

TINSHILL FREE CHURCH

MAGAZINE



No 356 – March & April 2025

Pastoral Letter - March / April 2025

A Lasting Peace

“Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.”

Romans 5 verses 1 & 2

I sit down to write this Pastoral letter having listened to our Prime Minister at lunchtime today give his statement to the House of Commons about the increase to defence spending in the coming years and the need to reassess our national security in the light of recent events. Three particular phrases resonated with me as we approach another Easter; a lasting peace, security from a position of strength and courage from our history.

We pray much for peace in our world and particularly for the trouble spots around the world, whether it be in Israel / Gaza or Ukraine or Myanmar or parts of Africa. Ukraine has just passed the 3rd anniversary of their conflict with Russia – what they desire most is a lasting and permanent peace from war. The people in Ukraine just want to be able to get on with their lives without war and in the knowledge that their future is safe and secure. What a blessing it is when that is the case. In reality we know that in this life on the earth we can never guarantee that bad things will not happen – people are sinful, full of pride and selfishness and are capable of thinking and doing great evil which impacts others. We see that every day through the media. Although we live in a generally peaceful country with great freedoms we are not immune from trouble.

Of even greater importance than our national security is our position before Almighty God. It is one thing to live in a country which is at war but quite another when we live at war with God. This is the position of so many people in our country today and most do not even realise or recognize it. They may not be openly hostile to God and to His Beloved Son, Jesus Christ. They may just be apathetic and living for themselves with no thought of God at all. They are just getting on with life and God is just not in the picture – they never or rarely think of Him and certainly do not worship or serve Him. Such people are guilty of serious sin against God and God calls them enemies – they are not His people (not my words - that is what the Bible says).

What each of us needs is a lasting peace with God. The Lord Jesus Christ came into the world to deal with our sin, to bridge the gap between God and man and bring reconciliation through the blood of His cross. The motivation for doing so was the love of God for sinners when we were still His enemies because we had shut Him out of our lives. As our verse at the start of this letter makes clear from Romans 5 we can only have a lasting peace with God when our sin has been dealt with and has been forgiven. This takes place through the One sacrifice for sin that Jesus made at Calvary. It is only the blood of God's Beloved Son that can wash us clean and cover our sin. His very life blood was required at that first Easter by the Father and He died but He rose again the third day showing that death had been defeated and His sacrifice had been accepted by the Father. As we trust in that sacrifice of the Lord Jesus and truly seek His forgiveness and ask Him to come into our heart and be our Saviour and Lord then the blood is applied to our dirty heart and covered by the goodness of Christ so God sees us as clean. God cannot overlook sin but has made a way for a lasting peace to be established in our hearts. It is through faith in that blood sacrifice on Calvary, it is only through the Lord Jesus Christ. There is no other way to a lasting peace with God in our hearts. That new and

living way not only brings us peace but gives us access into the very presence of God in prayer through the Lord Jesus and into the grace that we all need to live in this life in a way that pleases God.

“For it pleased the Father that....by Him (Christ) to reconcile all things to Himself, by Him,...having made peace through the blood of His cross. And you, who once were alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now He has reconciled in the body of His flesh through death, to present you holy, and blameless, and above reproach in His sight – if indeed you continue in the faith, grounded and steadfast, and are not moved away from the hope of the gospel.”

Colossians 1 verses 19 to 23

This only way of salvation through Jesus Christ has proved to give lasting peace to countless generations of Christians over the twenty centuries or so since that first Easter. So it is proving even in our own day as people come to Christ in repentance and faith. We can rely upon it. Because we know it is so effective then we can come to Christ seeking forgiveness many times after we have sinned and we know that He is faithful and just to forgive us our sin and to cleanse us (1 John 1 verses 8 and 9). This ensures we have a lasting peace with God through our time on this earth whether we have been a Christian for 1 year, 5 years or 60+ years. What security that gives us. It is a position of strength – not on our part because we are weak and still sinful but on God’s part because it is His work which cleanses and forgives us. There is no more powerful or effective mechanism for cleansing us than the blood of Christ. It has stood the test of time through the centuries and so we can take courage that God will accept and love us in Christ and that nothing can separate us from His love if we belong to Him and are trusting in His Saviour. Let us take courage from our history – the real history of the sufferings of Christ on the cross to win

our salvation and His rising from the dead to ascend back to His exalted place in Heaven. When we belong to Him we know that where He has gone we will surely follow once this life is over. Easter is about sacrifice and resurrection and it gives us afresh new hope and a renewed sense of purpose, identity, security and destiny in Christ. Please read the poem "Sure" below which I have asked Margaret if I can put in this Magazine to compliment this letter. The question is – are you sure of these great truths for yourself?

