most struggle with fees for tutors/food and accommodation.

(3) For the study Bibles given to pastors and students and the Gospels

handed out to police officers and soldiers on the streets — that they may be well read and influential.

(4) For James and Rhoda Yayok who have been friends with Paul since 1978 and hosted Paul's visit. They have recently both retired and Paul would like them to visit the UK — they have a poultry business out of necessity and an extensive family. James may have to act as a locum for a church without a pastor so needs prayer.

(5) Pastor Musa Biniyat is a dear friend and Paul's former student from 1978 — he is in a very rural village situation seeking to spread the gospel in Badaya.

(6) Adamu Maga (who has previously been to Tinshill a couple of times) travelled from Jos to see Paul. He has retired from ECWA and hopes to start a fellowship on more biblical lines.

Please pray for Nigeria.

*Martin Sellens*

## The Cross and the Carpenter

It is some years now since I came upon a delightful truth concerning our Saviours burial in the garden tomb. My source was a onetime warden of the tomb outside the city wall.

It is well known that General Charles Gordon perceived the skull hill to be the likely place where Jesus was crucified. This was in 1885. The warden shared that the tomb and the carpenter of Nazareth are closely linked.

“When a Jewish carpenter had completed the construction of say a bench, or bowl or a table he would wash his hands wiping them on a napkin, or small towel. He would then carefully fold it placing it beside the complete article. This signified that the job was done.” How wonderful that on the cross our beloved carpenter/Saviour cried *“It is finished”*. The work of redemption was complete. Reconciliation was made. The atoning blood was shed.

How fitting then that John records *“But this burial napkin (or kerchief)*

*which had been around Jesus's head was not lying with the other linen cloths but was still rolled up — wrapped round and round in a place by itself.*" (John 20v7 Amplified Bible).

Was this not the Lord Jesus proclaiming so clearly *"I have finished the work you gave me to do"* (John 17v4)? In Philippians 1v6 Paul picks up the same truth *"He who began a good work in you will continue... right up to the time of His return... developing that good work and bringing it to full completion."*

'Tis finished! The Messiah dies;  
Cut off for sins, but not His own,  
Accomplished is the sacrifice,  
The great redeeming work is done.

Tis finished! All the debt is paid,  
Justice divine is satisfied;  
The grand and full atonement made;  
God for a guilty world has died.

*John Lewin*

## **Does Jesus Care?**

Does Jesus care when my heart is pained  
Too deeply for mirth or song;  
When the burdens press, and the cares distress  
And the way is weary and long?

O Yes He cares! I know He cares  
His heart is touched with my grief.  
Whether days are dreary, the long nights weary  
I know my Saviour cares.

*Submitted by John Lewin*

## Grateful Thanks



I want to say thanks to all for making the Fellowship Tea on Sunday February 22nd so special for me — I was deeply touched by how many came and for the many expressions of love I received.

*Ken Greenwood*

(The photographs were taken at the fellowship tea)

## I have a Shepherd

“I have a Shepherd, One I love so well  
How He has blessed me, none can ever tell.  
On the cross He suffered, shed His blood and died  
That I may ever in His love abide.

### (Refrain)

Following Jesus ever day by day  
Nothing can harm me when He leads the way  
Sunshine or shadow what ‘ere befall  
Jesus, the Shepherd, is my all in all.”

*Submitted by John Lewin*

# PREACHING PLAN

		<b>Morning</b>	<b>Evening</b>
April	5	Joe Cresswell	Joe Cresswell
	12	Joe Cresswell	Joe Cresswell
	19	Martin Sellens	Joe Cresswell
	26	Joe Cresswell	Joe Cresswell
May	3	Matthew Seymour	Joe Cresswell
	10	Joe Cresswell	Joe Cresswell
	17	Joe Cresswell	Glyn Williams
	24	Martin Sellens	Joe Cresswell
	31	Joe Cresswell	Joe Cresswell
June	7	Joe Cresswell	Alan Brearley

