

TINSHILL FREE CHURCH

# MAGAZINE



No 359 – September & October 2025

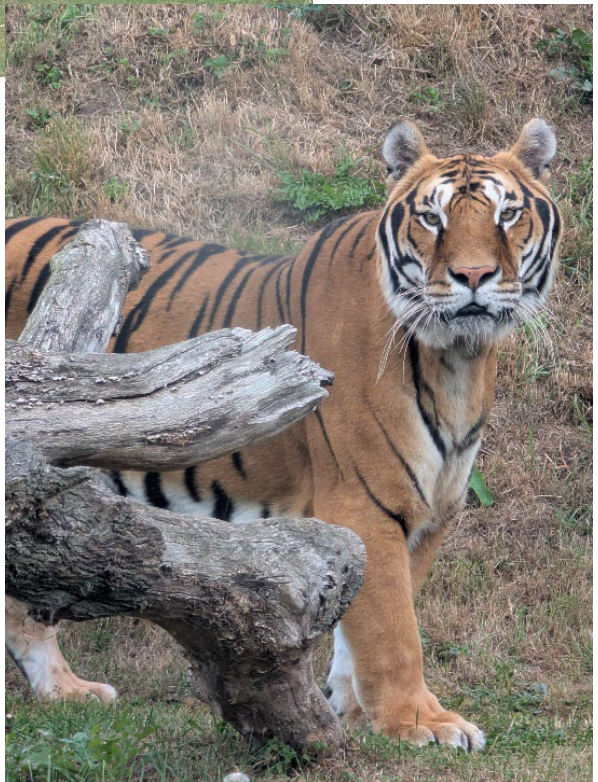
## **Pastoral Letter - September & October 2025**

### **The pinnacle of God's creation**

The school summer holidays are over and we embark again on another school year with all of its challenges and opportunities. As we move from summer to autumn and the season begins to change it is good to reflect on the summer and things that have been memorable. Apart from enjoyable times with the family I can think of two particular things straight away which have lodged in my mind and made an impression from our recent week away with family in the Lincolnshire Wolds.

The first was our visit to the Wolds Wildlife Park just outside Horncastle. There we saw a great variety of animals that God created but I was drawn to two in particular - the zebras with their distinctive black and white markings, and the Bengali tigers which were something to behold. We were able to see the tigers at close quarters through a glass screen and I was drawn back to them because they were awesome, majestic and powerful. The second delight was being able to go out of the courtyard of converted farm buildings where we were staying onto an adjacent field and gaze up in the blackness of the night at the wonder of the heavens on a clear night. There were no streetlights to intrude – just the sheer magnificence of a sky full of stars and planets in a vast expanse of the heavens. Looking at the tiger made me feel weak and vulnerable, looking at the night sky made me feel small and insignificant. Yet in both I praised God for His almighty power and the majesty of His creation on earth and in the heavens. It made me so glad and thankful that I belong to Him and He is my God. I later learned that Matthew had woken Gracie up one night to show her the night sky – how important it is that our young people are

aware of the greatness of God's creation and learn to look up and be amazed.



The reality of God's very existence and work in creation is there for all of us to see but there are particular occasions when the truth is brought home to us with great clarity. The apostle Paul writing to the Romans draws their attention to this fact and that we cannot deny it; **"For since the creation of the world His (God's) invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they (mankind) are without excuse"** Romans 1 verse 20.

We cannot see God but we can see what He has made and that tells us so much about Him – His very existence, His Sovereignty and control, His almighty yet intricate and wonderful power, and His great love and care.

Standing under the vastness of the Universe on a cloudless night you do feel so very small – a sentiment that David expressed so well in Psalm 8 as he looked up at night no doubt whilst looking after his flock of sheep near Bethlehem;

**"When I consider Your heavens, the work of Your fingers, the moon and the stars, which You have ordained, what is man that You are mindful of him, and the son of man that You visit him?"**

Psalm 8 verses 3 and 4.

