

THE MAGAZINE

Nº 336



TINSHILL FREE CHURCH

FEBRUARY / MARCH 2020

Pastoral Letter — February / March 2020

Onwards and Upwards

We are back to our normal term time programme of meetings and activities after the Christmas and New Year break. Whilst it is good to spend time with family and friends and have time to reflect it is also good to get back to a regular routine.

January has been a significant month for us at Tinshill within the local church as John Mollitt started his service as an Elder at the start of the year and was recognised publically as such, in a simple way, in the communion service on January 5th.

We are so thankful to the Lord for

bringing John and Pat to us at Tinshill and for knitting our hearts together in the service of our great God in this local church. Do please pray for them and their ministry amongst us in preaching, teaching, serving and caring. John has taken on the responsibility of organising the mid-week meetings on a Wednesday and we started a 3 part series on the letter of Jude this week and that will be followed by the Seven Sayings of Christ on the Cross as we move towards Easter. It is the first time in the history of the church at Tinshill that we have had 3 elders when we have not had a Pastor. The photo of John, Glyn and me was taken this week following our elders' meeting. We are meeting during the day every three weeks or so. Please do pray for us as we seek to lead the church — that we might know rich



fellowship together and that we might be given great wisdom in our decision making and leading, great love in our serving and caring, and great unction and enabling in our preaching and teaching. With an eye to the lessons of the past our task is to lead the church onwards and upwards. Originally I



was thinking of giving this Pastoral Letter the title “Marching on Together” but then I realised that this is the anthem of Leeds United and the fans can be heard singing this heartily at Elland Road! Onward and Upwards is the right title for our calling as Christians as we seek to follow our Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ.

Jude in his short letter addresses Christians as *“those who are called, sanctified (beloved) by God the Father, and preserved (kept) in Jesus Christ”* in verse 1. God has set His love upon us and called us to leave our old sinful lives without Him and follow Him daily as His disciples in seeking to lead a life which pleases Him, looking to Him for the grace and strength that we need. It is a walk knowing Jesus as our Saviour, Lord and Friend and the direction is always forward and onward. Because we are *“called, beloved and kept”* then Jude tells us that *“mercy, peace and love be multiplied to you”*. Verse 2 is a consequence of verse 1. God shows His love, grace and compassion to every Christian time and time and time again.

It is also an upward calling as Philippians 3 verse 14 makes clear *“I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus”*. We set our sights on the prize which is God’s promise of eternal life with Him in Heaven for all those who are called to be Christians and have come to Christ in repentance and faith. “Onwards and Upwards” truly then is our motto as Christians even if our life seems rather mundane at times and also full of difficulty. We all have to pass through this “vale of tears” but there is something coming that is far more glorious in prospect at the end of our life here and that is worth everything. For that reason we cling onto the promises of God set out in the Bible in which lies our hope and continue to follow our Saviour who is the *“light of the world”* and the *“resurrection and the life”*. We also seek to tell others and influence them that they might join us on this eternal journey and share in the glories to come. Let us therefore be of one mind as Paul urges us to be in Philippians 3 verse 16. Press on, reach forward, aim upwards. Onwards and upwards!

With love in our great Saviour

Martin Sellens

PS. We look forward to John’s first Pastoral Letter in the next edition of The Magazine (April/May).

Eileen Delaney

On 13th December 2019 Eileen Delaney passed peacefully into the presence of her Lord after a few weeks of illness involving time in hospital related to a heart complaint. She had been a vibrant lady right to the end of her long life, and appeared much younger than her years. A matter of months previously she had ventured to Australia, alone, to spend time with her son Mick and family and friends out there. She never let an opportunity or invitation pass by.

The church was packed for her Thanksgiving service on 9th January with family, friends, neighbours and work colleagues. Glyn took the service, Martin led us in prayer and we sang—“The King of Love my Shepherd is”, “All things bright and beautiful” and “In Christ alone”. The first hymn spoke of the Great Shepherd Jesus who she came to know in her mid-late eighties, the second reflected her love of nature and the third reflected her vital testimony to faith in Christ both in word, in life and by baptism. She had three children, Jayne, Mick and Lisa and on behalf of the family Jayne gave a moving tribute to a very greatly loved lady.

