

## 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)	1.15 – 2.45pm
	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](http://www.tinshillfreechurch.org.uk)

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# THE MAGAZINE

Nº 329



TINSHILL FREE CHURCH

DECEMBER 2018 /  
JANUARY 2019

Fri 18 7.45pm Missionary Prayer Group  
 Tue 22 7.30pm Making and Thinking for Ladies  
 Thu 31 1pm Thursday at Two Winter Special  
 Speaker: Glyn Williams

The next edition of The Magazine is due out for Sunday 3rd February —  
 all contributions to Martin Sellens please by Wednesday 23rd January

## ROTAS

<b>Week ending</b>		<b>Cleaning</b>	
December 1	Natalie Sellens	Kathryn Hibbard	Deborah Williams
8	Jenny Leng	Eva Ng	Anne Sellens
15	Ruth Holder	Rosemary Hilton	Carole Brearley
22	Mavis Mathers	Angela Mathers	Christine Crossley
29	Margaret Williams	Colette Hickman	Ann Mountain
Jan '19 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
February 2	Margaret Williams	Colette Hickman	Ann Mountain

<b>For Sunday</b>		<b>Flowers</b>	
December 2	Kathryn Hibbard	9	Anne Sellens
16	Rosemary Hilton	23	Christine Crossley
30	Ann Mountain	Jan '19 6	Deborah Williams
13	Jenny Leng	20	Ruth Holder
27	Mavis Mathers	February 3	Margaret Williams

Jesus walking on the earth is far more important  
 than man walking on the moon.

*James B Irwin (1930-1991)*  
*American Astronaut — Apollo 15*

## DIARY

### December

- Tue 4 8pm Carols by Candlelight  
Thu 6 2pm Thursday at Two. Speaker: Steve Walker  
Sun 9 2.30pm Cookridge Court Service  
Mon 10 7.30pm Girls Group at 23 Kirkwood Drive  
7.45pm Elders/Deacons Meeting at 87 Tinshill Road  
Wed 12 1.15pm Final Tots Club of the year  
Fri 14 6pm Final Good News Club for the year  
Sun 16 Fellowship lunch after morning service  
2.30pm Bedford Court Service  
Tue 18 7.45pm Men's Christmas Fellowship  
Wed 19 7.15pm Carol Singing — meet at church  
Thu 20 1pm Thursday at Two Christmas Special  
Speaker: Martin Sellens  
Fri 21 7.45pm Missionary Prayer Group at 1 Tinshill Mount  
Sun 23 5pm Church Carol Service  
Tue 25 10.30am Christmas Morning Service  
Mon 31 11.30pm Watchnight Service led by Martin Sellens

### January

- Thu 3 2pm Thursday at Two  
Mon 7 7.30pm Girls Group  
Tue 8 10.15am Second Tuesday. Speaker: Martin Sellens  
Wed 9 1.15pm Restart of Tots Club  
Fri 11 6pm Restart of Good News Club  
Sun 13 2.30pm Cookridge Court Service  
Tue 15 7.45pm Men's Fellowship  
Thu 17 2pm Thursday at Two. Speaker: Paul Crossley

## A Christmas Question

In May, the leaders of our “Girls Group” invited the girls to ask any question about the Christian faith—to be answered on a particular evening. One girl came back with—

“How did such a powerful God get into a tiny baby’s body?”—referring to the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Good Question! It was a serious question, and full of “awe and wonder”. How indeed did the Son of God take on our humanity? How did God the Son, Who made everything in the universe, humble Himself to be limited to our time and space? I did have an answer but it only “scratched the surface”. We know why Jesus came from Heaven’s Glory much more easily than how He became human like us. He came to be just like us, but without sin, so that He could be a perfect sacrifice for our sins, acceptable by God the Father. The “how” is more difficult, other than He was conceived by the Holy Spirit, combined with the egg of Mary in her womb. We are indeed filled with awe and wonder and gratitude. There was no greater miracle, and we believe it by faith.

Perhaps you’ve had a difficult year in 2018. Perhaps you have lost a loved one to the ravages of illness or dementia. In that case, you might be dreading Christmas as likely to be a lonely experience. But you might be encouraged when people remember you at this time by a phone call, a card, or even a meal. If you trust in this miracle human/Son of God, Jesus, you have the best Friend and Comforter you could possibly have. A friend wrote to me some years ago when I was going through a bitter disappointment. He quoted a Christian writer as follows:-

“Deep as your present humiliation may be, you cannot sink so low, but you will find that He sank lower, and, is therefore able to sustain you and bear you up.”

