

THE MAGAZINE

Nº 325



TINSHILL FREE CHURCH

APRIL / MAY 2018

Pastoral Letter—April 2018

Lest I forget

Let's face it, we are all prone to forget things. Young or old there is not a week goes by when something goes from our mind which we ought to have remembered. And it does seem to get worse as we get older. It's always good to have handy reminders close by — whether it be a diary, a notebook or a sticky note we put somewhere prominent — so long as we remember to look at it!!

It's no different in the spiritual realm. That is why it is so good and helpful to the vitality of our spiritual lives to regularly meet together for worship, prayer and Bible study. At these times we are reminded of the great truths about God, ourselves and our relationship with Him so we can keep them in mind and encourage each other.

There are some things which are just too important to forget and which should always be in the forefront of our thinking.

“Things we dare not forget” was the title of this year's Connected Conference for church leaders in the North of England at Dewsbury on March 10th. John Benton, our main speaker, and Luke Jenner, who gave the Conference sermon, reminded us of the great truths of scripture and why we are here. Luke spoke with great feeling from Romans 11 v 33-36 on the Majesty of God. John in his two main sessions reminded us:

- Of our absolute dependence on the work of the Holy Spirit for any spiritual work in our churches (Acts 1 v 1-11)
- That our churches should be the demonstration and showcase of the Gospel to those outside (1 John 4 v 7 -12)

“If we love one another, God abides in us and His love has been perfected (made complete) in us” — 1 John 4 v 12. The demonstration of the Gospel to the unbeliever is seeing the reality of God in the lives of His people and is shown by their love for God and each other as they live out their lives in a largely secular society.

John Benton helpfully identified the 3 dimensional nature of the church — the IOU — which should all be kept in balance with each other;

I Inwardly — Fellowship and Caring

O Outwardly — Witness and Evangelism

U Upwardly — Heartfelt Worship

As we approach the Easter weekend once more it is good to reflect on the truths at the heart of the Christian Gospel:

“I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received and in which you stand, by which you also are saved... that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that He was buried, and that He rose again according to the Scriptures...” (1 Corinthians 15 v 1-4).

As the apostle Paul goes on to say in verse 10 of 1 Corinthians 15: *“by the grace of God I am what I am”*

This profound truth can be said by every true believer in Jesus Christ — it is only by God’s grace that we can stand before Him justified and not condemned, loved and not cast out, precious and not forsaken. Because of the tumultuous events of Easter we have hope, faith and love with great joy which is ongoing in this life until we go to see our Saviour “face to face”.

Let us not forget, however, that all that we have and the grace in which we stand came at tremendous cost to God Himself and to His chosen Redeemer, the Lord Jesus Christ — God the Son and the Son of Man. The Lord Jesus — the Lamb of God, the Suffering Servant, the Rose of Sharon — stood where we should have stood and was condemned, cast out and forsaken at Calvary. His sacrifice was immense, personal, complete and can never be repeated. It takes the punishment for our sins away totally (past, present and future). His blood is so powerful at cleansing us and His prayers and advocacy for us in Heaven now so effective at keeping us. The gift of His Holy Spirit means we have His life living within us day by day so He is always with us in all the circumstances of life. His resurrection gives real hope for the future for the believer of life beyond the grave with God, which will never end.

So, as we approach Easter again, let us be reminded of these great truths. If you are a Christian then because of Easter you are:

- **Forgiven of all your sin**
- **Loved with an everlasting love by God**
- **Indwelt by the Holy Spirit to live each day for Him**
- **Kept by the power of God**
- **Looking forward to eternal life in Heaven**

God's grace is wonderful and cannot be measured or contained.

Let's not forget these things.

Now what was I going to do for the rest of the day?!!

With love in our great Saviour

Martin Sellens (Elder)

The Joy of a Baptismal Service

All baptism services are glad and thrilling occasions in our church family life and the most recent one when Rachel Williams was baptised was indeed that. (Rachel has been asked to put her testimony in the Magazine and it appears below.)



She invited many friends and school friends to come to the service and I think we were all thrilled at the support and encouragement she received from them — about 25 young people came, 20 of them had tea in the lower extension first then came into the evening service. They heard Rachel's spoken testimony and witnessed her baptism. They listened intently as 'believers baptism' was explained

fully and to Alan Brearley as he preached from Acts 8 about Philip and the Ethiopian Chancellor of the Exchequer on the desert road from Jerusalem to Gaza and what hinders us from believing and being baptised. Our Girls Group also had tea together at the home of Jenny Leng and they came to the service too.

