

THE MAGAZINE

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TINSHILL FREE CHURCH

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Pastoral Letter — December 2019 / January 2020

20/20 Vision

20/20 vision means that you can see at a distance of 20 feet, what a ‘normal person’ can see at 20 feet - pretty clear objects! If you have 20/40 vision it means that you can only see at 20 feet what a normal person can see at 40 feet’, and so on! Spectacles are simply a means of correction to get you back to 20/20 vision.

I realised that I needed glasses when my mother-in-law’s vision was better than mine! My first glasses were received just before watching a Cliff Richard concert at Leeds Town Hall - which was God-honouring in his references to faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Far more important than physical vision, though, is spiritual vision, and particularly our view of Christ. I thoroughly enjoy the season of Christmas, and particularly when we see something about the ‘Christ’ in Christmas which is rare in our society today. There is a danger, however, that our vision of Jesus is distorted by restricting our view of Him to the baby in Bethlehem - wonderful and astounding though that is. As the New Year comes, we need a new vision of Jesus which draws out love and service for Him in the year 2020. If you like, we need a correction to achieve 20/20 vision spiritually, in the coming year which is also 2020. A new vision of Jesus might be brand new to us, but not in the sense that it is all there in Scripture. We personally need a fresh look which drives our love and service in 2020.

If you are able to look at the hymn of that name - “I saw a new vision of Jesus” (New Christian Hymns No 859) the author gets his own fresh view which energises him - he refers to Christ’s love for him, His grace, His compassion, His merciful dealings with people whom He met. He refers to Jesus as the only one who can save us from spiritual death, and especially when Jesus died our death in Calvary’s pain. It is worthwhile to dig deep into the physical, mental and spiritual sufferings which were necessary to pay the price for our sins.

But also we need to appreciate more a vision of Jesus in Heaven right now.

He is the *“Lamb as though it had been slain”* (Revelation 5:6). The exalted and glorious bodily Christ Jesus bears the marks of His sacrifice on our behalf which is the most supreme expression of real love for sinners.

He is amazingly both our Creator and our Saviour.

Jesus now intercedes (prays) for all those who belong to Him by faith, that their faith should not fail. He prayed the same for the Apostle Peter, and Peter (with all his faults) kept his faith to the end. Jesus similarly prays for all true Christians and all those who are going to become Christians before He comes back to judge the world

Perhaps you would be helped with a 20/20 view of Jesus in the year 2020 - a correction (like glasses) from a distorted view of Him. If so, as the New Year comes, it will drive our love for Him and therefore our service for Him. Our vision for the year 2020 must be to be like Jesus, a holy people, and then to work towards the goal of bringing many to a saving knowledge of Jesus before He comes.

A very Happy Christmas and a blessed New Year

Glyn Williams

The birthday we can never forget

I once had a birthday which I will never forget — because everyone else did!

I woke early that morning and my wife was very chatty but no mention was made of my birthday. After a while, I sang, “Happy birthday to me. Happy birthday to me. Happy birthday, dear John. Happy birthday to me.”

Pat was apologetic, but had no need to be because only the previous evening she had been diagnosed with a potentially serious medical condition. So it was understandable that this dominated her thoughts.

Just before 8am, the telephone rang and I could see that it was my daughter, Joanna. Joanna never forgets a birthday. I picked the phone up and Joanna said, “How is Mum?” “Do you want a word with her?” I said, and mother and daughter proceeded to talk for the next ten minutes. The

phone was put down and again I sang, “Happy birthday to me. Happy birthday to me. Happy birthday, dear John. Happy birthday to me”.

Early that evening, the telephone rang and it was my son, Andrew. This is amazing, I thought, he never remembers a birthday. “Hello, Andrew, “ I said. “Hi, Dad,” he responded, “do you have my MOT certificate?” We chatted for a few minutes but no mention was made of my birthday, and again I sang, “ Happy birthday to me. Happy birthday to me. Happy birthday, dear John. Happy birthday to me”.