What a great encouragement, and all because Jesus obeyed His Heavenly Father in coming, at that first Christmas, into a tiny human embryo, and ultimately dying in suffering far greater than ours, on the cross.

Alternatively, perhaps 2018 has been a good and happy year for you. Perhaps a child has been born into your family—the miracle of new birth. Perhaps you have settled into the area because of an exciting promotion in 2018! Congratulations! Drop in and see us sometime. Or perhaps it has been just a steady, average year with no great thing happening.

But, whatever great thing seems to happen in your life in 2019, remember the greatest miracle—that the Son of God, because of love for us, willingly experienced all the highs and lows of human life. He knew the greatest joy—that after betrayal, opposition and death, He would save people for Himself to live with them for all eternity, when this life has long gone.

Wishing you joy for Christmas and the New Year.

*Glyn Williams  
Elder*

## John Lewin's Thanksgiving Service

The church was full to overflowing with people on Tuesday October 16th who had come to pay their respects and give thanks for the life of John Lewin who passed into the presence of His Saviour on 1st October at St James's Hospital. John was 88 years old — born on 1st, married on 1st and died on 1st. He had been married to Joy for 57 years and at the end said to her "I love you and I did my best for you".



The service was designed and planned by John with lots of hymns, Bible readings and tributes, led by Paul Hinton and with a gospel message preached by Roger Carswell. It was a fitting end to a full life and seeking to give God all the glory.

In the service we learnt that John was born into a Methodist family who were converted and evangelical. John's father ( see Magazine article in

	30	Alan Brearley	Glyn Williams
January	6	Warran Fawcett	John Harris
	13	Alan Brearley	Martin Sellens
	20	Glyn Williams	Gordon Frame
	27	Colin Mountain	John Mollitt
February	3	Martin Sellens	Martin Woodier

We welcome Sergey Babenko to the pulpit for the first time on December 16h. Sergey is Graham Heaps' son-in-law and suggested by him to come to us.

## OUTSIDE APPOINTMENTS

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

### Glyn Williams

Thursday Dec	13	pm	North Yorkshire Bible Rally, Northallerton
Sunday Jan	13	am	Birstall
Tuesday Jan	22	am	Pontefract Midweek Service

### Paul Crossley:

Sunday Dec	9	am	Garforth
Sunday Dec	16	am	Garforth
Sunday Dec	30	noon	Pentecost Baptist

## BIBLE STUDIES

Wednesdays at 7.45pm

Date	Passage	Speaker	
December	5	1 John 5v6-13	Glyn Williams
	12	1 John 5v14-21	Martin Sellens
	19	Carol singing – meet at church at 7.15pm	
	26	No meeting – Boxing Day	
January	2	3 John	Martin Sellens
	9	Start of new series – Judges	Glyn Williams

through our lives, then it is incumbent upon us to seek to glorify Him in a loving submission to all He plans and purposes. It is when the Lord sees that we earnestly desire this that He makes the just to walk in light, that shines ever more brightly.

Finally note 3 things about this guidance:-

A) It came in a spectacular and convincing manner leaving no room for doubt. The throne of God sent out a decree via an angel and Joseph didn't hesitate to comply.

B) It left no room for deviation. The instruction was precise. The Lord did not allow the Son of His love to be wandering about just anywhere. Our God wants His people in precise locations.

C) It required immediate action. When God speaks all other considerations take second place. Joseph rose up at once and quickly gathered what they would need for their journey and they set off on their faithful donkey. God was preserving His Son, pursuing His plan, fulfilling His Word and frustrating all the evil intentions of Satan and those who co-operated with him. For possibly 3 months they remained in Egypt and then returned, as directed, to Nazareth. The days of journeying were over. The hidden years of the Saviour were about to begin.

### *John Lewin*

#### **Editorial note:**

John gave me this a couple of years ago for the Magazine and I am delighted to include it in this Christmas/New Year edition as his final contribution.