May each of you know the blessing of God's lasting peace in your hearts this Easter,

With love in the Lord Jesus
Martin Sellens

Sure

I'm not sure if the mist was there
 In cool and silent cloak;
As dawn expelled the darkness
And the news of Easter broke.
I'm not sure if on morning air
 From eastern blossom tree,
An early, joyful birdsong burst
Upon this poor and sinful earth
To mark those moments of such worth,
 For such a soul as me.

The grave was still and empty,
 The greatest battle won;
The folded clothes that wrapped His frame
 Were left, their moments done.

'Good Friday' - now in history
Its pain and horror past,
Had given way to 'Easter Day'
When, after bearing sins away
He rose; in death no more to stay,
My surety at last.

I am sure that He died for me,
The Pure One in my place;
He tells me if I trust Him
I shall see the Father's face.
He kept His word to hear me,
My call for mercy met;
And peace, which came to me that day,
Is such that none can take away
Whatever troubles pass or stay,
My place in Heaven is set.

I wouldn't want to have to live
Without His love and care;
With aimless life, no future hope,
And judgment yet to bear.
But Jesus is the Saviour
Of those whose hearts are poor -
Who know their need and know their sin
But ask God's Son to enter in,
Forgiveness give where guilt has been,
Then, only then, they're sure.

Margaret Williams

Your mind is so important

A little while back I read the book of 2 Peter. I like to read aloud – to help me concentrate, and because I sometimes notice things that way that I wouldn't otherwise notice. At the start of chapter 3 it struck me that the word 'mind' occurs three times in as many lines: "...I stir up your pure **minds** by way of **reminder**, that you may be **mindful** of the words which were spoken before..."

This said to me that the mind must be something very important.

"I stir up your pure minds". Stirring involves movement and action; you can't stir up something that is empty. The mind needs something to work on. And the contents of our minds need to be pure and clean and wholesome: things that are true, noble, just, lovely, praiseworthy (see Philippians 4:8). So no slandering or dirty jokes; no unkind thoughts about others, or gossip. We must rather fill our minds with godly things.

"By way of reminder". Calling to mind again; not forgetting God or pushing aside thoughts of His word.

"That you may be mindful". Read the words of scripture frequently to become familiar with them. Where possible learn them by heart. Get to know God's truth.

We tend to fill our minds with what we see and hear. A verse that I came across recently reinforced this to me. In Psalm 119:37 the psalmist prays **"turn away my eyes from looking at worthless things"**; I thought of how easily I am sidetracked looking at things on my phone; articles which catch my eye and I end up reading them, but which are ephemeral (lasting for only a short time) and distract me from praying and thinking about spiritual matters.

God has given us imagination, however there are good and bad ways to use it. We need to be aware of what we are thinking about, and turn our thoughts to God. It is possible to be taken over by worldly thoughts if we are not careful. This happened to me many years ago when I used to listen to “The Archers” on the radio. One day it hit me that I was spending more time thinking about the fictional characters in a radio show than I was thinking of real people. Worldly thinking had crept up on me unnoticed. I stopped listening to the programme, but it was a warning to me.

In this life there will always be a battle for the mind. We need to pray for God’s help day by day – for ourselves and for one another.

Rosemary Hilton

Ladies Craft Evenings

2025 Dates for your diary
and to invite other Ladies

Tuesday 29th April – Spring crafts

Monday 29th September – Autumn crafts

Tuesday 25th November – Crafts for Christmas

All craft evenings are held in the church building
starting at 7.30pm.

All craft materials and supper provided.

An Easter Hymn

Hark! the voice of love and mercy sounds aloud from Calvary;
see, it rends the rocks asunder, shakes the earth and veils the sky:

“It is finished!” Hear the dying Saviour cry.