My birthday had been forgotten, but in truth, I was not too concerned — I have reached an age when I prefer them to be forgotten, rather than be remembered. Far more serious is the fact that, increasingly, the birth of Jesus is being forgotten. More and more Christmas songs are secular and it is not easy now to find a Christmas card which has any reference to His birth. Christmas is celebrated as Xmas or a Winter Festival, and the birth, the Incarnation of Jesus, is all but ignored.

This is serious because when His birth is forgotten, so too is the purpose of His birth. “*Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners...*” (1 Timothy 1:15 and see also Matthew 1:21). Not just at Christmas but every day, let us remember a unique Person who came for a unique purpose.

John Mollitt
(taken from “Truth in a Nutshell” by John Mollitt (2015)
with kind permission)

Reflection but from which perspective?

I have a habit of doing a reflection at the end of the day to examine myself. Even before I was a Christian, I would do that after a big event, having a retrospective analysis, which I learned from playing Chinese chess when I was a kid. This strategy can also be found in many fields, e.g. business, finance and law case study. My strategy involved viewing things from all different perspectives, highlighting the good points I achieved and areas I should improve, then distilling the crucial reason and influential factors behind it, and devising various plans for improvement to find the best

solution for further scenarios. That way I can avoid tripping over the same mistakes and achieve my goals in the best way. At the end of year I normally do a year reflection to see what I've achieved and self-examine to see which areas I should improve and then set goals for next year. It seems like a very clever and thoughtful way, doesn't it?

However, after I became a Christian, I sensed that this strategy doesn't work well if I do it in the same way. I tried to examine myself in the old way to see what I'd achieved in the last year and compared the academic and financial achievement but I was shocked, disappointed and frustrated that I gained even less than before. How did that happen? The answer is that I am a new creation now. The subject and centre of my life has changed and so has my time and energy investment. So if I try to value myself from the world's perspective, trouble and worry will seize me, because if I use the same strategy, it means giving the power to the old self and the world to let them judge me, and I would fall into the old way of life... *"Then I looked on all the works that my hands had done and on the labour in which I had toiled; and indeed all was vanity and grasping for the wind. There was no profit under the sun."* (Ecclesiastes 2:10&11).

When I was a non-believer the centre of my life was me and the majority of my time and energy was spent on seeking good things for myself. I did help others and care about people before but the heroic reason behind this was to feel like I'm capable and strong to please myself. I did gain reputation and people think I'm a good person. Nevertheless, I found there was never enough in my heart and ambition, like all streams flow into the sea yet the sea is never full. Thanks be to God, who gives me the victory through Jesus Christ our Lord. He raised me up when I was drowning. He saved me from the meaningless repeated battles.

As a Christian, the centre of my life is the Lord. *"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new."* (2 Corinthians 5:17). Shall I still wear children's things while I'm a grown woman? Do I need false teeth after I go to heaven? Why should I examine myself from the perspective of my old self and the world then? Do I care about the world or the Lord? The answer is clear. I seek His

kingdom and righteousness first, rather than myself. I please the Lord rather than myself or the world. In playing chess the important key is to think from the rival's perspective before making the next move. But in the battle of the flesh and the spirit it is dangerous to think from our rival's perspective and let it direct our steps. If we do not walk in the light with Christ and pay too much attention to the world and its problems we can easily be led down the wrong path. Friedrich Nietzsche wrote "whoever fights monsters should watch out that in the process he does not become a monster. If you gaze long into the abyss, the abyss also gazes into you". We should always use the principles which the Lord told us through the Bible and think only from God's perspective when examining myself. *"Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths. Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the Lord and depart from evil."* (Proverbs 3: 5-7)

Jing Wang

The Frank Jenner Story

By Stephen Tucker

During a time of testimonies at Lansdowne Baptist church, Bournemouth, England in the Summer of 1952, Rev Francis Dixon heard two very similar stories from two British sailors who had never met each other before. Both sailors, while on shore leave in Sydney, were approached by a man who asked the question: "Young man, if you were to die tonight, where would you be, in heaven or in hell?" In the course of time they both returned home, but the encounter with this mysterious man on George Street, Sydney, left such a deep impression on their hearts and minds that they both sought spiritual help when back in England. Later, they both became Christians, Francis Dixon himself having the pleasure of leading one of the sailors, Peter Culver, to Christ.