## **PREACHING PLAN**

	<b>Morning</b>	<b>Evening</b>
December 2	Martin Sellens	Alan Brearley
9	Gordon Frame	John Mollitt
16	Sergey Babenko	Mick Lockwood
23	Martin Sellens	Warran Fawcett (Carol Service 5pm)

June/July 2018 edition) was a thatcher and lay preacher and died when John was a teenager leaving John as the only wage earner in the family. John was converted to Christ at the age of 16 on a snowy night in Thamesford in February, the preacher was Fred Wilson. He took his first service when he was 20 and went on to be the lay Pastor and Secretary at Caxton Baptist and Potten End Baptist where he continued to work with his hands. He was a skilled carpenter and had also been an agricultural worker helping to gather in 25 harvests — he loved Harvest and Christmas.

He loved to sing and at one time sang in 4 choirs. He loved history and all things military — especially planes and ships.

He gave of his time to the Lord's work sacrificially with determined perseverance which built his character of gentleness, kindness, patience and love. Our loss is Heaven's gain!

Two tributes are reproduced below — one given at the service by Glyn on behalf of the church at Tinshill and one from Paul Crossley

## **John Lewin—Tinshill Tribute**

John spent his last years of Christian fellowship and worship here at Tinshill. We were pleased and privileged to have him and Joy. He attended every meeting he could, including the various evangelistic special meetings, to which he would often invite people.

On Sundays he saw the best in every sermon and every preacher, despite all of our faults. He would engage in helpful conversations after the service and you could tell when John was present at a service when you heard 'AMENS' ring out during the prayers and sermons. He loved the Scriptures and prayer and would expect both when you visited him and Joy.

The most notable characteristic of John was that he was gracious to all. He was always thankful for any help received, and always encouraged others in the faith. He had no 'edge' to him, and we all had a great love for him.

It was obvious that John had loved to read Christian books over many years. He would enthusiastically bring some to church and press them upon

others in the fellowship to read, highlighting the subject of special interest. In fact, we still have some large books in the vestry still waiting for distribution. I don't know whether everybody always read every book he brought, but it was a sign that he was well versed in doctrinal and devotional literature. John also submitted articles regularly for inclusion in the bi-monthly church magazine. In those, he revealed his pastoral warmth, and sense of humour. In the June/July edition this year he wrote an article entitled 'Memories of my father'—very appropriate in the current circumstances.

In recent years, John and Joy opened up their home for the Soldiers' and Airmen's Scripture Readers Association (S.A.S.R.A.) monthly prayer meeting. Paul Crossley is the leader of the meeting and he reports that the highlight of such meetings was often when John himself prayed. "Sometimes you felt as if you had entered the very throne-room of Heaven with him". Obviously, John was a man in close relationship with his Saviour, the Lord Jesus.

Though John was never able to enter the Armed Forces himself, he did have an interest in aeroplanes, having worked as a young man on the fields near RAF Tempsford.

Paul was a passenger in John's last venture onto the roads as a driver. A blue van pulled out in front of them and John swerved to avoid it by going between two columns of traffic. Sadly, he missed the footbrake and hit the accelerator! The journey ended in hair-raising fashion and subsequently, a kind policeman politely ventured to suggest that John might wish to surrender his driving licence! Which he did.

As John's health deteriorated, there were increasing visits to their home, and then in hospital, from people at Tinshill. At the same time, he was suffering from a measure of depression, and also fear of enclosed spaces. Several of us were able to find a hospital wheelchair and wheel him to the hospital entrance, where he revelled in the fresh air. Once or twice he went on a wheeled tour of St James's hospital grounds, before returning to his rather narrow and enclosed hospital bed.

### (1) A new unfolding of the will of God

When the heaven-sent warning came Joseph could easily have questioned it but the Lord explained to him the danger to the child and the reason for the journey. To know the will of God in certain respects is a most difficult thing but in others it is perfectly clear. The Word of God gives clear, wide ranging, instruction for most of our need in this life and is a "*lamp to our feet, and a light to our path*". The light of the Word lights the way for those who walk in the light.

There are times, however, when scriptural principles point only generally and specific clear guidance is sought. Here there is clear revelation from heaven; "*Arise take the young child and his mother and flee into Egypt*". I think we all need to learn from this incident that when the Lord wants us to take a definite step then He will make it clearly known in unmistakable language. We need to be so careful of moving ahead of our God and we need to patiently pursue what the Lord has led us into, waiting until there is a new unfolding of His loving purpose.

### (2) Perceived obedience to the Word of God

If you study the references to Joseph at this time you will discover that he lived a life of unhesitating obedience to God. Isn't it a lovely thing to behold an obedient Christian? Paul said "*I was not disobedient unto the heavenly vision*" — neither was Joseph. How easy it is to be a hearer of the Word and not a doer. We need to heed Jesus' words in Matthew 7v21.