For our family you can imagine how precious the evening was after watching Rachel grow up and come to know the Lord Jesus as her own personal Saviour. Looking around a packed church, seeing so many young people clearly hearing the gospel and watching Glyn have the moving and immense privilege of baptising his granddaughter was very lovely. 'Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father'. Please pray on for Rachel as she makes her life choices and seeks to honour her Saviour.

Margaret Williams

Rachel's testimony given at her baptism

Before Christmas last year I knew I wanted to be baptised, to show that I love the Lord Jesus. As many of you know I am extremely nervous and public speaking is not my forte, but my faith drives me to stand here today and share my testimony with you. This time last year I would not have dreamed that I would be able to stand and speak in front of you all, I have the strength to speak to you only because of the Lord Jesus who has brought me to this moment.

So I don't have a specific date like some Christians, there was really no 'gotcha' moment, but I'd like to share with you a little bit about my journey and how it's brought me to stand here today.

I grew up in a Christian home and was always taught about the Lord Jesus, but even from an early age I knew simply attending church and having a distant thought about God every once in a while didn't make me a Christian.

I remember vividly, at the age of around 6 having thoughts about what it meant to be a Christian. I remember these thoughts were prompted by teaching on the Passover and the events in Egypt in Moses' time. I knew

that simply believing in God didn't make me a Christian but I didn't really know what I had to do. I knew all the naughty things I had done in my life separated me from God and that frightened me. So I asked my dad what I should do.

I was in tears at this point, but my dad explained that all I needed to do was acknowledge the fact that I had done wrong things in my life and trust that Jesus did die for me in order to take those wrong things away. I may not have understood much at that point, but I remember praying for hours and accepting Jesus as my Saviour. I had a simple faith and I believe this was the first step to me getting to here.

Since then I've understood more about Jesus, and what it means to be saved by faith, through teaching at church and at home. I continued as I grew up to attend youth meetings. I never doubted that I believed in Jesus and that He died for me, but it was at youth camps where things became more real.

The first youth camp I went on was Knock (Cumbria), in either 2012 or 2013 (I'm not fully sure!). An old friend of my dad's was the speaker that week and I remember his teaching on the crucifixion of Jesus brought me to tears. It brought home to me that Jesus died in the most horrific way, so that I could be right with God. I was astounded at the love that Jesus must have for me, and indeed for everyone, that He would allow His death to be so brutal. This made me more determined to live for Him.

After Knock and as I grew older I began to attend a youth camp aimed at older teenagers called Misterton. Being surrounded by other young Christians I saw how others put their faith into reality, and how it impacted their lives. I wanted this to be true for me. So I prayed. I prayed that my faith would be strengthened and that I would re-find the joy I had when I was 6 in reading my Bible and living for God.

After I got home from Misterton last year I began reading my Bible, not because I was told it was the right thing to do, but because I wanted to. Inspired by one of the wonderful people I met at these youth camps I asked for a Bible with a journal which has extra space to write and take notes on meaningful passages to you.

Since receiving this Bible I felt my faith grow massively, in that I felt more confident in speaking about what I believed in, and had a drive to tell others about Jesus, which was a huge answer to prayer.

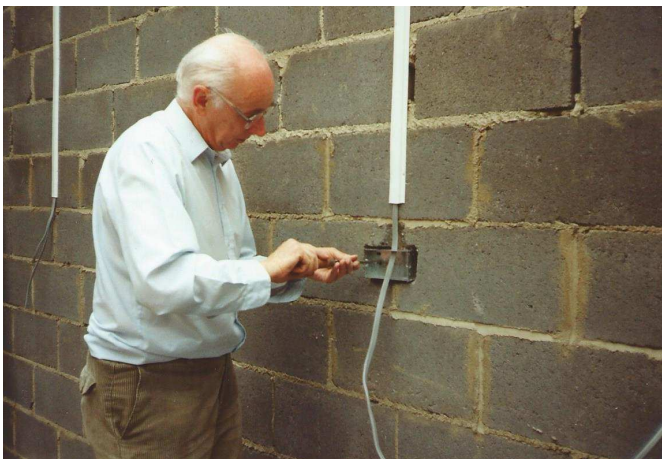
Of course now I am not perfect in any way, shape or form. I still do wrong things and make mistakes. I still drift away from God sometimes and need reeling in. But now I live in the knowledge that there is God—not a distant God, but One who knows me intimately and who, because of His love for me, sent His Son to die for me, so that I can live knowing that I am forgiven and loved. Live knowing that God has prepared a place for me in heaven.

