

# THE MAGAZINE

Nº 331



TINSHILL FREE CHURCH

APRIL / MAY 2019

## Pastoral Letter — April/May 2019

### A burst of Joy

I wonder whether you have ever witnessed a “flashmob” either in person, or on ‘youtube’. In the middle of a fairly peaceful shopping centre or city square — a burst of music suddenly rings out from an orchestra in ‘plain’ clothes, which has been quietly developing without being noticed throughout the square.

One variation of this is when the music group or orchestra/choir begins with one instrument/person and then develops into a crescendo of many instruments/people. I recently saw one on ‘youtube’. A little girl was playing her recorder in front of a busker, who had a double bass. When she had finished, the busker played the same tune, then a cello mysteriously appeared from nowhere, and the full orchestra played. Finally a large choir joined in because the music was set to words. The whole event finished with a loud flourish. A crowd had been slowly developing. It became really big, and then burst into cheering in appreciation at the ‘impromptu’ performance. The music? — “Ode to Joy” by Beethoven.

Like that slowly developing performance, nature sings for joy at the coming of Spring. The equinox has just passed and if you go for an early walk in a suburban area like Leeds 16, and if you listen carefully, you might hear a solo bird with a lovely tune of its own, soon joined by many birds of the same type and then a different type. If you keep listening, you might be rewarded with a burst of song, giving praise to their Creator God.

A similar thing happens with flowers/plants in Spring. When I go to visit some well known garden, like Temple Newsam, you can be sure I will see no coloured flowers—I always seem to go at the wrong time! But if I walk in my own neighbourhood just now, I can see the burst of Spring flowers, with snowdrops, daffodils, heather, tulips and many more. Nature seems to ring out its praises to God who made them.

When the Lord Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey on Palm Sunday, many followers shouted with joy and the praise rang out *“Blessed is the King who comes in the Name of the Lord!”*. Some religious people told

Jesus to instruct them to shut up, but Jesus answered that if His followers stopped shouting then the “*stones would immediately cry out*” (ie. in praise). All of nature is evidence of God’s existence, as He designed and made all things.

Part of the lyrics of “Ode to Joy” mentioned earlier is this—

“Brothers, above the starry canopy  
There must dwell a loving Father.  
Do you fall in worship, you millions?  
World, do you know your Creator?”

Easter always comes at Springtime, even though the date varies within a month or so. As the days get lighter, there is hope—yes and joy—at Springtime. It heralds Summer and has a joy in itself. But then the Easter season has most reason for us to have hope, and joy, for here it was that our Lord Jesus burst from the tomb on that Resurrection day, 2000 years ago. For Christians, it is joy in new life; joy in knowing the Saviour; joy in resurrection life through faith in the Lord Jesus.

*“So they went out quickly from the tomb with fear and great JOY and ran to bring His disciples word”* (Matthew 28:8).

*“And they worshipped Him, and returned to Jerusalem with great JOY”* (Luke 24:52).

May you know increasingly the joy of the Risen Jesus at this time.

*Glyn Williams*

## Paying the Price

The family were coming to stay for a few days at Christmas and so we made a 20 mile journey to a supermarket in Carnforth to stock up with provisions. The supermarket was heaving with people but eventually, with a trolley full of “goodies”, off we went to queue at the checkout. There I helped to pack the food into carrier bags and Pat prepared to settle the bill.

Oh dear! — a frantic search in her bag and purse but no bank card! She looked to me — but I had neither card nor money.

All we could do was to take the shopping out of the trolley, whilst a member of staff was summoned to return the goods to the shelves. How embarrassing and how disappointing. Yorkshire puddings, meat, ice cream, biscuits, chocolates, drinks; a plethora of good things but no-one to pay for them. No card. No money. No receipt.

*“Two men owed money to a certain money-lender. One owed him five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. Neither of them had the money to pay him back, so he cancelled the debts of both.”* (Luke 7:41-42)

*“You were bought at a price”* (1 Corinthians 6:20)

*“...it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life...but with the precious blood of Christ”* (1 Peter 1:18-19)

Forgiveness of sin, peace with God, an eternal home in heaven — these all had to be paid for. As sinful people, we had nothing to offer; the debt was far too great ever to be paid for by us. We needed Someone to pay the price on our behalf. And that is why Jesus came — to redeem us, to pay the price of our salvation. He went to the cross of Calvary and He paid the price *“not with perishable things such as silver or gold”* but with His own *“precious blood”*.

