

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 *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 (as announced) at 68 Moseley Wood Walk	7.30pm
Friday	Good News Club (Children aged 5-11)	6.00pm
	Missionary Prayer Group (monthly) at 1 Tinshill Mount	7.45pm

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THE MAGAZINE

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TINSHILL FREE CHURCH

FEBRUARY / MARCH 2016

Pastoral Letter

Eagerly Waiting

Are you good at waiting? There will be many things in life — from buses, to doctors — that we each have to wait for, and over which we have very little control. We can either wait for them with a patient, joyful sense of expectation, or we can wait for them with impatience, weariness or trepidation.



It must be said that the British do like to consider themselves very good at queueing. Put simply, this is just organised waiting, and it's surely one of our favourite national pastimes. I'm not sure exactly when this began, but I remember my mother telling me that during the war and in the years immediately after — when the country was affected by rationing — then you would often join a queue which you came across, and only then find out what it was that you were queueing for!

After all: it must have been something worth having if everyone else was waiting for it. (Perhaps even the queue itself was reason enough for some people!)

We do all like a good queue though, especially when the reward is worth the wait. In fact, some have made an extreme sport of it, as each year when the Wimbledon tennis championships come around, we see the great overnight queues there each day, as people seek to gain entrance to the event: as some tickets are reserved for daily sale at the door. Believe it or not, the organisers of Wimbledon even issue a 28-page "Guide to Queueing" outlining how to participate in their queue! Yet the thing that always strikes me about the folks in the line when they are interviewed on the news is how cheerful they all are. They wait overnight on the pavement, with very few comforts: but they do so joyfully! Why is this? It's because

ROTAS

Week ending

February	6	Mavis Mathers
	13	Gill Almond
	20	Natalie Sellens
	27	Jenny Leng
March	5	Ruth Holder
	12	Mavis Mathers
	19	Gill Almond
	26	Natalie Sellens
April	2	Jenny Leng

For Sunday

February	7	Mavis Mathers
	21	Mabel Simpson
March	6	Carole Brearley
	20	Colette Hickman
April	3	Anne Sellens

Sunday

February	7	Angela Mathers
	21	Christine Crossley
March	6	Paul Crossley
	20	Angela Mathers
April	3	Rosemary Hilton

Cleaning

Angela Mathers	Christine Crossley
Colette Hickman	Ann Mountain
Kathryn Hibbard	Deborah Williams
Eva Ng	Anne Sellens
Rosemary Hilton	Carole Brearley
Angela Mathers	Christine Crossley
Colette Hickman	Ann Mountain
Kathryn Hibbard	Deborah Williams
Eva Ng	Anne Sellens

Flowers

14	Margaret Williams
28	Eva Ng
13	Angela Mathers
27	Kathryn Hibbard

Library

14	Mavis Mathers
28	Rosemary Hilton
13	Nigel Hibbard
27	Mavis Mathers



Thought for Easter

The darkness of Calvary was followed by the joy of the resurrection

The darkness of trials only makes God's grace shine brighter



March

- Wed 2 7.45pm Prayer Meeting and Bible Study
Speaker: Glyn Williams
- Thu 3 2pm Thursday at Two Speaker: Alistair Park
- Fri 4) evening North of England Conference at
Sat 5) am/pm Dewsbury Evangelical Church
- Tue 8 7.45pm Elders/Deacons Meeting at 68 Moseley Wood Walk
- Wed 9 7.45pm Prayer Meeting and Bible Study
Speaker: Martin Sellens
- Sun 13 2pm Cookridge Court Service
- Mon 14 7.45pm Evangelism Group at 175 Tinshill Lane
- Tue 15 7.30pm Making and Thinking for Ladies—Easter Crafts
7.45pm Men's Fellowship
- Wed 16 7.45pm Prayer Meeting and Bible Study
Speaker: Paul Crossley
- Thu 17 1pm Thursday at Two Speaker: Niels Van Der Kastele
- Fri 18 7.45pm Missionary Prayer Meeting
- Mon 21 7.45pm Financial Planning Meeting for Members
- Wed 23 1.30pm Tots Club Easter Special
7.45pm Prayer Meeting and Bible Study
Speaker: Glyn Williams
- Fri 25 7.30pm Good Friday Service Speaker: Joe Cresswell
- Thu 31 2pm Thursday at Two Speaker: John White

Tots Club will not meet on Feb.17th (Half Term) and March 30th, April 6th and 13th (Easter break) and will restart on Weds. April 20th. Good News Club will not meet on Feb.19th and 26th (Half Term) and March 25th, April 8th and 15th but will meet on Friday 1st April.