Now looking to the future my faith impacts my life in that as I begin making important decisions God comes first. The university I choose must have a good Christian Union and nearby church. I will seek to glorify Him in all that I do, even if living for Jesus means the path I take wasn't the one I was expecting.

Rachel Williams

Thank You Eric

This year in January, when we welcomed the Trustees into 87 Tinshill Road for the Annual Trustees Meeting for Tinshill Free Church, one



familiar face was missing. That was our friend and brother, Eric Holder who had faithfully supported, prayed for and encouraged the church here at Tinshill since the Trust Deed was formed 40 years ago in 1978 and who

had happily agreed to serve as a Trustee from then on. Eric resigned from the Trustees before this year's meeting on grounds of increasing years and health issues. We can only remember one occasion over those 40 years of commitment when he was too poorly to get to the Trustees Meeting.

We have a second reason to be grateful to Eric and the photo shows Martin presenting Eric with a 'home grown' picture as a token of thanks for him doing all the electrics when we built the church extension in the early 90s. The picture was



presented at a Trustees Meeting and was a framed enlarged photo (taken on one of Glyn and Martin's Lake District walks) of Catbells from Maiden Moor. Eric was delighted and said that it was one of his and Marion's favourite views — they climbed in the Lake District too!

Martin thought a small expression of thanks from the church this year marking all Eric's 'Trustee years' would be right, so we put together a selection of our Lenswise cards (mainly of Yorkshire Dales and some flowers) in a presentation box, together with a letter of thanks and Glyn and I took it over recently to Eric and Marion's home in Belle Isle. He was happily surprised.

I know our service in the beloved Church of our Lord Jesus Christ is done unstintingly and gladly for Him, but its good to say thank you.

Andrew Lolley has kindly agreed to become a Trustee in Eric's place and takes over the baton for the next stage of our earthly race.

Margaret Williams

Hymn based on John 19 v 30

So when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, "It is finished!" And bowing His head, He gave up His spirit.

What voice salutes my wond'ring ear,
From Calvary's rugged tree;
Which rends the rocks, beclouds the air,
And bids the day-light flee?

"Tis finished," O, transporting word!
And can the news be true?
"Yes," says my Saviour, "by My blood,
I've finish'd all for you."

All law demands, and justice claims,
He answer'd with this word;
And on His heart He bears the names
Of all the sons of God.

Finish'd my heart leaps at the sound
And on the truth relies:
The theme shall reach creation's bound,
And pierce the vaulted skies.

Finish'd! Then I have nought to do,
But to believe and love:
This word the tempter's throne o'erthrew,
And tunes the harp above.

*Joseph Irons, 1816.
Source: Zion Chapel Hymn Book (Morley)
Submitted by Paul Crossley*

If Jesus came to your house

If Jesus came to your house to spend a day or two —
If He came unexpectedly, I wonder what you'd do.

Oh, I know you'd give your nicest room to such an honoured Guest,
And all the food you'd serve to Him would be the very best.

And you would keep assuring Him you're glad to have Him there —
That serving Him in your own home is joy beyond compare.

But — when you saw Him coming, would you meet Him at the door?
With arms outstretched in welcome to your heavenly Visitor?

Or would you have to change your clothes before you let Him in,
Or hide some magazines and put the Bible where they'd been.

Would you turn off the radio and hope He hadn't heard,
And wish you hadn't uttered that last, loud, hasty word?

Would you hide your worldly music and put some hymnbooks out?
Could you let Jesus walk right in, or would you rush about?

And I wonder — if the Saviour spent a day or two with you.
Would you go right on doing the things you always do?

Would you keep right on saying the things you always say?
Would life for you continue as it does from day to day?

Would your family conversation keep up its usual pace,
And would you find it hard each meal to say a table grace?

Would you sing the songs you always sing and read the books you read
And let Him know the things on which your mind and spirit feed?

Would you take Jesus with you ev'rywhere you'd planned to go,
Or would you maybe change your plans for just a day or so?

Would you be glad to have Him meet your very closest friends.
Or would you hope they'd stay away until His visit ends?

Would you be glad to have Him stay forever on and on,
Or would you sigh with great relief when He at last was gone?

It might be interesting to know the things that you would do
If Jesus Christ in person came to spend some time with you.