Try to imagine what the consequences would have been had Joseph disobeyed. Herod was a very sick man and even when near to death had executed his son Antipater. The awful anger of such a tyrant would have enveloped the infant Son of God. God wanted a man who would render to Him unwavering obedience — such was the incalculable importance of that obedience and is seen in the whole plan of redemption — man's salvation relied upon it. Joseph did not fail — do we?

### (3) Clear guidance for the child of God

It is possible to know exactly what God wants you to do. We need to be open to the will of God. The Lord said "*Blessed are they that hear the Word of God and keep it*" (Luke 11v28). If we know what God wills in and

You will see that here there are 3 successive steps and each will lead to the next for a believer walking with the Lord.

Mary and Joseph did a great deal of travelling during the first months of their wonderful baby's life. We can overlook the important journeys made by this humble couple and their holy child.

Every Jewish boy on the 8th day had to undergo the rite of circumcision — a voluntary submission to the demands of the law set out in Genesis 17v10 and probably performed at a nearby synagogue at which the angel-given name Jesus was given to the child. That same law required two further legal ordinances to be observed — the formal presentation of the child back to God in accordance with Exodus 13v2 and the purification of the mother. A journey then to the temple in Jerusalem was undertaken, doubtless on the same little donkey that had brought them from Nazareth. This is the background to the flight into Egypt.

The joy of thanksgiving was turned suddenly into the fear of the king's wrath. These were uncertain, perilous days in which to bring up a family. There was much cruelty and bloodshed. Herod the Great was hated by the people — here was a man who was ready to destroy anyone who was a threat to his power and who was rebuked repeatedly by the Roman governor for his shocking brutality.

So it was that an angelic appearance warned Joseph to take the young child and his mother and flee into Egypt. In between the presentation in the temple and taking refuge in Egypt there come the Kings of the East. They knew something of the greatness of this child, they worshipped him as God revealed in human form. Perhaps the gold was brought to provide for the stay in Egypt, but what we do learn is that our lives too are open to very dramatic changes. From the thrill of sensing the Lord's presence and joyously worshipping Him we can be transported into a situation of distress, where the sky is black, and God seems far away. Believers can experience a wonderful sense of the Lord's love and mighty hand on their lives, but there can also come a great awareness of the power of the enemy. Perhaps it is particularly at such times that we need what the Lord graciously gave to Joseph.

Just before John entered St James's for the last time, he asked me whether I could pray for healing from the measure of depression. I had already assured him that this was a medical problem and not a spiritual one and of course I and many others did pray for relief from this condition.

Those prayers were answered when, in those last hours, with the family, he was lifted high above his condition to share and enjoy those last precious hours. More than once he had said "I want to go home", meaning to be with the Lord in Heaven. This time his desire was granted.

So all of us at Tinshill already miss John. He was as gracious as His Lord, and much loved by all, and he was a good example of a godly Christian man whose sights were set on Christ and Glory.

*Glyn Williams*

## Memories of John Lewin

I heard about Pastor John Lewin long before I actually ever met him and the half had never been told! John had high standards for the ministry that he sat under. He wanted to hear it and he wanted good doctrine and illustrations as well.

More recently, John and Joy opened up their home for the Soldiers' and Airmen's Scripture Readers Association monthly prayer meeting. Their hospitality was always appreciated and far exceeded our expectations. But the highlight of such meetings was quite often when John himself prayed! Sometimes you felt as if you had entered the very throne-room of Heaven with him. It was certainly a privilege to be with him on such occasions. Christine and I loved to visit them both.

While John became increasingly frail, his faith and love for Jesus seemed to become stronger. He felt frustrated that he couldn't do more for Jesus. That's a common problem for retired and ex-ministers. When he was at his weakest, he sometimes suffered from depression, at times, even a severe depression that he found hard to describe. Then he would say "I want to go Home!" And he didn't mean his earthly home! The Psalms were a great comfort to him. It was a privilege to read the Scriptures, pray with him,

and try to comfort him at such times. He always seemed to perk up a bit by the end of a hospital visit. Joy faithfully visited him during the three weeks or so in hospital. I think he really wanted to get back home to be with her.

He loved his wife, Joy, and he loved his children, their spouses, and grand-children. They meant the world to both him and Joy. He was proud of them all.

