

TINSHILL FREE CHURCH

MAGAZINE



No 354 – November & December 2024

Pastoral Letter - November & December 2024

Believing the Impossible

Recently in our mid-week Bible Studies we have been considering the Covenant that God made with Abram (Abraham). Part of that Covenant is the promise that God made to Abram that he would have a son – a child of promise – and that the Covenant would be an everlasting Covenant through this child to successive generations. The child would be Isaac and not Ishmael, though God promised that from Ishmael would come 12 princes and a great nation. As we trace the line through Biblical history we see that from Isaac came Jacob, Judah, Boaz, David, Solomon, Hezekiah, Josiah, Zerubbabel and eventually right through to Jesus Christ (see Matthew Chapter 1 verses 1 to 17). God did amazing things through the generations – 14 from Abraham to David, 14 from David to the captivity of Babylon and 14 from there to the birth of Jesus Christ. There is great order in the purposes of God and the ordinary things of life but there is always the possibility that God will do something extra-ordinary and supernatural because He is Almighty God. We must always be careful not to bring God down to our level in the routine of our daily lives but we must also be careful not to always be looking for the miraculous. As with so many other things there is a balance to be struck here. The ordinary and the extra-ordinary. The natural and the super-natural. God is at work in both spheres. He works through the everyday events of our lives to achieve His purposes but He can also intervene in special and dramatic ways if He so chooses. We can and should believe in both!

We see with Abraham and Sarah that their faith in God was tested to believe the promise as the years went by and they were very old and Sarah was barren. Is it possible that Sarah could have a child when she had not had one before and she was now well beyond child-bearing age? It is understandable that when she receives the news of the

forthcoming birth that she laughs within herself. The Lord asks Abraham about her reaction and then asks this question **“Is anything too hard for the Lord?”** Despite her initial reaction Sarah is commended for her faith in Hebrews 11 *“because she judged Him faithful who had promised”*. There was underlying faith, belief and trust in God’s promise despite a questionable initial reaction. We need to believe the impossible even when it seems impossible if God is in it because nothing is too hard for Him. He made this world when there was nothing, He can change our hearts when they are dead in sin and far from God, He sent His Son into our world to share our humanity and to save us from our sins.

As we approach another Christmas we remember that there were two amazing births that we celebrate – John the Baptist and the Lord Jesus. Elizabeth, like Sarah back in Genesis, was barren and well advanced in years as was her husband, Zacharias. John the Baptist was to be a special child, a messenger to herald the arrival of the Christ. His birth was special and miraculous. Zacharias was unbelieving at first as the news was brought to him by Gabriel (Luke 1 v19) and he was struck dumb because of his unbelief until his tongue was loosened at the naming of the child and he gave his wonderful prophecy being filled with the Holy Spirit (Luke 1 v68-79). His initial unbelief did not prevent him from being mightily used by God later as he saw God at work in his own family. The reaction of both Mary and Joseph to the news of the impending birth of the Lord Jesus is interesting as they both come to terms quickly with what God is saying to them. Both are submissive and obedient but both have questions and uncertainty to begin with. Mary asks *“How can this be, since I do not know a man?”* Joseph was minded initially to put Mary away secretly and not make a public example of her. But then the Lord appeared to him in a dream and he was given the heavenly perspective about what was happening. His perspective changed as a result and he did what was required of him –

this was God's doing. Mary is also given divine understanding as Gabriel speaks to her and her reaction is wonderful "*Behold the maidservant of the Lord! Let it be to me according to your word.*" (Luke 1 v38). Gabriel, who stands in the presence of God, says to Mary "**For with God nothing will be impossible**". He should know.

We then see in the ministry, teaching and miracles of Jesus that nothing was impossible for Him. It shows us exactly who He is. Only God can forgive sins, only God can raise the dead, only God can give life and take it away. We also see in the sufferings, death and resurrection of Christ the lengths that Jesus went to that we might be saved from our sins. The impossible happened – the Son of God died and rose again the third day and we now have access into the very presence of God through Him.