Mrs Lois Blanchard
(submitted by John Lewin who points us to Isaiah 39 v3-6)

A Daily Prayer

“Oh that mine eyes might closed be
To what concerns me not to see,
That deafness might possess mine ears
To what concerns me not to hear,
That truth my tongue might always tie
From ever speaking foolishly.
That no vain thought might ever rest
Or be conceived within my breast,
That by each deed and word and thought
Glory may to my God be brought.
But what are wishes? Lord, mine eye
On Thee is fixed, to Thee I cry;
Wash, Lord, and purify my heart,
And make it clean in every part,
And when 'tis clean, Lord, keep it too,
For that is more than I can do.”

Thomas Ellwood (1639)
(Submitted by Ruth Holder)

The Other Side

Listening to the sermon on Sunday morning that Martin preached on 1 Corinthians 13v12:

“For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I shall know just as I am known.”

I was reminded of something I wrote in my journal some time ago, which seemed to sum up what was being said. I cannot remember the source or the author but I trust it is helpful.

This isn't death — it's glory,
It is not dark — it's light,
It isn't stumbling, groping
Or even faith — it's sight
This isn't grief — it's having
My last tear wiped away.
It's sunrise — it's the morning
Of my Eternal Day.

This isn't even praying —
It's speaking face to face,
Listening and glimpsing
The wonders of His Grace.
This is the end of pleading
For strength to bear my pain;
Not even pain's dark memory
Will ever live again.

How did I bear the earth life
Before I knew the rapture
Of meeting Face to Face
The one who sought me, saved me
And kept me by His Grace.

Gill Almond

PREACHING PLAN

		Morning	Evening
April	1	Alan Brearley	Joe Cresswell (Easter)
	8	Joe Cresswell	Joe Cresswell
	15	Joe Cresswell	Martin Sellens
	22	Joe Cresswell	Joe Cresswell
	29	Ben Hutton	Ben Hutton
May	6	Martin Sellens	Joe Cresswell
	13	Joe Cresswell	Joe Cresswell
	20	Joe Cresswell	Alan Brearley
	27	Joe Cresswell	Joe Cresswell
June	3	Glyn Williams	Joe Cresswell

OUTSIDE APPOINTMENTS

Do pray for our men as they minister/are ministered to outside the church in the coming months:

Joe Cresswell

April 23-26 at Banner of Truth conference

Sunday April 29 am/pm Thornhill

Glyn Williams

Sunday April 1 am Bethel, Ripon

Sunday April 15 am Birstall

Sunday April 29 pm Grace Baptist, Halifax

Sunday May 13 am Mirfield

Sunday May 27 am Bethel, Lower Wortley

Martin Sellens

Sunday May 20 am/pm Salem, Ramsey

Sunday June 3 am Bethel, Ripon

Paul Crossley

Sunday April 15 pm Bethany, Swinton

Sunday April 29	noon	Pentecost Baptist
Sunday May 13	am	Bethany, Swinton
Sunday May 20	am/pm	Bethany, Swinton
Sunday May 27	noon	Pentecost Baptist

DIARY

April

Tue	3	7.45pm	Elders/Deacons meeting at 175 Tinshill Lane
Wed	4	7.45pm	Bible Study and Prayer Meeting Speaker: John Almond Adoration on the Road to Calvary — John 12 v1-19
Sat	7	10-noon	Prayer for Revival at Christ Church, Crossgates
Sun	8	2.30pm	Cookridge Court Easter Service Speaker: Joe Cresswell
Wed	11	7.45pm	Deputation Meeting Andrew Coleclough (Slavic Gospel Association)
Thu	12	2pm	Thursday at Two Speaker: Colin Mountain
Sun	15	8.15pm	After church for Bible Exhibition
Mon	16	7.30pm	Girls Group at 383 Otley Old Road
Wed	18	1.30pm	Tots Club restarts after Easter break
		7.45pm	Bible Study & Prayer Meeting Speaker: Glyn Williams Determination on the Road to Calvary — John 12 v20-36
Fri	20	7.45pm	Missionary Prayer Group at 1 Tinshill Mount
Sun	22	12.15pm	Fellowship lunch at church after morning service
Tue	24	7.30pm	Making & Thinking for Ladies Thinking — On the road to Emmaus at 383 Otley Old Road
Wed	25	7.45pm	Bible Study and Prayer Meeting Speaker: Richard Brown
Thu	26	2pm	Thursday at Two Speaker: Chris Haley
Mon	30	7.30pm	Girls Group at 23 Kirkwood Drive