He died that we might be forgiven,  
He died to make us good,  
That we might go at last to heaven,  
Saved by His precious blood.

There was no other good enough  
To pay the price of sin;  
He only could unlock the gate  
Of heaven, and let us in.

*(Cecil Frances Alexander)*

*John Mollitt*

## Stars in God's sky

I have recently read a book called Stars in God's sky by Faith Cook. It is a collection of short biographies of 'extraordinary ordinary Christians'. Roger Carswell says of it 'It is just vintage Faith Cook. Don't miss out on this...treasure; instead, buy, read, enjoy, be blessed and share with others!'

One particular chapter stands out for me. It is about Paul Greenwood and Jonathan Maskew. Faith writes in the introduction to the chapter, "When revival broke out in Haworth in 1744, William Grimshaw found himself overwhelmed by the demands on his time and strength as he preached and counselled. Two remarkable laymen, both of whom would later become John Wesley's itinerant preachers, became his chief assistants in the work, becoming known as 'Mr Grimshaw's men'. Both would suffer the mindless persecution so often the lot of such preachers at the time."

What particularly struck me was the amazing way that Paul Greenwood and his family were saved. Aged 17, Paul was deeply troubled by the things he had done wrong in his life. He discovered a small pamphlet written by Robert Seagrove which pointed him to the way of hope. As he read through the pages he knew that this pamphlet held all the answers to his urgent needs. He needed a quiet place where he could pray. He chose the barn at his father's farm. Hour after hour Paul knelt there crying out to God to have mercy on him.

As time passed, his father began to worry where he was and went in search of him. Hearing sounds coming from the barn, he stood peering into the darkness. Then he entered and was amazed at what he saw. Unaware of his father's presence, Paul continued praying, and, before long, Mr Greenwood had an overpowering sense of his own sins which forced him to his knees beside his son, and he too began to pray.

Soon, Paul's mother became increasingly concerned about her husband and son. Where could they be? She too searched and eventually discovered them in the barn. Tears coursed down her cheek as she saw them there, and, before long, she knelt in the hay with them, pouring out her heart to God in prayer for His mercy.

It was not long before Paul's brother and sister, alerted by the cries coming from the barn, joined the rest of the family. Together, the whole Greenwood family mingled their cries and tears until each one was assured of God's compassion and forgiveness.

What an amazing God we have. What He did in 1744 He can do again today. He longs for people to know their sins are forgiven through the death of His Son, Jesus, and to know His joy and peace as they daily live their lives for Him. My prayer is that everyone who reads this will be assured of God's compassion and forgiveness as the Greenwood family were.

If anyone would like to read the book I am happy to lend it.

*Christine Crossley*

## **The Power behind the Throne**

Brief notes from the Second Tuesday Seminar — 13th November 2018.

This is not a talk about our wives but an overview of the power and glory of God. There are lots of questions which arise but we are only able to go as far as the Lord allows in His Word.

Our concept of time does not exist in eternity — God created time when He made the world. The evening and morning was a day and God set the week as 7 days as we know it (Genesis 1:14).

We have to start with "*In the beginning God*" (Genesis 1:1). This means the beginning of recorded history from the creation of the physical world not the beginning of God. God has always existed in 3 persons — Father, Son and Holy Spirit. God is self-existent and self-sufficient. God does not rely upon anything to give life and doesn't need anything or anybody. We do not know why God created but we do know that all creation exists for man so we can appreciate it. God is Spirit. Creation and human beings are physical beings so had to be made—they could not happen by chance (Psalm 8:3). Evolution is a world view by men who distort the truth to justify their refusal to submit to God and live as they want to. The more we look at creation the more complex it appears. The intricacies of design in

creation show us the work and wonder of our God. Each cell is a chemical factory producing the enzymes and chemicals needed for life. We have irreducible complexity which means that it could not be made as random pieces came together, by chance, to perform a vital function, without which life could not exist. Look out into the universe where we see a very ordered system of planets, suns and galaxies. We were not there when the world was made but God was (see Job 38: 4-7,11). Though we know that the earth's ecosystems work in a self-sustaining way, and the universe follows the physical laws which God has created, the Bible teaches us that it cannot continue to exist without the constant maintaining power of God — *“He made the worlds... and upholding all things by the word of His power”* (Hebrews 1:2&3).