The next Magazine (April/May edition) is due out for April 3rd so all contributions to Martin Sellens please by Wednesday 23rd March.

they believe the thing for which they wait is well worth it: and will make their hardships seem light and momentary, once they have it.

Veronica and I know a thing or two about waiting: as we are currently waiting for our third child to arrive. As I write this, the baby is due tomorrow, and yet, as both of our other children have gone well past their due date we suspect we may have to wait a while longer. Yet we wait with a sense of eager expectation as we look forward to the joys ahead.

More importantly, as believers, we are each waiting for the return of our Lord Jesus Christ to this world. When He returns — both as Judge and Saviour — all will be put right with the world, and for us who look forward to His coming, the wait will be over. Indeed, Scripture tells us that even the creation itself *“eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God”* on that day, since all things will then be made new: including our bodies. (Romans 8:19). The apostle Paul explains that: *“the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation groans and labours with birth pangs together until now. Not only that, but we also who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for the adoption, the redemption of our body. For we were saved in this hope... But if we hope for what we do not see, we eagerly wait for it with perseverance.”* (Romans 8: 21-25).

Margaret Clarkson's hymn “Rejoicing in hope” (320 in Christian Hymns) captures this hope well as it speaks of our waiting for the Lord Jesus' return:

Rejoicing in hope
we wait for our King;
His coming is sure,
His conquest we sing.
His hour of returning
draws daily more near;
with hearts hushed and burning
we see Him appear.

We can either wait for Him with a patient, joyful sense of expectation —

knowing what His coming means for us: or we can wait for Him with impatience, weariness or trepidation. Are you eagerly waiting “with perseverance” for Jesus to return? I am: and the wait will be well worth it!

Joseph Cresswell

At the Gate of the Year

The New Year begins a new journey,
Just one step ahead we may see,
But looking to Jesus for guidance
The way will be opened for thee.

One step at a time simply trusting
The One who is holding your hand
The One who with infinite wisdom
Each step of your pathway has planned

If walking in daily dependence,
And near to His side He would share
Each problem and burden arising,
Each trial, and conflict and care.

He would comfort, encourage and strengthen
If near to His side we were found
With goodness and mercy unfailing
And blessings the path would surround.

Faith rests on the One who is guiding,
And trusts Him who goeth before
Whose love cheers and brightens the journey
Whose presence gives joy evermore.

Submitted by John Lewin

OUTSIDE APPOINTMENTS

Do pray for our men as they minister in the following places in the coming months.

Glyn Williams

Sunday March 20th am Birstall Evangelical

Martin Sellens

Sunday March 20th pm Bethel, Armley

Paul Crossley

Sunday Feb 14th am/pm Pemburton, Wigan

Sunday Feb 28th am Pentecost Baptist

Sunday March 13th am/pm Pemburton, Wigan

Sunday March 27th am Pentecost Baptist

Sunday April 3rd am Garforth Evangelical

Please pray for wisdom for Paul who has been asked to minister at the Kagoro Seminary in Nigeria this year—that he might know the Lord’s will in this matter.

DIARY

February

Tue 9 10.15am Second Tuesday Speaker: Glyn Williams
7.45pm Elders/Deacons Meeting at 175 Tinshill Lane

Wed 10 7.45pm Prayer Meeting and Bible Study
Speaker: Richard Brown

Sun 14 2.30pm Cookridge Court Service

Tue 16 7.45pm Men’s Fellowship

Wed 17 7.45pm Prayer Meeting and Bible Study
Speaker: John Almond

Thu 18 2pm Thursday at Two Speaker: John Almond

Fri 19 7.45pm Missionary Prayer Group at 1 Tinshill Mount

Tue 23 7.30pm Making and Thinking for Ladies Thinking—Anna

Cornerstone Church, Brighouse

Steve Bowers is leaving the Pastorate at Cornerstone Church, Brighouse (formerly Brighouse Evangelical Church) at the end of February to begin his new role as Assistant Director of Evangelical Missionary Fellowship (EMF) at the start of March. Steve is well known to us having served as a Holding Trustee for many years at Tinshill prior to stepping down a year ago due to his increasing responsibilities at EMF. Steve went to live in Brighouse in 1979 and became the Pastor in 1980 (36 years ago). Do pray for Steve and Brenda as they move South to take up their new ministry and for the continuing work in Brighouse.