May

- Thu 3 7am Church open as Polling Station for Local Elections
- Tue 8 10.15am Second Tuesday Speaker: Joe Cresswell
Subject: Political correctness
- Thu 10 2pm Thursday at Two Speaker: Warran Fawcett
- Sun 13 2.30pm Cookridge Court Speaker: Alan Brearley
- Mon 14 am/pm Yorkshire Reformed Minister Fraternal meeting
at Tinshill
- 7.30pm Girls Group at 87 Tinshill Road
- Tue 15 7.45pm Men's Fellowship Speaker: Joe Cresswell
Subject: Fighting the daily battle
Part 2 — the weapons of our warfare
- Fri 18 7.45pm Missionary Prayer Group
- Tue 22 7.30pm Making & Thinking for Lades.
Thinking — Two Ladies, old and young
- Thu 24 1pm Thursday at Two Soup & Sweet Special
Speaker: David Judson
- Mon 28 7.30pm Girls Group at 383 Otley Old Road

June

- Tue 5 7.45pm Annual General Meeting at the church
- Wed 6 7.45pm Deputation meeting
David & Sue Verwey (Japan Mission)
- Mon 11 — am/pm Bible Exhibition for local schools
- Fri 15 with Douglas Young (Open Air Misison)

NOTES:

There will be no Tots Club or Good News Club in school holidays. Tots Club will not therefore meet on 30th May or Good News Club on 1st June during half term week.

The next magazine will be a combined July/July edition — and is due out for Sunday June 3rd — all contributions to Martin Sellens by Wednesday 23rd May please.

ROTAS

Week ending

Cleaning

April	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
May	5	Natalie Sellens	Kathryn Hibbard	Deborah Williams
	12	Jenny Leng	Eva Ng	Anne Sellens
	19	Ruth Holder	Rosemary Hilton	Carole Brearley
	26	Mavis Mathers	Angela Mathers	Christine Crossley
June	2	Margaret Williams	Colette Hickman	Ann Mountain

For Sunday

Flowers

April	8	Anne Sellens	15	Rosemary Hilton
	22	Christine Crossley	29	Ann Mountain
May	6	Deborah Williams	13	Jenny Leng
	20	Ruth Holder	27	Mavis Mathers
June	3	Margaret Williams		

THE ROBE

A garment plain for all to see,
 Was worn with grace by God's own Son.
 The miles He trod to Calvary, there to die, for you: for me?
 Upon the cross they nailed Him high.
 They laughed and jeered, and watched Him die
 The guards they played their game of dice,
 The winner was a man of vice.
 The robe of Jesus, was what he sought
 The unclean hands touched something holy
 God's dear Son, passed on to Glory.

By Marion Liddle

Christ is Risen!

The final triumph won,
the full atonement made,
salvation's work is done,
redemption's price is paid:
the morning breaks, the dark is fled,
for Christ is risen from the dead!

The tomb in which He lay
lies empty now and bare;
the stone is rolled away,
no lifeless form is there:
the sting is drawn from death and grave,
for Christ is risen, strong to save!

For us the Saviour died,
with us He lives again,
to God the Father's side
exalted now to reign:
to throne and crown by right restored,
for Christ is risen, Christ is Lord!

As one with Him we rise
to seek the things above,
in life that never dies,
in righteousness and love:
let praise unite our ransomed powers,
for Christ is risen, Christ is ours!

Timothy Dudley-Smith
(284 in *Christian Hymns*)

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.	
Monday	Girls Group (aged 14-18 – fortnightly)	7.30pm
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
Friday	Good News Club (Children aged 5-11)	6.00pm
	Missionary Prayer Group (monthly) at 1 Tinshill Mount	7.45pm

TINSHILL FREE CHURCH

HOLLY AVENUE, LEEDS LS16 6PL

Registered Charity No. 511933

www.tinshillfreechurch.org.uk

Pastor:

Mr Joseph Cresswell, 25 Holtdale Fold, Leeds LS16 7RS
joseph.cresswell@yahoo.co.uk

Tel. No.
{267 8250}

Elders:

Mr Martin Sellens, 68 Moseley Wood Walk, Leeds LS16 7HG
martin.sellens@gmail.com

{267 9529}

Mr Glyn Williams, 87 Tinshill Road, Leeds LS16 7DN
glynwtr@aol.com

{267 2680}

Deacons:

Mr John Almond, 175 Tinshill Lane, Leeds LS16 6EE

{267 8737}

Mr Nigel Hibbard, 26 Woodlands Avenue, Harrogate HG2 7SJ

{01423 888246}