Whilst David asks the question as to the sheer insignificance of man compared to the vastness of the Universe, he also has the answer. We are not insignificant to God. Yes, we are weak and sinful and mortal with limited lives but God has given us a special place in His creation and acted in history to give us hope of eternal life to come. As David points out we have been made lower than the angels but God has given us a special place in His creation – we are the pinnacle (the top or summit) of His creation here on the earth, made in the image of God and He has given us jurisdiction over the rest of the created order (see Psalm 8 and Genesis 1). How special we are is also shown in that

God sent His Beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to save us from our sins and reconcile us to God. We have a soul that needs to be saved. The rest of creation does not have a soul – Jesus did not come to save them. Jesus also did not come to save the angels. He came to save lost people and so came as a man, like us, to do so. God sent the best He had from heaven to save the pinnacle of His creation. There is no one else like the Lord Jesus – God the Son and it took Him to win our salvation. Only He could do it and did do it so we can be forgiven and cleansed and made fit for heaven.

We must always remember how special we are to God and how much God has sacrificed to win us back and give us eternal hope in Christ. So next time you are overwhelmed with the greatness of God in creation think on how special the child of God is to Him and the great grace and mercy that has been shown to us in Christ. When we finally get to Glory only then will we truly know the amazing love of God for us in Christ. Every true Christian has known something of the saving love and mercy of God in forgiving us and adopting us into the family of God – there is no greater privilege or calling. From darkness to light. From sinfulness to being indwelt by the Spirit of God and clothed in the righteousness of Christ. It truly is the pinnacle of God's work in us.

With love and thankfulness in the Lord Jesus,

*Martin Sellens*

Thanks to those who have contributed to this edition of The Magazine. Articles, news and items are always welcome with the only proviso being that the Editor (Martin) has the discretion as to what is included.

**Don't forget to read the testimony at the end of this edition and thanks to Christine for sharing her particular story.**

## **JAMES MONTGOMERY 1771 - 1854**

If you read the Preface of the Christian Hymns hymnbook we use you will see the rules that John Wesley gave to the early Methodists regarding the singing of hymns. One of these rules is to learn the words of the hymns. To this day this stands as good advice. We should learn the words of the hymns we sing. That way we can sing them from the heart and not read them aloud as we sing. It also enables us to ponder and think on the words and their meaning. That way they become more of an act of worship rather than just a song to sing. One other good thing is to learn something of the hymn writer and why and when the hymn was written.

James Montgomery was one of the most prolific hymn writers of his day with over four hundred hymns to his name. He was born in 1771 into a Christian family. Both his parents were missionaries in the West Indies. As was the custom young James was educated in England at a Moravian Seminary- a school for missionary children. It was there that he got the tragic news of the death of both his parents. James left the Seminary and for several years lived an aimless life of drifting and discouragement. In time he became interested in writing and journalism and at the age of twenty three he became the editor of a newspaper called "The Sheffield Register". He was to be the editor there for the next thirty one years.

As the editor James Montgomery championed many good causes, not least of which was the anti-slavery campaign. Twice during this period he was imprisoned for his writing on these controversial issues. In 1797 he published a book called "Prison Amusements" which was a book of his poetry written whilst in prison.

His ability to write poetry led him to start writing hymns and in 1825 he gave up the newspaper to enable him to concentrate on other issues mainly promoting foreign mission work and writing. In 1833 the Government recognised his efforts by giving him a pension of £500 a year - an enormous sum equivalent to tens of thousands a year today.

By his death in 1854 at age 83 James Montgomery had written approximately four hundred hymns and published his own hymnbook - "Montgomery's Original Hymns". Several of these hymns we sing today including one called "Good Tidings of Great Joy to all People". We know it best as "Angels from the Realms of Glory" (196 in Christian Hymns).

So next time we sing a hymn, whether it be by James Montgomery or some other hymn writer, let us thank God for the person who wrote it and consider the words before us, not just sing words in a book.

*Richard Brown*

*Editor's Note: There are 26 James Montgomery hymns in Christian Hymns, spread throughout the book. Other well-known hymns are 467 Hail to The Lord's anointed (based on Psalm 72) and 854 Forever with the Lord. A helpful hymn on prayer is 416 Lord teach us to pray aright;*

**Burdened with guilt, convinced of sin, in weakness, want and woe,  
fightings without and fear within; Lord whither shall we go?  
God of all grace, we come to You with broken, contrite hearts;  
give what Your eye delights to view, truth in the inward parts.  
Give deep humility; the sense of godly sorrow give;  
a strong, desiring confidence to hear Your voice and live.**

*James Montgomery, 1771-1854*

## News from China

Darren and I arrived in China on 31st August at night. My dad picked us up from the airport, he has us staying at his new condo. We feel very blessed. My dad and his wife and little brother are very happy and excited to welcome us.