There is a special service of thanksgiving for Steve's ministry at Brighouse on Sunday 21st February at 2.45pm at Brighouse Civic Hall on Bradford Road—all are welcome. There will be refreshments afterwards.

Martin Sellens

PREACHING PLAN

		Morning	Evening
February	7	Gordon Frame	Gordon Frame (York)
	14	Alan Brearley	Joe Cresswell
	21	Martin Sellens	Joe Cresswell
	28	Joe Cresswell	Joe Cresswell
March	6	Joe Cresswell	Alan Brearley
	13	Joe Cresswell	Joe Cresswell
	20	Joe Cresswell	Joe Cresswell
	27	Martin Sellens	Joe Cresswell (Easter)
April	3	Joe Cresswell	Joe Cresswell

HOLDING HANDS

This poem was inspired by a phrase Pastor Joe Cresswell used in a sermon several weeks ago. Joe was talking about a Creator God who did not just walk away and leave us all to it. He cares for and nurtures His creation and keeps everything in order. Our Solar system works because “He holds it all together.” God’s people throughout the centuries have been protected, disciplined, and loved because He has His loving hands around us all.

HE holds it all together.
The planets, round the Sun,
Are kept in their own orbits
By The Almighty One.

HE held them all together,
Old Noah and his clan,
When a world of sin was punished
HE had a rescue plan.

He held them all together,
When they crossed the desert sand,
As HIS people fled from Egypt
Into the Promised Land.

HE held them all together,
By the shores of Galilee,
In prayer HIS hands were folded
Late, in Gethsemane.

HE held them all together,
In the dark days of the Cross,
When the world was at its blackest
And HIS friends were at a loss.

All HIS Redeemed people,
One day, in Heav'n will stand
And HE'll hold us all together
In HIS precious nail-pierced hand.

Angela Mathers (October 2015)

Recycling

For many years some have saved and given to me aluminium foil, food containers and cans. These I have sold to scrap metal merchants in Guiseley, the proceeds being given to the Torch Trust, to help in their work amongst visually impaired people in Malawi.

Over the last few years the amount I have received has reduced considerably to the point where it is no longer realistic to spend time and petrol money, sorting and taking the foil etc to sell. Therefore I am not collecting any more. Thank you to all who have saved these items for me.

Aluminium food containers and cans can be recycled via your Green bin.

Ruth Holder

If Only...

Rubble and debris scattered the streets. Flame and smoke seemed to be everywhere. Buses stranded at the most strange angles. Long ladders held firemen with hoses pouring water on the burning buildings. In the midst of this confusion a doctor had been called to treat the injured. Yes it was 1941 and the height of the London blitz. The medical man picked his way through this scene of destruction and found a badly injured person. "I'll just go back to my car and retrieve my bag" he said. When he reached the place he found another bomb had fallen and his car was blown to smithereens. Wringing his hands in helplessness he cried out "I could have saved this man if only I had my instruments". Does this incident challenge us? Why are we so lacking in passion and urgency, to share the Gospel? Why are we so reluctant to give ourselves to the work of soul-winning? Does the divine soul winner echo the longing of that Dr and weep over a dying humanity? Does our Lord Jesus speak to all of us saying "IF ONLY"?

"He that winneth souls is wise".

Submitted by John Lewin

out of reach and duly scolded him and removed him from the kitchen. I thought little of it at the time and we happily spent the remainder of the time together until the others returned.