Shortly after this, Francis Dixon departed with his wife Nancy for his first preaching tour to Australia and New Zealand. Deeply fascinated by the coincidence of the two stories of the sailors and recognising that he was

heading to the land where these events had happened, he resolved to investigate the matter further. Who was this unconventional street-evangelist? Why had he chosen to act in such a way? And how many other people had been impacted by his ministry?

It didn't take long to get some answers. The tour commenced in Adelaide and, while preaching in a large hall one night, Francis Dixon related the stories of the two sailors from England. At this point, their host — who happened to be sitting next to Mrs Dixon, and to whom they had just been introduced — waved his arms around, jumped up, and said “I'm another! I'm another!” This man, Murray Wilkes, later told them that during the war the evangelist had approached him while he was running to catch a tram, and that he had given his life to Christ in an army barracks two weeks later.

While in Perth, Francis Dixon again shared the story of the two sailors. This time, a man approached him after the talk to say that he too had become a Christian as a consequence of the single sentence uttered by the evangelist on George Street, Sydney. What's more, he had gone on to lead Christian endeavour for Western Australia.

And so, in Frank and Jessie Jenner's humble town-house, as Francis Dixon told the four stories of the men who had responded to the evangelists' simple question, Frank Jenner, with tears in his eyes, fell to his knees and prayed. “O Lord, thank you for tolerating me”. After a time of prayer, Jenner confessed that after speaking to 10 people a day for the previous 16 years, this was the first time he had heard of lasting results. “You know, I never heard that anyone I ever spoke to had gone on for the Lord. Some made professions of salvation when I spoke to them but I never ever knew any more than that”, he said to his guests.

Those who knew Frank Jenner testify that his nature was generous and warm, that he quickly inspired trust in others, and that his life was marked by persistence in prayer.

The circumstances of the Second World War — particularly the horrific images of Japan after the atomic bombs — so heightened Jenner's sense of

urgency that he felt it necessary to confront others directly about their standing before God. Not that this came easily. Jenner struggled to overcome a gambling habit acquired as a sailor, and he suffered persistent health problems throughout his life. He was so aware of his weakness that before each encounter on George Street he silently prayed “I can do all things through Him who gives me strength”. He first coined his now-famous question in 1937, and over the years probably asked nearly 100,000 people.

It is no surprise, then, that his influence extended far beyond Australia. Just a month after meeting Frank Jenner, Francis Dixon spoke at a Methodist Church in Keswick, England. After the service a man who worked for ‘Mission to Mediterranean Garrisons’ approached Mr Dixon and said, “I too was challenged by Mr. Jenner and now I am in a soul-winning work myself”. Four years after this, while ministering to missionaries in India, Mr Dixon found another convert from George Street, Sydney. She had responded to the evangelist’s challenge and offered her life for service in India. In all, Francis Dixon knew of 10 people who had come to Christ as a consequence of the influence of Frank Jenner. I wonder how many more there are?

Frank Jenner, in his own way, and to the embarrassment of some Christians, got to the heart of the issue: he directly challenged sailors about their standing before God. His simple question is not a formula for us to copy, but his life is a wonderful testimony of how God can use those who remain faithful to him.

Submitted by Paul Crossley

At our members’ meeting in November the members fully supported the elders’ proposal that we appoint John Mollitt as an Elder at Tinshill. We are so grateful to God for this provision. John will take up this role at the start of the year and it will be recognised during the communion service on January 5th. Please pray for John, and for Pat as she supports him in this additional responsibility.