I then had the privilege of doing a tribute on behalf of the church and extracts are given below.

“Many of you here knew Eileen for many years in one capacity or another. We only knew her for 3½ years here at the church, but it was long enough for her to become very special to us. My knowledge of her covers only the last vital stage of her life. What a lovely lady Eileen was—kind, thoughtful, compassionate, friendly, bright, adventurous, smart in appearance, interested in people and in many things. A lovely, mature lady.

She arrived here at the church on Easter Sunday morning 2016. She just said she had felt so drawn, so compelled to come in though she hadn’t been to church for many years. There weren’t many Sundays after that when she missed being with us. She listened carefully and was very keen to come on a Christianity Explored course which we ran for 7 consecutive Thursday evenings in Autumn 2016, looking at the basic truths of what being a Christian is all about. Following this, Eileen and another lady who had

been on the course wanted to keep meeting together, so a small follow up ladies' Bible study group was set up. Eileen was open, honest and full of questions and thoughts. Her life was full, she was very active in her mid eighties and she had a large family circle who she loved dearly, but she knew there was something missing and she was searching for something. The church rejoiced to see Eileen find that something—personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ as her Saviour and Lord. Eileen believed with all her heart that Jesus was God the Son and had died paying for her sins and in January 2017 she asked Him to forgive her sins and be her Saviour. A great peace and happiness came into her life.

She had joined an art class and one of the first things she did was a self portrait It was so good. It seemed to capture her vitality, but also the deep peace and happiness which we had seen come into her eyes.



The ladies had well integrated into the other meetings of the church and so last September (2019) the small follow up study came to its final meeting. Its last subject of study had been the “I AM’s” of Jesus -” I am the Good Shepherd”, “I am the Way”, “I am the Resurrection and the Life” etc., and the last morning study was on “I am the Bread of Life”—the bread that we need to feed our inner being on, the real us, the soul. The verse reached that morning was in the account of the Last Supper, where Jesus broke the bread and taught his

disciples that it represented His body which would be broken on the cross the next day to pay for the sins of anyone who would trust Him. This was the verse -

“With fervent desire I have desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer” (Luke 22:15).

It seemed that the Lord Jesus just couldn't wait to get to that moment when He would have that last meal with them and then die on the cross to pay for their sins and secure their place in heaven.

There was a sharp intake of breath from Eileen, then a little silence, then her dainty, well manicured hand came up and she pressed it to her heart and said... "Oh, He couldn't wait to get there to do that for me!" That was a special moment. What we didn't know was that it would only be a few weeks before Eileen would be going into the presence of the One who died for her and had become her Saviour.

We are amazed at God's wonderful timing in drawing her into church with a searching heart and saving her in her eighties. We watched the growth in her understanding and joy, and then He so quickly took her to Himself.

She was a very lovely lady and it was a great and happy privilege to have known her for those 3½ years. All of us in the church will miss her, but we are so thrilled to know where she is."

Our thoughts and prayers continue to be with Mac, Jayne, Mick and Lisa and all the extended family.

Margaret Williams

A Word of Testimony

I had lived with varicose veins in my legs for many years but had been aware for some time that they were getting worse and I should do something about them. Not only were the veins getting bigger and becoming more unsightly on both my legs but my ankles were often swollen, my feet cold through poor circulation and my legs would ache after standing a long time or walking a good distance. My days of walking more than 5 to 6 miles at a time seemed numbered. Encouraged by others I began to think and pray seriously about what I should do.

The Lord intervened on a domestic flight last April to go to my nephew's wedding in Cornwall. On the flight from Leeds Bradford to Newquay I picked up the Flybe magazine in front of me and looked through it.

In there was an article about the founder of Veincentre, a firm specialising in a new treatment for varicose veins using lasers and telling me they had an office in Manchester and were hoping to open one in Leeds within the year. I tore the page out of the Magazine and put it in my bag!