When Matthew, Natalie and Anne returned later in the evening I recounted what had happened in a matter of fact way but without drama and some humour. Natalie turned white in horror and it was then the full extent of the crime was revealed. The remaining mince pies were counted and it was established that 7 in total had gone AWOL and were missing (believed eaten by Mitch). After a quick consultation Mitch was dispatched to the vets. Raisins apparently can be quite dangerous for pets and lead to kidney failure. Mitch had to be given an injection to make him sick (which revealed the full extent of his evening treat of mince pies—7 in total!) and this kept him in for 48 hours on a drip to wash through his kidneys with charcoal in his food to absorb any poison. He was picked up on Monday lunchtime by Matthew and Natalie, no worse for wear from his ordeal but he was so, so pleased to see them he could not contain his excitement. He has been fine since. Whilst pet insurance is a wonderful thing those 7 mince pies were very expensive (and yes we did have to throw out the other 29 as Mitch may well have affected them too)! We have certainly learnt lessons through this incident—whether Mitch has is another matter!

"Each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and is enticed. Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full grown, brings forth death." (James 1 v14&15)

Giving in to temptation and what we think we want can have serious consequences—there were consequences for Mitch from his escapade but it could have been much more serious if left unchecked. Let's heed the warning of Scripture and learn from Mitch's experience. I have learned the importance of ensuring any food is off reachable surfaces and keeping closer watch. Whenever we now bake or eat a mince pie over the Christmas period we will remember what happened to Mitch and God's grace to us as a family and to Mitch that it wasn't more serious.

Martin Sellens

course I do. I mean I just say you do it.” “No” said Tightrope “do you really believe I can do it?” “Well of course I do, you just did it.” “No, no, no,” said Tightrope, “do you believe I can do it?” “Yes,” said Mr. Promoter, “I believe you can do it.” “Good,” said Tightrope, “then you get in the wheel barrow.”

The word believe in Greek means “to live by”. this is a nice story...makes you ask, how often do we say that we believe Christ can do it, but refuse to get in the wheelbarrow? (Unknown)

Submitted by Paul Crossley

Mitch and the Mince Pies



It was in late November that it happened! It was the run up to Carols by Candlelight and Anne had been busy in the kitchen on this particular Saturday and 3 dozen mince pies were on the kitchen surfaces, cooling after their allotted time in the oven. Anne was going out in the evening with Matthew and Natalie and so my role for the evening was to look after the dog—Mitch, a lovable boxer with simple requirements—food, security, love and his ball or squeaky toy. What could possibly go wrong?

Once we had settled down after the others had departed we went upstairs, Mitch and I, where I soon became engrossed in my study/office. I was aware of Mitch going downstairs and back up again occasionally but after a while I became aware he had been gone for some time. A far sounding alarm bell sounded in my brain—what was he up to? I hurried down the stairs to investigate and found Mitch looking guilty in the kitchen. There was little evidence to conviction of a crime apart from a few crumbs on the kitchen surface and floor of what looked like a mince pie. I quickly came to the conclusion that Mitch had discovered the mince pies and had snaffled one on the sly. I straight away moved the trays on top of the cupboard and

Thoughts on Faith

“What is faith, unless it is to believe what you cannot see” — (Augustine): Hebrews 11v1.

Faith is derived from the Word of God: Romans 10v17

Faith’s demand of us if we want to please God: Hebrews 11v6

We walk by faith, not by sight: 2 Corinthians 5v7

Faith’s duty is to live by it: Romans 1v17



“Faith is not merely your holding on to God — it is God holding on to you. He will not let you go!” (E. Stanley Jones)

“The more we know of God, the more unreservedly we will trust Him; the greater our progress in theology, the simpler and more childlike will be our faith.” (J.G. Machen)

“Faith does not operate in the realm of the possible. There is no glory for God in that which is humanly possible. Faith begins where man’s power ends.” (George Muller)



One night a house caught fire and a young boy was forced to flee to the roof. The father stood on the ground below with outstretched arms, calling to his son, “Jump! I’ll catch you.” He knew the boy had to jump to save his life. All the boy could see, however, was flame, smoke and blackness. As can be imagined, he was afraid to leave the roof. His father kept yelling: “Jump! I will catch you.” But the boy protested, “Daddy, I can’t see you.” The father replied, “But I can see you and that’s all that matters.”