He also loved the family of God. I am sure all of us would have been very often in his prayers.

Because of his physical condition and the protected status of agricultural work, John was never able to go into the Armed Forces. I am sure that if he had been able to he would have joined the Royal Air Force. As a young man he would work on the fields near RAF Tempsford admiring and gaining a love for all things aeronautical, a love which I shared as an ex-RAF man. During the war years, he, like everyone else in the area had no idea what RAF Tempsford was all about! He just assumed it was another bomber station with its Lysanders, Ansons, Halifaxes, and the occasional Dakota. After the war the truth came out that it was the base from which the Secret Agents of the Special Operations Executive flew out to help the Resistance movements in the Nazi-occupied countries, many of whom paid the supreme price for their bravery. John was fascinated by it all! He loved to borrow my aircraft magazines and if there was anything about RAF Tempsford in one then he was over the moon!

One occasion with John that I will never forget was the night when we had been to the hospital and we were coming back home via Spen Lane. A blue van pulled out in front of us and John swerved to avoid it by going between two columns of traffic. Sadly, he missed the footbrake and hit the accelerator. It was a spectacular end to John's driving career and we both ended up with fractured sternums!

The SASRA Prayer Group and I will all miss John. He was a precious and much-loved man. But we know whom he believed in, he was sure that he would go to be with the Lord, which is far better. All his sufferings are well and truly over. Another Christian Soldier has gone to His Eternal Home

Ken says the game changer in the early 1990s was the Internet and online auction sites, enabling him to sell cards more easily to a worldwide market. While most cards only fetch a small sum, Ken has had a few hit high prices of more than £400.

Ken shares what makes a card valuable. 'It is not necessarily what you think. It doesn't have to be very old — it just needs to be collectable and preferably quite scarce. After all these years, I reckon over a million postcards have passed through my hands and now I can pick out the valuable ones.'

Ken remains passionate about volunteering his time. 'I do it because MAF's ministry is close to my heart and it is nice to be able to support MAF in a different way. And the money that is raised is coming from something that people may otherwise just throw out, not realising there is a value to these cards'.

So please continue to put your unwanted postcards in the box at the back of the church. If you want to find out more about MAF there are a few magazines on the windowsill near the postcard box.

Thank you once again.

*Christine Crossley*

## **A New Year message from the Christmas Story**

### **Luke 2v39 and Matthew 2v13-23**

These verses cover what is ordinarily known as the flight into Egypt. I am not suggesting that we run from our responsibilities or flee from our difficulties. Rather I would point you to 3 things a New Year can hold for a Christian:-

1. A new unfolding of the will of God
2. An instant obedience to the word of God
3. Clear guidance for the child of God



amongst many others. He would always put himself out to help anyone. His faith was always accompanied by a consistent Christian life. I wasn't too surprised when I heard he was going to Malta with Ken—that's just the sort of thing Jack would do. He was due to go again this year and the intention was that he would look after Ken. God had a more glorious destination in mind for Him!

Like many in the church, I will miss Jack enormously. He was a fairly quiet man and he had a weak physical heart but there was nothing wrong with his spiritual "heart". He loved the Saviour and he knew where he was heading because Jesus said: *"I am the way, the Truth, and the Life; no man comes to the Father except through Me"*. That was Jack's assurance; is it yours?

*Paul Crossley*

## Postcards for the Edge

I would like to say a big thankyou to all of you who have put your old postcards in the box on the windowsill at the back of the church. They are very much appreciated and are helping to raise money for Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF). The following is an email I recently received from MAF.

'Wish you were here' — is a postcard you're unlikely to receive from most of the isolated communities MAF serves around the world. But postcards have an important part to play in helping fund the life-saving services we provide.

Keen postcard collector and MAF volunteer, Ken Thom, had the bright idea to raise funds by selling postcards, when he realised that other charities were doing things with other collectables such as stamps.

Ken had a steep learning curve as his knowledge was based on aircraft-related postcards. But he read up on the history of postcards, got to know dealers and collectors and discovered what is valuable and what is not. In the first few years he only raised about £50 a year, but the income kept growing and this year Ken will hit the momentous milestone of £200,000 raised for MAF through the sale of postcards.

which Christ has prepared for him. I feel sure that he would have been greeted with "Well done, you good and faithful servant," or something similar.

*Paul Crossley*

## Jack Potts

14th June 1941 to 2nd October 2018

(The following tribute to Jack was given by Glyn at the Thanksgiving Service for his life on 23rd October at the church which was well attended by family and friends.)