Something small – Great joy

Just recently we had the lovely job of taking all the shoe boxes which our church had filled over to Garforth for collection by Blythswood who organise the transporting of these Christmas gifts, by lorry, into Eastern Europe in time for Christmas.

Shoe boxes are collected during the year, wrapped in Christmas paper and then filled by church members with gifts suitable for a man, a woman, boy or girl. Each precious box is often the only gift which will be received by very poor people. This “Shoe Box Appeal” is supported by many churches and individuals and thousands of boxes are delivered each year - Christian literature is included in each box before they leave our shores telling of the love of God in sending the Lord Jesus Christ as the only Saviour.



If you read the magazines which Blythswood send regularly you will see reports, sometimes with photographs, of the happy recipients. Sometimes someone in great need will tell of receiving a box which contained exactly what they needed to help them.

A shoe box is only a small item really, but can bring massive excitement and joy to someone in a very poor, underprivileged situation.

Last year at one of our Craft Evenings for Ladies at church, we each designed and made small “squares” to be put together into small “fiddle blankets”. Each square contained a mixture of ribbons, buttons, zips, flaps of material, bows etc which were fixed securely onto very brightly coloured material. About a dozen squares were carefully sewn together into a small blanket, bound at the edges, and the effect was beautiful and colourful. What is the use of a “fiddle blanket?” Well, it is designed to be used in the care of people who are suffering from severe dementia. They are fascinated



by the bold colours, they can feel the overall warmth and softness of the blanket, and explore the shapes, buttons, zips, flaps etc as much as they want. We already have a good relationship which has developed with Cookridge Court Care Home - one of the homes we regularly take a service of worship in, and when I went in last week taking four of these blankets

they were delighted to receive them. I watched them test them carefully, pulling at buttons, testing zips, ribbons and flaps etc for safety and then they took them immediately up to the third floor saying they were sure they would bring much enjoyment and help.

Each square was so small, just a little effort on a craft evening, but the home anticipated the help and joy they would bring.

Christmas is almost here - the time we choose to celebrate the arrival of another small gift, a humble baby born in very humble circumstances. But, Oh what great joy this small baby brought. *“Behold we bring you good tidings of great joy”* said the angels to the shepherds on a Judean hillside. This small baby was the perfect Christ the Lord, born into our human form to eventually be crucified outside the city of Jerusalem dying to pay for the sins of all who will turn to Him and trust Him for salvation. As you understand the massive, amazing depths of the gospel of Jesus Christ there is joy beyond measure.



How good to be able to express love to others less privileged in the giving of a small gift.

Margaret Williams

Two books to read at Christmas

In search of the spirit of Christmas by Dan Schaeffer

Christmas seasons come and go, often leaving us with vague pangs of regret. Why does the Christmas spirit seem so elusive? What is the real Christmas spirit anyway? Even those who know the ‘reason for the season’ can find themselves wondering if they have missed something.

Dan Schaeffer understands that familiarity can rob us of the glory of Christmas. We become immune to the story’s real power. But Schaeffer also has some help for us. He even has advice for what to do when it doesn’t feel like Christmas.

This book takes you beyond the trappings and trimmings and into the wonder of the best gift of the season, our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

The incredible journey: Christmas from Genesis to Jesus by Steve Brady

The Bible presents the ultimate adventure — God’s incredible, personal journey to the human race, which He loves with an amazing love, despite its repeated rejection of Him. The story culminates in the coming of Jesus Christ, the incarnate God, in the events we celebrate every Christmas.

This book contains daily readings beginning on December 1st and ending on January 6th. It covers an amazing journey from Genesis to Revelation.

Christine Crossley

To all at Tinshill

We would like to thank you all very much for your kind thoughts and prayers regarding our ongoing difficulties.