Here is a similar illustration:

During the terrible days of the Blitz, a father, holding his small son by the hand, ran from a building that had been struck by a bomb. In the front yard was a shell hole. Seeking shelter as quickly as possible, the father jumped into the hole and held up his arms for his son to follow. Terrified, yet hearing his father’s voice telling him to jump, the boy replied, “I can’t see you!”

The father, looking up against the sky tinted red by the burning buildings, called to the silhouette of his son, "But I can see you, Jump!" The boy jumped, because he trusted his father. The Christian faith enables us to face life or meet death, not because we can see, but with the certainty that we are seen; not that we know all the answers, but that we are known.

(Donnor Atwood)



When Hudson Taylor went to China, he made the voyage on a sailing vessel. As it neared the channel between southern Malay Peninsula and the island of Sumatra, the missionary heard an urgent knock on his stateroom door. He opened it and there stood the captain of the ship, "Mr Taylor," he said, "we have no wind. We are drifting toward an island where the people are heathen, and I fear they are cannibals." "What can I do?" asked Taylor. "I understand that you believe in God. I want you to pray for wind." "All right, Captain, I will, but you must set the sail." "Why that's ridiculous! There's not even the slightest breeze. Beside, the sailors will think I'm crazy." But finally, because of Taylor's insistence, he agreed. Forty-five minutes later he returned and found the missionary still on his knees. "You can stop praying now," said the captain. "We've got more wind than we know what to do with!" (Unknown)



Faith honours God and God honors faith! A story from the life of missionaries Robert and Mary Moffat illustrates this truth. For 10 years this couple laboured faithfully in Bechuanaland (now called Botswana) without one ray of encouragement to brighten their way. They could not report a single convert. Finally the directors of their mission board began to question the wisdom of continuing the work. The thought of leaving their post, however, brought great grief to this devoted couple, for they felt sure that God was in their labours, and that they would see people turn to Christ in due season. They stayed; and for a year or two longer, darkness reigned. Then one day a friend in England sent word to the Moffats that she wanted to mail them a gift and asked what they would like. Trusting that in time the Lord would bless their work, Mrs. Moffat replied, "Send us a communion set; I am sure it will soon be needed." God honoured that dear woman's faith. The Holy Spirit moved upon the hearts of the villagers,

and soon a little group of six converts was united to form the first Christian church in that land. The communion set from England was delayed in the mail; but on the very day before the first commemoration of the Lord's supper in Bechuanaland, the set arrived. (Unknown)



In April 1988 the evening news reported on a photographer who was a skydiver. He had jumped from a plane along with numerous other skydivers and filmed the group as they fell and opened their parachutes. On the film shown on the telecast, as the final skydiver opened his chute, the picture went berserk. The announcer reported that the cameraman had fallen to his death, having jumped out of the plane without his parachute. It wasn't until he reached for the absent ripcord that he realized he was freefalling without a parachute. Until that point, the jump probably seemed exciting and fun. But tragically, he had acted with thoughtless haste and deadly foolishness. Nothing could save him, for his faith was in a parachute never buckled on. Faith in anything but an all-sufficient God can be just as tragic spiritually. Only with faith in Jesus Christ dare we step into the dangerous excitement of life. (Unknown)



There was a tightrope walker, who did incredible aerial feats. All over Paris, he would do tightrope acts at tremendously scary heights. Then he had succeeding acts; he would do it blindfolded, then he would go across the tightrope, blindfolded, pushing a wheelbarrow. An American promoter read about this in the papers and wrote a letter to the tightrope walker, saying, "Tightrope, I don't believe you can do it, but I'm willing to make you an offer. For a very substantial sum of money, besides all your transportation fees, I would like to challenge you to do your act over Niagara Falls." Now, Tightrope wrote back, "Sire, although I've never been to America or seen the Falls, I'd love to come." Well, after a lot of promotion and setting the whole thing up, many people came to see the event. Tightrope was to start on the Canadian side and come to the American side. Drums roll, and he comes across the rope which is suspended over the treacherous part of the falls—blindfolded!! And he makes it across easily. the crowds go wild, and he comes to the promoter and says, "Well, Mr. Promoter, now do you believe I can do it?" "Well of