Jack was brought up in the Halton Moor area of Leeds. He had 3 sisters, one of whom has passed away. He went straight from school to the plumbing trade. He wanted to study to be an architect, but his father said "get a trade". He was apprenticed to Ernie Fountain and attended night school. He was "lent out" to another plumber, who kept him! Wise man. Son John was apprenticed to Jack when Jack was ready to retire.

Carol and Jack got married on 5th March 1964 at Leeds Parish Church. Children Amber, Terri and John were born. Amber got married when John was only 2!

Jack enjoyed holidays with members of the family to Italy, Majorca, Venice, Paris, Greece, Malta and New York. The last of those in 2000, just a year before 9/11. They had intended to return to New York the next year but that wasn't to be. One year Jack asked Carol to choose a destination and get it booked. She did so. She picked somewhere in Italy, but Jack didn't want to go there. He went and had a brilliant holiday. Carol said he could be stubborn!



We always found Jack good natured, loving, open, honest and helpful, especially when asked to do plumbing jobs at our house and church. He had a wonderfully slender waist and was able to crawl in the cavity under our concrete floor to service the radiators. In contrast he took off his own disused 4 foot chimney stack single handed! We loved him very much and miss him greatly at the church.

Jack was introduced to Tinshill Free Church by Ken Link and he was thoughtful and asked questions about the Christian faith. We were invited to No 2 Whitebridge Avenue, Seacroft and other later addresses where Jack and Carol lived.

One Sunday morning he asked to speak to me in the kitchen, which was a small area of the hut we worshipped in at the time. He asked me to explain how you could be saved. The kitchen was also used as a crèche. There was a book in there which I used to explain the gospel of Jesus our Saviour. We came to a page which showed 3 crosses with Jesus in the middle. I said that Jesus took Jack's sins there on the cross. He suddenly broke down in tears and asked me to pray with him. He emerged from the kitchen tearful but peaceful and happy.

Life changed for him. He would not do certain things he did before. He tried to talk about Jesus to family and workmates. Jack was baptised here in March 1981 as was Carol. He was quickly supportive in every respect. He laid the very first brick on the first stage of this building, the side room, having helped us lay the foundation for the whole building plot in one memorable day which included help from Ken Link and others.

In recent days Jack was/is renowned for his practical help and advice to Mark Pitten. His most notable advice was "Stand up for yourself Mark". Jack was caring, practical, straightforward. It is a big loss to the church as well as to Carol and the family. We know he had some heart failure but that did not stop him being very active, including many visits to Mark. It is a credit to Jack that he was so active despite being 77 with a weakened heart. Now the Lord Jesus has taken him to Himself — that also is a matter for praise and thanksgiving.

*Glyn Williams*

## Memories of Jack Potts

Many years ago, Jack came on the scene and I think it was because he had been recommended for a plumbing job by someone in the church. His help in the plumbing field was always invaluable. Also, my son, David, went to the same school as his son John—they were very good friends indeed. They still are, as far as I know. I was aware that he had daughters but I think I only met one of them once. It was a bit of a surprise to find out that both he and Carol had become Christians some years before because I never saw them at Tinshill Free Church until much later on. Jack was very much a family man and one of the most hard-working people I have ever met. He came from the same sort of background that I came from and he always seemed to know when I was joking, which isn't always the case with some other people. He was a working man and a true gentleman.

I always felt that there was more to Jack than I actually knew, but I never knew that he would have liked to have been an architect until his Thanksgiving Service! I think we lost some excellent well-designed buildings when he became a plumber, but he always seemed to be very happy in the job that he had. Jack knew I had been in Arabia with the RAF so he told me that he too had been out that way in his younger days as a plumber. I seriously thought of taking him out to Nigeria with me to sort out my friends' plumbing. I am sure he could have coped with modern day Africa.

Jack trained his son, John, up as a plumber with the same high standards and ethical values that he had. For that I and many others are, and will forever be, grateful. John always does a very good job, just like his Dad.

When Jack and Carol started coming more regularly to Tinshill I was very happy indeed. Jack was also coming to the Men's Fellowship and the Men's Breakfasts. Like myself, he longed for his son to come to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ. Both of us would love to have seen all our children walking with the Lord. I am sure that Carol, Christine and I will continue in prayer for them all.

Jack was a very good friend to Ken and Gloria Link and Mark Pitten