What is the purpose of creation? — It demonstrates the power, attributes and beauty of God which we would not be aware of had He not created. God chose to create human beings who could experience and appreciate those qualities in the Godhead eg love, righteousness, truth, forgiveness, patience, knowledge, justice etc. God deserves to be worshipped and it is for our good, not because it fulfils a need in God. Much of the sin in this world is connected in some way to religion and the worship of false gods, who are not God but the imaginings of sinful men who seek to gratify their own pride and lusts. Sin is a result of man's pride and rebellion against God's rule and authority.

### **God rules in the affairs of men**

God raises up kings and removes them. Governments both good and bad are all allowed under the rule of God. Why does God allow bad things to happen? That was our choice when we threw off the rule of God through our rebellion and wanted to determine our own future and live by our standards rather than God's (Genesis 3: 5&6). Disaster came upon man when we disobeyed God and as we trace the history of man we see the abject failure of man's attempts to order and rule their own lives. So God does allow bad things and brings good out of them. Ultimately God is bringing about His purposes, and by ruling in the affairs of men He is shaping the world as we move towards the Second Coming of Christ and judgement.

## **God rules in Salvation**

God is sovereign in those He chooses to be saved and the method of salvation. He is choosing a people for Himself and has a purpose for this world. Nobody deserves salvation or forgiveness which is necessary if we are to become one of God's people, so we know it is entirely of God's grace. We are dead in trespasses and sins and have no redeeming features — we need the illumination and transformation which God alone can give. God chose the only possible remedy for sin. When Jesus said *“no one comes to the Father but by me”* (John 14:6) He was stating this fact that God knows there was no way for us to be saved other than through God the Son and His sacrifice on our behalf at Calvary. Yet as people we also have a responsibility to seek after God *“Seek the Lord while He may be found, call upon Him while He is near”* (Isaiah 55:6).

## **God rules in His people**

God is preparing His people for Heaven. The good and bad things that happen to God's people are there by God's plan (Romans 8:28). He is changing us to be like His beloved Son, the Lord Jesus. Like an earthly family rules of conduct also apply to the family of God. Not that God is looking for clones of the Lord Jesus, but wants each to have our own personality within the new nature. God is using us to speak and testify of Him — in the words we speak, the works we do and the life we live. As the rest of creation displays the love and beauty of God, so we are to do the same to reach out to others who do not know God and for the glory of God.

## **God rules in the Spiritual Realm**

We know that the angels are created beings. They were created, as we were, with a free will. They worship and serve God because they want to. Those who didn't want to rebelled, led by Lucifer (Isaiah 14:12-15). God's rule is shown in the expulsion of the rebellious angels from heaven, their continued accountability to God (Job 1: 6&7) and ultimately their final end (Matthew 25:41 and Revelation 20:10). The Lord Jesus in His earthly ministry had authority over evil spirits and dismissed Satan when tempted (Mark 1:23-27 and Matthew 4:10).

Why is there no salvation for Satan and the other fallen angels? They were created by God in Heaven, and even though they saw God's perfection and knew Him in a way we have still not experienced they still rebelled and continue that rebellion to this day. All through the history of the world, Satan has deceived and deluded people by his lies and will do so until he and those who rebelled with him are cast into hell. Satan is not the ruler of hell but is a victim of hell. God rules hell and He determines who will go there to endure the same punishment as the devil and his angels.

### **God rules time**

God created time, exists outside of time and can intervene in time as He chooses. Ecclesiastes 3:1 tells us there is *"a time for every purpose under heaven"*. Time was created to give structure to us as physical human beings. We get tired and need sleep. We need to eat and drink. We also need the day of rest so we are able to be refreshed both physically and spiritually. After The Fall God limited the lifespan of man which would not have been possible without time. It is because of time we are able to plan our lives. It also allows us to be aware that our life is drawing to a close and have the spur to ensure we are ready to meet God. There was a day planned when Jesus would be born (Isaiah 7:14), there was a day planned when He would die (John 12:23-27) and there is a day planned for Him to return (Matthew 24:42-44).

### **God rules Eternity**

Our lives here are limited and our world has a limited lifespan but eternity goes on forever and has no end. As God rules here and now so He rules in eternity.

*"Your throne, O God, is forever and ever"* (Psalm 45:6)

*"Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and Your dominion endures throughout all generations"* (Psalm 145:13)

Daniel foresaw the reality of this great truth even in his day *"And in the day of these kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed...and it shall stand forever"* (Daniel 2:44).

The angel Gabriel speaking to Mary about the child, Jesus, she would bring

into the world said *“He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David. And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end”* (Luke 1:32&33).