Your support is much appreciated and helps to remind us to always keep our trust in the Lord. As Martin Luther wrote in the hymn, *A mighty fortress is our God*, “The Lord will help us win the day with His good gifts and Spirit”.

We wish you all a very happy and blessed Christmas and thank you once again.

Veronica and Richard Wright

A Christmas Hymn

Child of the stable's secret birth,
the Lord by right of the lords of earth,
let angels sing of a King new-born,
the world is weaving a crown of thorn:
a crown of thorn for that infant head
cradled soft in a manger bed.

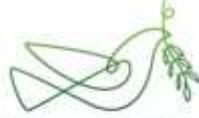
Eyes that shine in the lantern's ray;
a face so small in its nest of hay,
face of a child who is born to scan
the world He made through the eyes of man:
and from that face in the final day
earth and heaven shall flee away.

Voice that rang through the courts on high
contracted now to a wordless cry,
a voice to master the wind and wave,
the human heart and the hungry grave:
the voice of God through the cedar trees
rolling forth as the sound of seas.

Infant hands in a mother's hand,
for none but Mary may understand
whose are the hands and the fingers curled
but His who fashioned and made our world:
and through these hands in the hour of death
nails shall strike to the wood beneath.

Child of the stable's secret birth,
the Father's gift to a wayward earth,
to drain the cup in a few short years
of all our sorrows, our sins and tears;
ours the prize for the road He trod:
risen with Christ; at peace with God.

*With grateful thanks to Timothy Dudley-Smith
(Hymn 351 in Praise)*



LEEDS CITY MISSION

TRANSFORMING LEEDS
WITH THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST

Winter Tea & **CHRISTMAS PRAISE**

Saturday 7 December

Tea at 6pm & Praise at 7pm

Tinshill Free Church, Holly Avenue, Tinshill Lane, Tinshill, Leeds LS16 6PL

*Guest Speaker: **Allen Langham***

Former Prisoner and Addict transformed by Christ!

6.00pm–7.00pm Arrive and enjoy a **free** delicious tea & table quiz

6.00pm–7.00pm Meet LCM staff, browse the books, bargain, free gift tables and jam stall

7.00pm–8.20pm LCM Update. Hear Allen Langham's incredible and inspiring testimony

8.25pm Proceedings finish

PREACHING PLAN

		Morning	Evening
December	1	Gordon Frame	John Mollitt
	8	Martin Sellens	Ben Hutton
	15	Richard Brown	Alan Brearley
	22	John Mollitt	John Mollitt
	25	John Mollitt	
	29	Martin Sellens	Glyn Williams
January	5	John Mollitt	John Mollitt
	12	Alan Brearley	Gordon Frame
	19	Steve Walker	Ben Hutton
	26	Sergey Babenko	Steve Peat
February	2	John Harris	John Harris

We look forward to welcoming Steve Walker from City Evangelical Church on January 19th and Steve Peat from Dewsbury Evangelical Church on January 26th. There will be a fellowship tea on January 26th where Steve Peat will update us about the Family Centre in Peru.

BIBLE STUDIES

Wednesdays at 7.45p.m. in the church

Date	Passage	Speaker
December 4	1 Samuel 13 v1-15	Martin Sellens
11	1 Samuel 13 v16-14v23	Alan Brearley
18	Carol singing in the district. Meet at 7p.m	
25	No meeting in the evening	
January 1	Prayer and share	Martin to lead
8	1 Samuel 14v24-52	Martin Sellens
15	1 Samuel 15	John Mollitt
22	To be arranged	
29	To be arranged	