I duly went for a consultation with a vascular surgeon in Manchester. When he examined my legs and saw the very pronounced vein on my left leg he exclaimed “What a whopper!” Whilst laser treatment could help me he recommended that in my case it would be worth having surgery to strip and remove both trunk veins in my thighs as this would deal with it all in one go — it would require an operation under anaesthetic and I would stay in hospital overnight. I felt this was the right course of action in my case and arranged for the surgery in Sheffield where my consultant was able to do it for me. After a false start and a postponement due to a heavy cold the operation was scheduled for December 10th. I had read up a lot about what to expect and also the recovery afterwards so was well informed, but was aware that some people had experienced quite a bit of pain from the operation and also the procedure had not worked well for them.

As the time drew closer for the operation I just wanted to get it “done” (a bit like many people felt about Brexit at the time as we headed towards a general election just before Christmas) but was also a little apprehensive. As I was looking at the Bible one morning a few days before my operation I looked forward in “My Daily Bread” to see what the reading was for the day of the operation. It was Mark 5 verses 25-34 about the woman with the issue of blood who in the crowd touched the garment that Jesus was wearing for healing. The key verse was verse 34 which I have underlined now in my Bible which were the words of Jesus to the woman *“Go in peace, and be healed of your affliction”*. I felt that the Lord was speaking directly to me that morning and it filled my heart with confidence, peace and thankfulness.

I had the operation on December 10th and when I came to from the anaesthetic later that evening in my room I was aware of no pain. That has been my experience since, and whilst there has been some discomfort as the wounds have healed I have not had to take the heavy painkillers I was given

on my discharge the following day. Now some 6 weeks later, and after wearing support stockings for 4 weeks after the dressings were removed, I can truly say that the Lord has done great things for me. I am grateful for the skill of the surgeon and the care of the hospital. The surgeon was very pleased at my recent follow up consultation as I have no residual varicose veins, my legs are far more comfortable, my ankles are less swollen and my feet are warmer. I have walked 5-6 miles with no ill effects or heaviness in my legs. I had no doubt that this would be the case as I did feel the Lord gave me that verse in Mark 5 before the surgery. I hope I will be able to serve my precious Saviour and Friend with my rejuvenated legs for many years to come.

Martin Sellens

A small white envelope

It's just a small, white envelope stuck among the branches of our Christmas tree. No name, no identification, no inscription. It has peeked through the branches of our tree for the past ten years or so. It all began because my husband Mike hated Christmas....Oh, not the true meaning of Christmas but the commercial aspects of it, the overspending, the frantic running round for gifts. Knowing he felt this way, I decided one year to bypass the usual gifts and reached for something special just for Mike. The inspiration came in an unusual way.

Our son, Kevin, who was 12 that year, was wrestling at junior level at the school he attended; and shortly before Christmas there was a non-league match against a team sponsored by an inner-city church. These youngsters, dressed in trainers so ragged that shoestrings seemed to be the only thing holding them together, presented a sharp contrast to our boys in their spiffy blue and gold outfits and sparkling new wrestling shoes. As the match began, I was alarmed to see that the other team was wrestling without headgear, a kind of light helmet designed to protect a wrestler's ears. It was a luxury the ragtag team obviously could not afford. Well, we ended up winning anyway. We took every weight class and as each of their boys got up from the mat, he swaggered around in his tatters with false bravado, a

kind of street pride that couldn't acknowledge defeat. Mike, seated beside me shook his head sadly, "I wish just one of them could have won", he said. "They have a lot of potential, but losing like this could take the heart right out of them". Mike loved kids—all kids—and he knew them, having coached league football, baseball and lacrosse. That's when the idea for his present came. That afternoon, I went to a local sporting goods store and bought an assortment of wrestling headgear and shoes and sent them anonymously to the inner-city church. On Christmas Eve, I placed the envelope on the tree, the note inside telling Mike what I had done and that this was his gift from me. His smile was the brightest thing about Christmas that year and in succeeding years. For each Christmas, I followed the tradition, one year sending a group of mentally handicapped youngsters to a hockey game. Another year, a payment to a pair of elderly brothers, whose home had burned to the ground the week before Christmas, and on and on.... The envelope became the highlight of our Christmas. It was always the last thing opened on Christmas morning. Our children, ignoring their new toys, would stand with wide-eyed anticipation as their dad lifted the envelope from the tree to reveal its contents. As the children grew, the toys gave way to more practical presents, but the envelope never lost its allure.