As Christians we believe that our great God is all powerful and can do anything. Nothing is impossible for Him, nothing is too hard for Him. He is the God of the possible. He can do and has done amazing things. The greatest of these is giving us a wonderful Saviour in Jesus Christ as part of that everlasting Covenant. We celebrate His birth, His death and His resurrection. We are so grateful and thankful that He came to seek and save lost sinners and to give us hope and we trust and believe that He will continue to work in our lives through the ordinary things of life as well as those things which are extra-ordinary, which only He can do. We continue to look to Him to answer our prayers in believing faith both in our families and in the church.

With peace, joy, love and believing faith in Christ at this special season,

Martin Sellens

Diary

November

Mon	4	7.45pm	Elder Deacons Meeting at 23 Kirkwood Drive
Thu	7	7.30pm	Rock up
Sat	9	10 am	Book Event with Christian Bookshop, Ossett
Thu	14	1pm	Thursday at Two Special - John Harris
		7.30pm	Missionary Prayer Meeting
Thu	21	7.30pm	Rock up
Sun	24	12noon	Fellowship lunch after the morning Service
Tue	26	7.30pm	Crafts for Christmas for Ladies
Thu	28	2pm	Thursday at Two 35th Anniversary - Alan Brearley

December

Sun	1	2pm	Bedford Court Christmas Service
Thu	5	7.30pm	Rock up
Fri	6	9.30am	"What is Christmas all about"- Holy Trinity School
Tue	10	7.45pm	Elder Deacons Meeting at 68 Moseley Wood Walk
Wed	11	1.15pm	Tots Christmas Party
Thu	12	1pm	Thursday at Two Christmas Special - Roger Fay
Fri	13	6pm	Ketchup Christmas Party
Sun	15	2pm	Cookridge Court Christmas Service
Tue	17	7pm	Men's Christmas Fellowship
Wed	18	7pm	Carol singing (meet at church)
Thu	19	7.30pm	Rock up Christmas Party
Sun	22	5pm	Carol Service
Wed	25	10.30am	Christmas Morning Service

January

Thu	2	2pm	Thursday at Two - Martin Sellens
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Harvest Joy

The pictures show the boards and harvest display for our Harvest weekend in September. A particular highlight was being able to take Harvest Services at both Cookridge and Bedford Courts with bumper attendances and good listening and participation at both.





PLEASE NOTE

There will be a monthly Missionary Prayer Meeting in December – date still to be fixed.

NEXT MAGAZINE – The next edition of The Magazine will be for January / February 2025 – the deadline for the submission of items and contributions to Martin will be Sunday 29th December - all contributions welcome.

Serving the King

When Sir Keir Stamer became Prime Minister following the General Election he stressed that his government would be one of service to the people of this country. What does the Bible say about how we are to live and serve as Christians and followers of Christ?

1. Strive to do another's will rather than your own.

"Whoever desires to become great among you shall be your servant. And whoever of you desires to be first shall be slave of all. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and give His life a ransom for many." Mark 10 v 43-45

This is the response that Jesus gave to James and John, the sons of Zebedee when they asked for places of special honour in the Kingdom of heaven. The Lord came to serve and no servant is greater than His Master.

2. Choose to have less rather than more.

"Now godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. And having food and clothing, with these we shall be content. But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and harmful lusts which drown men in destruction and perdition. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows." 1 Timothy 6 v6-10

God can give us more if He chooses to but more brings its own dangers. Remember the rich young ruler who came to Jesus in Luke 18 but went away very sorrowful because he was very rich and loved them more than Jesus. There is also the rich farmer in Luke 12 who laid up treasure for himself and was not rich towards God – he lost it

all and was called a fool by God. It is hard to have riches and enter into the kingdom of God.

3. Deal with pride and seek to be humble.

“Do not set your mind on high things, but associate with the humble.

Do not be wise in your own opinion.” Romans 12 v16

“all their works they do (the scribes and Pharisees) to be seen by men....They love the best seats in the synagogues, greetings in the market-places, and to be called by men “Rabbi, Rabbi”. Matthew 23 v5-7

All that we do should be for the glory of God alone and not for self-congratulation.