## Outside Appointments

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

Pastor Joe Cresswell — Sunday April 19th a.m. Garforth

Glyn Williams — Sunday May 31st am/pm Bethel, Armley

Martin Sellens — Wednesday May 6th and 13th Bible Studies at Bethel, Armley

## DIARY

### April

- Sat 11 10-12 Prayer for outpouring of God's Spirit  
at Christ Church, Crossgates
- Sun 12 2.30pm Cookridge Court Service  
8.15pm After church regarding Bible Exhibition
- Thu 16 2pm Thursday at Two Speaker: Chris Haley
- Fri 17 7.45pm Missionary Prayer Group at 1 Tinshill Mount
- Mon 20 7.45pm Elders/Deacons Meeting at 87 Tinshill Road

- Tue 21 7.45pm Men's Fellowship  
 Wed 22 1.30pm Tot's Club restarts after Easter break  
 Fri 24 6pm Good News prayer meeting  
 7.30pm FYN restarts after Easter break  
 Tue 28 7.30pm Making & Thinking for Ladies — "Jochebed"  
 Thu 30 2pm Thursday at Two Speaker: Niels Van der Kastele

## May

- Fri 1 6pm Good News Restarts after Easter break  
 Thu 7 am/pm Church open all day as Polling Station  
 for General Election  
 Sun 10 2.30pm Cookridge Court Service  
 Tue 12 10.15am Second Tuesday Speaker: Glyn Williams  
 Thu 14 2pm Thursday at Two Speaker: Eric Holder  
 Fri 15 7.45pm Missionary Prayer Group  
 Sat 16 4pm Fellowship afternoon at the church  
 Mon 18 7.45pm Evangelism Group at 175 Tinshill Lane  
 Tue 19 7.45pm Men's Fellowship  
 Thu 21 7.45pm Elders/Deacons Meeting at 26 Woodlands Drive  
 Tue 26 7.30pm Making and Thinking for Ladies — Knit for Need  
 Thu 28 2pm Thursday at Two Speaker: Joe Cresswell

## June

- Mon 1 7.45pm Annual General Meeting at church

### **Please note:**

Tots Club, Good News Club and FYN will not meet in Half Term week — May 25-29.

The next magazine deadline will be Wednesday 20th May for the June/July edition. All items to Martin Sellens please.

Our next Bible Study series called "Building Blocks of Faith" will start on 8th April and comprise a series of studies on our church Statement of Faith

# ROTAS

<b>Week ending</b>		<b>Cleaning</b>		
April	4	Margaret Williams	Colette Hickman	Ann Mountain
	11	Natalie Sellens	Kathryn Hibbard	Deborah Williams
	18	Jenny Leng	Eva Ng	Anne Sellens
	25	Ruth Holder	Rosemary Hilton	Carole Brearley
May	2	Mavis Mathers	Angela Mathers	Christine Crossley
	9	Margaret Williams	Colette Hickman	Ann Mountain
	16	Natalie Sellens	Kathryn Hibbard	Deborah Williams
	23	Jenny Leng	Eva Ng	Anne Sellens
	30	Ruth Holder	Rosemary Hilton	Carole Brearley
June	6	Mavis Mathers	Angela Mathers	Christine Crossley

<b>For Sunday</b>		<b>Flowers</b>		
April	5	Margaret Williams	12	Christine Blayney
	19	Eva Ng	26	Carole Brearley
May	3	Angela Mathers	10	Colette Hickman
	17	Kathryn Hibbard	24	Anne Sellens
	31	Rosemary Hilton	June 7	Christine Crossley

<b>Sunday</b>		<b>Library rota</b>		
April	5	Paul Crossley	12	Rosemary Hilton
	19	Nigel Hibbard	26	Angela Mathers
May	3	Mavis Mathers	10	Paul Crossley
	17	Christine Crossley	24	Rosemary Hilton
	31	Nigel Hibbard	June 7	Angela Mathers

## Thought for the Month

The cross of Christ reveals man's sin at its worst  
and God's love at its best.



# 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

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