The story doesn't end there. You see, we lost Mike last year due to dreaded cancer. When Christmas rolled around I was still so wrapped in grief that I barely got the tree up. But Christmas Eve found me placing an envelope on the tree, and in the morning it was joined by three more. Each of our children, unbeknown to the others, had placed an envelope on the tree for their dad. The tradition has grown and someday will expand even further with our grandchildren standing to take down the envelope. Mike's spirit will always be with us. May we all remember Christ, who is the reason for the season, and the true Christmas spirit this year and always.

(printed by kind permission of Anchored Magazine)

The Presence of God

It was a great honour for Pat to be invited to a garden party at Buckingham Palace and an honour for me to accompany her. It was over 25 years since we had last visited London, and we knew that travelling by Tube to our accommodation on Drury Lane would be for us “country yokels” a considerable challenge.

Arriving at King’s Cross station, we bought tickets for Covent Garden but were somewhat disorientated by the hustle and bustle of our capital city. We made our way to the appropriate platform and Pat approached a well-dressed man. “Can you help us?” she said. “We are from the Yorkshire Dales and want a train to Covent Garden.” The man, a solicitor from South Africa, could not have been more helpful, telling us to “stick with him” as he would be alighting at Holborn, the previous station.

He advised Pat to conceal her purse as this was London, not the Yorkshire Dales, and within minutes, we boarded the train together. We chatted, and then to our delight and slight embarrassment, he did not get off at Holborn but got off with us at Covent Garden and escorted us to our accommodation on Drury Lane. What a lovely man, and he literally “went out of his way” to help us.

*The Lord replied, “My Presence will go with you and I will give you rest.”
Then Moses said to Him, “If your Presence does not go with us, do not send us up from here”* Exodus 33:14-15

After the death of Moses...the Lord said to Joshua... “As I was with Moses, so I will be with you; I will never leave you nor forsake you.” Joshua 1:1,5

I am always with you; you hold me by my right hand. You guide me with Your counsel and afterwards You will take me into glory. Psalm 73:23-24

“And surely, I am with you always, to the very end of the age.” Matthew 28:20

The believer is on a journey from earth to heaven — a journey which can be fraught with danger and difficulties. But we are never on our own. That

which was experienced by Moses, Joshua and the Psalmist during the days of their pilgrimage has been promised to every child of God. His Presence and His counsel will go with us. What a comfort and encouragement to know that we have a Guide and a Friend who accompanies us every step of the way.

John Mollitt

(from “More Truth in a Nutshell” — used with permission)

Congratulations

Our congratulations, love, best wishes and prayers to Darren Barber and Jing Wang who got engaged just before Christmas. They arrived safely in Portland, Oregon in the US on Saturday January 25th after a long flight across the Atlantic and America. Do pray for them as they make plans for the future — a provisional date of Saturday 20th June 2020 has been set for their wedding at Tinshill.



PREACHING PLAN

		Morning	Evening
February	2	John Harris	John Harris
	9	John Mollitt	John Mollitt
	16	Glyn Williams	Alan Brearley
	23	Martin Sellens	John Mollitt
March	1	Richard Brown	Graham Heaps
	8	Alan Brearley	Glyn Williams
	15	Bill Dyer	Bill Dyer
	22	Alan Marsden	John Mollitt
	29	Mick Lockwood	Martin Sellens
April	5	Glyn Williams	Alan Brearley

We welcome Alan Marsden to the pulpit for the first time on March 22nd. Alan teaches and is a leader of the church at Martin Top, where Roger Carswell is now worshipping following his move from Horsforth to Threshfield, near Grassington

BIBLE STUDIES

Wednesdays at 7.45pm at the church

Date	Passage	Speaker
February 5	Jude v17-25	Alan Brearley
12	1st saying from the cross	John Mollitt
19	Deputation — Romanian Ministries	Adrian Carey-Jones
26	2nd saying from the cross	Richard Brown
March 4	3rd saying from the cross	Alan Brearley
11	4th saying from the cross	Glyn Williams
18	5th saying from the cross	Martin Sellens
25	6th saying from the cross	John Mollitt
April 1	Deputation — Slavic Gospel Association	Andrew Coleclough