“It is finished!” What assurance do the wondrous words afford!
Heavenly blessings without measure flow to us from Christ the Lord:

“It is finished!” Saints the dying words record.

Finished all the types and shadows of the ceremonial law,
finished all that God had promised; death and hell dismay no more.

“It is finished!” Saints from hence your comforts draw.

Saints and angels shout His praises, His great finished work proclaim;
all on earth and all in heaven join to bless Immanuel’s name:

Hallelujah! Endless glory to the Lamb!

Jonathan Evans, 1749-1809 (241 in Christian Hymns)

Note: Jonathan Evans was born in Coventry, the son of a working man, and as a youth was employed in a ribbon factory. About 1778, he joined the congregation at Coventry, over which the Rev. G. Burder was pastor. He began preaching in 1782, and in 1795 he began his ministry near Coventry staying there until his death on Aug. 31st. 1809 aged 60.

Walking for Caring For Life

I was planning to walk 10 miles a day during the month of March to raise money for Caring For Life, but discussing it with my son Robert, he said it wasn't a challenge for me because I had been walking 10 miles a day for several months. So I have increased it to 15 miles. That certainly is a challenge, so I would love you to support me and give what you can for the amazing work that Caring For Life do.

Paul and I usually walk to Caring For Life at least once a week to enjoy a coffee and a walk down the valley to the ponds. It is wonderful to be outside and see God's beautiful creation.

If you are able to give something then please go to my JustGiving page.

Thank you so much for all your kind support.

Christine Crossley

PLEASE NOTE

There will not be a Men's Fellowship meeting in April

The Easter Holidays are in the two weeks Monday April 7th to Monday April 21st and there will be no meetings of Tots Club / Ketchup/ Rock up during this period. Still in the process of being arranged are two possible sessions with school groups for "What is Easter all about".

NEXT MAGAZINE - The next edition of The Magazine will be for May / June 2025 — the deadline for the submission of items and contributions to Martin will be Sunday 20th April - all contributions welcome.

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

March	5th	Martin Sellens	Genesis 27 v1-29
	12th	Alan Brearley	Genesis 27 v30-40
	19th	Paul Crossley	Genesis 27 v41 to 28v5
	26th	Martin Sellens	Genesis 28 v6-22
April	2nd	Martin Sellens	Genesis 29 v1-14
	9th	Martin Sellens	Genesis 29 v15-35
	16th	Martin to lead	Prayer Meeting
	23rd	Still to arrange	Genesis 30 v1-24
	30th	Still to arrange	Genesis 30 v25-43
May	7th	Possible Deputation	

Preaching Plan

		Morning	Evening
March	9th	John Harris	John Harris
	16th	Martin Sellens	Steve Harding
	23rd	Aan Brearley	Adam Broughton
	30th	Martin Sellens	Paul Crossley
April	6th	Roger Fay	Roger Fay (Com)
	13th	Mick Lockwood	Martin Sellens
	20th	Martin Sellens	Martin Sellens (Easter)
	27th	John Harris	John Harris
May	4th	Martin Sellens (Com)	Alan Brearley

(Com) = (Communion)

Outside Appointments

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

Paul Crossley;

Sunday April 6th am – Hebron, Altofts

Sunday April 13th am - Garforth

Rotas

Cleaning for week ending

March	8th	Angela Mathers, Christine Crossley, Rosemary Hilton
	15th	Deborah Williams, Eva Ng, Anne Sellens
	22nd	Hickman family, Natalie Sellens
	29th	Kathryn Hibbard, Nigel Hibbard
April	5th	Elaine & John Snuggs, Sue & Gordon Chell
	12th	Angela Mathers, Christine Crossley, Rosemary Hilton
	19th	Deborah Williams, Eva Ng, Anne Sellens
	26th	Hickman family, Natalie Sellens
May	3rd	Kathryn Hibbard, Nigel Hibbard

Flowers for Sunday

March 9th	Rosemary Hilton	March 16th	Anne Sellens
March 23rd	Carole Brearley	March 30th	Margaret Williams
April 6th	Elaine Snuggs	April 13th	Angela Mathers
April 20th	Deborah Williams	April 27th	Colette Hickman
May 4th	Kathryn Hibbard		

“The resurrection is a fact better attested than any event recorded in any history, whether ancient or modern”. C. H. Spurgeon

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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