4. Desire the will of God to be done in every area of your life.

The Lord Jesus in Gethsemane: *“O My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless not as I will, but as You will.”*

Matthew 26 v39

The apostle Paul seeing pending imprisonment ahead: *“But none of these things move me; nor do I count my life dear to myself, so that I may finish my race with joy, and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus Christ, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God.”*

Acts 20 v24

Doing the will of God was central to both the Lord Jesus and the apostle Paul and showed in their thinking and actions. May we follow their example in all areas of our life to God’s praise and glory.

Adapted from Facts of the Matter submitted by Paul Crossley

Bible Studies

Wednesdays at 7.45pm at the church with a Zoom option if you are not able to attend in person but no Zoom option for Deputations

Nov	6th	Martin Sellens	Genesis 19 v1-11
	13th	Deputation	Craig Dennison (TBS)
	20th	Martin Sellens	Genesis 19 v12-29
	27th	Prayer Meeting	
Dec	4th	Alan Brearley	Genesis 21 v1-21
	11th	Paul Crossley	Genesis 22 v1-19
	18th	Carol Singing	
Jan	1st	Prayer Meeting	

Preaching Plan

		Morning	Evening
Nov	3rd	Mick Lockwood (Com)	Adam Broughton
	10th	Martin Sellens	Roger Fay
	17th	Alan Brearley	Gordon Frame
	24th	John Harris	John Harris
Dec	1st	Martin Sellens	Roger Fay (Com)
	8th	Martin Sellens	Mick Lockwood
	15th	Martin Sellens	Steve Harding
	22nd	Alan Brearley	Martin Sellens
	29th	Stephen Fay	Martin Sellens
Jan	5 th	Martin Sellens (Com)	To be announced

(Com) = (Communion)

Outside Appointments

Do pray for our men as they minister outside in the coming months ;

Alan Brearley;

Sunday Nov 24th pm - Garforth

Paul Crossley;

Sunday Nov 3rd am - Hebron, Altofts

Sunday Nov 10th am - Garforth

Sunday Dec 1st am - Hebron, Altofts

Sunday Dec 8th am - Garforth

Rotas

Cleaning for week ending

Nov	9th	Kathryn Hibbard, Nigel Hibbard
	16th	Elaine & John Snuggs, Sue & Gordon Chell
	23rd	Angela Mathers, Christine Crossley, Rosemary Hilton
	30th	Deborah Williams, Eva Ng, Anne Sellens
Dec	7th	Hickman Family, Natalie Sellens
	14th	Kathryn Hibbard, Nigel Hibbard
	21st	Elaine & John Snuggs, Sue & Gordon Chell
	28th	Angela Mathers, Christine Crossley, Rosemary Hilton
Jan	4th	Deborah Williams, Eva Ng, Anne Sellens

Flowers for Sunday

Nov 10th	Margaret Williams	Nov 17th	Mavis Mathers
Nov 24th	Rosemary Hilton	Dec 1st	Anne Sellens
Dec 8th	Carole Brearley	Dec 15th	Kathryn Hibbard
Dec 22nd	Elaine Snuggs	Dec 29th	Angela Mathers
Jan 5th	Deborah Williams		

Diary of Services and Activities

Sunday	Sunday Morning Worship	10.30am
	Key Club (children aged 4-11)	10.30am
	Prayer Meeting	5.30pm
	Evening Worship	6.30pm

A Communion Service is held every month alternating between morning and evening on the first Sunday of the month and follows on from the main Service.

Tuesday	Men's Fellowship (3rd Tuesday – bimonthly)	7.30pm
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Wednesday	Tots Club (term time)	1.15pm
	Prayer Meeting and Bible Study	7.45pm

Thursday	Thursday at Two (seniors - fortnightly)	2.00pm
	Rock Up (school years 7-11- fortnightly)	7.30pm
	Missionary Prayer Meeting (monthly)	7.30pm

Friday	Ketchup (Children aged 5-11 in term time)	6.00pm
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