OUTSIDE APPOINTMENTS

Do pray for our men as they minister in other places in the coming months:-

Glyn Williams

Sun December 8 pm Thornhill Baptist, Dewsbury

Sun December 15 am Bethel, New Wortley

John Mollitt

Sun December 15 am/pm Martin Top

Sun December 29 am/pm Bethel, Ripon

Sun January 19 am/pm Newton Aycliffe

Sun January 26 am/pm Nether Kellet

Alan Brearley

Sun January 26 am Garforth

Paul Crossley

Sun December 1 am Christ Church, Crossgates
pm Hebron, Altofts

Sun December 8 am Christ Church, Crossgates

Sun December 15 am Christ Church, Crossgates
pm Bethany, Swinton

Sun December 22 am Christ Church, Crossgates
pm Garforth

Sun December 29 Noon Pentecost Baptist
pm Garforth

Sun January 5 am Christ Church, Crossgates

Sun January 12 am Hebron, Altofts

Wed January 22 pm Bible Study at Bethel, New Wortley

DIARY

December

- Sun 1 Fellowship lunch after morning service
- Tue 3 8pm Carols by Candlelight
- Thu 5 2pm Thursday at Two Speaker: John Almond
- Fri 6 9.30am What is Christmas all about?
With Holy Trinity children and staff
- Sat 7 6pm Leeds City Mission Praise Rally at Tinshill
- Sun 8 2.30pm Bedford Court Christmas Service
- Mon 9 7.30pm Girls Group at 383 Otley Old Road
7.45pm Elders/Deacons Meeting at 87 Tinshill Road
- Wed 11 1.15pm Tots Club Christmas Party
- Thu 12 All Day Church open as a Polling Station
for the General Election
- Fri 13 9.30am What is Christmas all about?
With Cookridge children and staff
6pm Ketchup — last meeting of the year
- Sun 15 2.30pm Cookridge Court Christmas Service
- Tue 17 7pm Men's Christmas Fellowship
- Wed 18 7pm Carol Singing in the area — meet at church
- Thu 19 1pm Thursday at Two Christmas Special
Speaker: Martin Sellens
- Fri 20 7.45pm Missionary Prayer Group at 1 Tinshill Mount
- Sun 22 5pm Church Carol Service
- Wed 25 10.30 Christmas Day Service

January

- Thu 2 2pm Thursday at Two Speaker: Alan Brearley
- Wed 8 1.15pm Tots Club restarts after Christmas
- Fri 10 6pm Ketchup restarts after Christmas

Sun	12	2.30pm	Cookridge Court Service
Mon	13	7.30pm	Girls Group
Tue	14	10.15am	Second Tuesday Speaker: Glyn Williams Subject: "Respect for Life"
Thu	16	2pm	Thursday at Two Speaker: Glyn Williams
Fri	17	7.45pm	Missionary Prayer Group
Tue	21	7.30pm	Making & Thinking for Ladies — Bible study evening
Sun	26	5pm	Fellowship Tea
Mon	27	7.30pm	Girls Group
Thu	30	1pm	Thursday at Two Winter Warmer Special Speaker: John Mollitt

The deadline for items/contributions to the February/March edition of the Magazine will be Wednesday January 22nd with the magazine to be produced D.V. for Sunday February 2nd.

Rotas

Week ending	Cleaning		
December 07	Mavis Mathers	Angela Mathers	Christine Crossley
14	Margaret Williams	Colette Hickman	Ann Mountain
21	Natalie Sellens	Kathryn Hibbard	Deborah Williams
28	Jenny Leng	Eva Ng	Anne Sellens
Jan '20 04	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
February 01	Jenny Leng	Eva Ng	Anne Sellens

For Sunday	Flowers		
December 01	Ruth Holder	08	Mavis Mathers
15	Margaret Williams	22	Christine Blayney
29	Eva Ng	Jan '20 05	Carole Brearley
12	Angela Mathers	19	Colette Hickman
26	Kathryn Hibbard	February 02	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) 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	Ketchup (Children aged 5-11)	6.00pm
	Missionary Prayer Group (monthly) at 1 Tinshill Mount	7.45pm

TINSHILL FREE CHURCH

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