At the resurrection Christ will deliver the kingdom to His Father and there will be an end to all earthly rule, authority and power. The last enemy to be destroyed is death and so those resurrected who belong and have been saved by Christ will know eternal life in Heaven under God’s rule (1 Corinthians 15: 24-28).

*Alan Brearley*

## **There Will Always Be God**

They cannot shell His temple, nor dynamite His throne;  
They cannot bomb His city, nor rob Him of His own.  
They cannot take Him captive, nor strike Him deaf and blind,  
Nor starve Him to surrender, nor make Him change His mind.  
They cannot cause Him panic, nor cut off His supplies;  
Though all the world be shattered, His truth remains the same,  
His righteous laws still potent, and “Father” still His name.  
Though we face war and struggle and feel their goad and rod,  
We know above confusion, there always will be God.

*Submitted by Marion Liddle*

## **Dear All**

I am writing this letter to all at Tinshill for your prayers and kind words, after the death of my husband Jack.

I have had some very difficult few months since the Lord called him home, I miss him very much.

Yet the Author of my life has given me some very good chapters to reflect on, a good husband and three amazing children to be thankful for.

One of the best chapters was when He introduced me to His beloved Son, The Lord Jesus and knowing He walks along with me, but often looking

back I see only one set of footprints in the sand. I truly am in awe of my Lord.

Sometimes it's the unexpected things that delight my heart and give thanks to Him, like the good weather when moving out of the Selby house and garage, days before the weather was vile. So now when I am anxious I think of Psalm 46v10 *'Be still and know that I am God.'*

I'm going to try and do just that.

*Carol Collins*

## PREACHING PLAN

|       |    | <b>Morning</b>   | <b>Evening</b> |
|-------|----|------------------|----------------|
| April | 7  | John Harris      | Alan Brearley  |
|       | 14 | John Mollitt     | John Mollitt   |
|       | 21 | Martin Sellens   | Glyn Williams  |
|       | 28 | Open Air Mission | Alan Brearley  |
| May   | 5  | Glyn Williams    | Martin Sellens |
|       | 12 | Alan Brearley    | Bill Dyer      |
|       | 19 | Warran Fawcett   | Stephen Emmott |
|       | 26 | Mick Lockwood    | Mick Lockwood  |
| June  | 2  | Gordon Frame     | TBA            |

## OUTSIDE APPOINTMENTS

Do please pray for our men as they minister:

### **Alan Brearley**

|     |          |        |  |
|-----|----------|--------|--|
| Fri | April 19 | 2pm    | Good Friday Service, Bethel, New Wortley |
| Wed | May 15   | 7.30pm | Bible Study, Bethel, New Wortley         |
| Sun | May 26   | am     | Bethel, New Wortley                      |

### **Paul Crossley**

|     |          |        |                                  |
|-----|----------|--------|----------------------------------|
| Wed | April 24 | 7.30pm | Bible Study, Bethel, New Wortley |
| Sun | April 28 | Noon   | Pentecost Baptist                |
| Wed | May 22   | 7.30pm | Bible Study, Bethel, New Wortley |

Sun May 26 Noon Pentecost Baptist

### **John Mollitt**

Sun April 21 am/pm Capernwray Evangelical

Sun May 5 am/pm Nether Kellett Congregational

Sun May 12 pm North Preston Evangelical

Sun May 19 am/pm Wray Methodist (church anniversary)

Sun May 26 am/pm Chorley Free Evangelical

Sun June 2 am/pm Parbold Evangelical

### **Martin Sellens**

Sat April 20 2.30pm Torch Trust for the Blind, City Evangelical

## **Bible Studies**

Wednesdays at 7.45pm at the church

| <b>Date</b> | <b>Passage/Theme</b>                                     | <b>Speaker</b>          |
|-------------|--|-------------------------|
| April 3     | Judges 17-21 Summary                                     | Martin Sellens          |
| 10          | Christian Witness to Israel<br>Deputation in main church | Igal Vender, Missionary |
| 17          | Calvary thoughts   | Martin Sellens          |
| 24          | Resurrection thoughts                                    | Glyn Williams           |
| May 1       | Colossians 1 v1-14                                       | Martin Sellens          |
| 8           | Colossians 1 v15-23                                      | Richard Brown           |
| 15          | Colossians 1 v24 - 2 v10                                 | Glyn Williams           |
| 22          | Colossians 2 v11-21                                      | John Mollitt            |
| 29          | Colossians 3 v1-17                                       | Martin Sellens          |