OUTSIDE APPOINTMENTS

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

February

Sun 2	pm	Hebron, Altofts	Paul Crossley
Sun 9	am	West Grange Church	Paul Crossley
Sun 16	am/pm	Geneva Road, Darlington	John Mollitt
Sun 23	am	Garforth	Glyn Williams
Sun 23	Noon	Pentecost Baptist	Paul Crossley
Wed 26	pm	Bible Study at Bethel, New Wortley	Martin Sellens

March

Sun	1	am/pm	Clapham, Y. Dales	John Mollitt
Sun	1	am	Hebron, Altofts	Paul Crossley
Sun	8	am	Morley Community Church	Paul Crossley
Sun	8	am/pm	Oadby, Leicestershire	John Mollitt
Wed	18	pm	Bible Study at Bethel, New Wortley	Paul Crossley
Sun	29	Noon	Pentecost Baptist	Paul Crossley

April

Sun	5	am/pm	Parbold, Lancashire	John Mollitt
Sun	5	pm	Hebron, Altofts	Paul Crossley

DIARY

February

Thu	6	10am	Elders Meeting at 68 Moseley Wood Walk
Sun	9	2.30pm	Cookridge Court Service
		8.15pm	Afterchurch for Bible Exhibition in June
Mon	10	7.30pm	Elders/Deacons meeting at 26 Woodlands Avenue
		7.30pm	Girls Group at 383 Otley Old Road
Thu	13	2pm	Thursday at Two Speaker: Martin Sellens
Tue	18	7.45pm	Men's Fellowship at church
Fri	21	7.45pm	Missionary Prayer Group at 1 Tinshill Mount
Mon	24	7.30pm	Girls Group at 87 Tinshill Road
Tue	25	10am	Elders Meeting at 87 Tinshill Road
		7.30pm	Making and Thinking for Ladies — Thinking: Abigail
Thu	27	1pm	Thursday at Two Soup and Sweet Special. Speaker: Gordon Frame

March

Sat	7	9 - 4.30	Connected conference at Dewsbury Evangelical Church Speaker: Dr Robert Jones, Southern Baptist Seminary, Kentucky Subject: Pursuing peace in all our relationships
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Sun 8 2.30pm Bedford Court Service
 Mon 9 7.30pm Girls Group at 383 Otley Old Road
 Tue 10 10.15am Second Tuesday Speaker: Martin Sellens
 Thu 12 2pm Thursday at Two Speaker: Tim Mills
 Fri 20 7.45pm Missionary Prayer Group
 Mon 23 7.30pm Girls Group at 87 Tinshill Road
 Tue 24 7.45pm Making & Thinking for Ladies —
 Craft evening at church
 Thu 26 2pm Thursday at Two Speaker: Gordon Robertson

The next edition of The Magazine (April/May) is due out on Sunday April 5th. The deadline for items/contributions is Wednesday March 25th — to Martin Sellens please.

ROTAS

Week ending

Cleaning

February 01	Jenny Leng	Eva Ng	Anne Sellens
08	Ruth Holder	Rosemary Hilton	Carole Brearley
15	Mavis Mathers	Angela Mathers	Christine Crossley
22	Margaret Williams	Colette Hickman	Ann Mountain
29	Natalie Sellens	Kathryn Hibbard	Deborah Williams
March 07	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
April 04	Natalie Sellens	Kathryn Hibbard	Deborah Williams

For Sunday

Flowers

February 02	Anne Sellens	09	Rosemary Hilton
16	Christine Crossley	23	Ann Mountain
March 01	Deborah Williams	08	Jenny Leng
15	Ruth Holder	22	Mavis Mathers
29	Margaret Williams	April 05	Elaine Snuggs

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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Mr Glyn Williams, 87 Tinshill Road, Leeds LS16 7DN {267 2680}
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Deacon:

Mr Nigel Hibbard