## **DIARY**

### **April**

Mon 1 7.30pm Girls Group at 87 Tinshill Road

Sat 6 10am-12 Revival prayer meeting at Tinshill

Thu 11 2pm Thursday at Two Speaker: Bill Scully

- Fr 12 7.45pm Missionary Prayer Group at 1 Tinshill Mount
- Sun 14 2.30pm Bedford Court Service
- Mon 15 7.30pm Girls Group at 383 Otley Old Road
- Tue 16 9.30am What is Easter all about?  
with Holy Trinity children
- 7.45pm Men's Fellowship
- Thu 18 10am-12 Asda Chaplaincy
- Fri 19 7.30pm Good Friday Service (with communion)
- Tue 23 7pm Elders Meeting at 68 Moseley Wood Walk
- 7.30pm Making & Thinking for Ladies.  
Thinking — Powerful prayers — Stephen  
at Pat Mollitt's (see Margaret/Anne for transport)
- Thu 25 1pm Thursday at Two Easter Special  
Speaker: Stephen Emmott
- Mon 29 7.30pm Girls Group at 87 Tinshill Road

**Note:** There is no Second Tuesday in April

## May

- Thu 2 all day Church open as a Polling Station for local elections
- Tue 7 7.45pm Elders/Deacons Meeting at 26 Woodlands Drive
- Thu 9 2pm Thursday at Two Speaker: Warran Fawcett
- Sun 12 2.30pm Cookridge Court Service
- Mon 13 7.30pm Girls Group at 383 Otley Old Road
- Tue 14 10.15am Second Tuesday
- Fri 17 7.45pm Missionary Prayer Group
- Tue 21 7.30pm Making & Thinking for Ladies.  
Thinking — Powerful prayer — David  
at 1 Tinshill Mount
- 7.45pm Men's Fellowship
- Thu 23 2pm Thursday at Two

## June

|     |    |         |   |
|-----|----|---------|---|
| Sat | 1  | 11am    | Trustees Meeting at 87 Tinshill Road                            |
| Mon | 3  | 7.45pm  | Annual General Meeting at church                                |
| Thu | 6  | 1pm     | Thursday at Two Soup & Sweet Special<br>Speaker: Martin Sellens |
| Mon | 10 | — am/pm | Bible Exhibition “The Amazing Journey”                          |
| Fri | 14 |         | with local schools  |

### Note:

Due to school holidays there is no Tots Clubs on Wednesday April 3rd, 10th, possibly 17th and May 29th.

There is also no Good News Club on Fridays April 5th, 12th, 19th and May 31st.

The next edition of the Magazine is due out for Sunday 2nd June — all items and contributions to Martin Sellens by Wednesday 22nd May please.

## ROTAS

### Week ending

### Cleaning

|       |    |                   |                 |                    |
|-------|----|-------------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| April | 6  | Mavis Mathers     | Angela Mathers  | Christine Crossley |
|       | 13 | Margaret Williams | Colette Hickman | Ann Mountain       |
|       | 20 | Natalie Sellens   | Kathryn Hibbard | Deborah Williams   |
|       | 27 | Jenny Leng        | Eva Ng          | Anne Sellens       |
| May   | 4  | Ruth Holder       | Rosemary Hilton | Carole Brearley    |
|       | 11 | Mavis Mathers     | Angela Mathers  | Christine Crossley |
|       | 18 | Margaret Williams | Colette Hickman | Ann Mountain       |
|       | 25 | Natalie Sellens   | Kathryn Hibbard | Deborah Williams   |
| June  | 1  | Jenny Leng        | Eva Ng          | Anne Sellens       |

### For Sunday

### Flowers

|       |    |                    |    |                   |
|-------|----|--------------------|----|-------------------|
| April | 7  | Christine Crossley | 14 | Ann Mountain      |
|       | 21 | Deborah Williams   | 28 | Jenny Leng        |
| May   | 5  | Ruth Holder        | 12 | Mavis Mathers     |
|       | 19 | Margaret Williams  | 26 | Christine Blayney |
| June  | 2  | Anne Sellens       |    |                   |

# 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 (bi-monthly)   | 10.15am       |
|           | Making and Thinking (for ladies — monthly)<br>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)<br>at 1 Tinshill Mount  | 7.45pm        |

TINSHILL FREE CHURCH

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