Today is my 30th birthday, it has been raining today and we had a long day, now is 11:30pm here. I felt the Lord's presence and comfort and it's because of you and the Tinshill family. I found a memory stick by surprise this morning at my grandpa's condo. It was sent from you and has 6 months of Tinshill Services on it. It was the best gift from the Lord today. Darren and I listened to 2018 September 30th evening service, my baptism. You preached the sermon and Glyn baptised me. The Lord has strengthened me and Darren today through the Tinshill service 7 years ago and the precious memory stick from you. Darren and I are struggling with some Internet Accounts at present and your memory stick with the Tinshill services on it has comforted and strengthened me greatly - just in time! How marvellous, how wonderful, is the Lord's love and grace to me through you! Thanks be to God, and thank you for your loving-kindness and faithfulness. Thank you Tinshill Free Church because listening to the recording of the Service it was as if we were back to our church and worshiping with you all.

We miss you and love you a lot, may the Lord bless you!

*Received by email from Jing on 2nd September*

Do please pray for Darren and Jing whilst they are in China for the next 7 weeks.

## **Present Sufferings, Future Glory**

**“For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.”**

Romans 8 verse 18

### **Thought**

Paul didn't make this statement lightly. He knew hardship! Take a look at the list of just some of the painful challenges the apostle endured in his letter to the Corinthians (2 Corinthians 11:22-33). His "present sufferings" make most of our difficulties seem tame by comparison. However, Paul could say confidently that the glory he would have with Christ would be so incredible, with blessings so fantastic, that his hardships in this life would pale in comparison to that glory. Paul was not only confident that he would share in that glory, but he was confident that it would be ours as well! And how can we be sure? Because the resurrected Jesus, who has ascended to the Father, holds us close to him and our future is bound up in His glory (See Colossians 3:1-4)!

### **Prayer**

Holy and Almighty God, You are awesome, glorious, and majestic. I praise you for reaching down and saving me by Your grace. Father, most of the time, my faith is strong and I feel confident about my future. However, at times my faith can waver when I'm confronted with grave difficulties. Please give me courage and boldness, dear Father, to face those challenges with the conviction that these sufferings are minor in comparison to the glory You will share with me when Jesus returns and brings me to You. In Jesus' name, I wait expectantly for that day as I pray. Amen.

Recent thought for the week from the Christian Police Association  
*Submitted by Paul Crossley*

## **Up and Coming Events**

### **Late Summer Praise Open Afternoon**

Where? - Leeds City Mission, Mistress Lane, Armley, LS12 2LJ

When? - **Saturday 20th September from 12.30pm to 4pm**

What's involved?

Free light lunch from 12.30pm to 1.30pm

Report back and Mission Update 1.30 to 2.30pm

Bargain seasonal card and book sale in Hub from 2.30pm with refreshments

### **Coffee Morning for Caring For Life**

Where? - Cookridge Village Hall

When? - **Saturday October 18th from 10.00 to 12.00am.**

What's for sale? - Cakes, crafts and plants

What can I do? - If you are able to provide any home baking, crafts or plants, especially house plants, please let John or Elaine know.

### **Please Note**

The church will be open for the receipt of Harvest gifts in the morning on Saturday October 4<sup>th</sup> – thank you for your gifts which afterwards will be distributed to Caring for Life and St George's Crypt.

There will be a Missionary Prayer group in October – date yet to be arranged.

There will also be a Baptismal Service soon when Joe and Niahm Hickman will be baptised – we are thrilled that the Lord has worked in them both to bring them to this point so please pray for them as they prepare for this important step of obedience and witness to their faith.

# Diary

## September

- Sun 7            11am Key Club restarts after the summer break  
Wed 10        1.15pm Tots Club restarts after summer break  
Thu 11            1pm Thursday at Two Food Special Speaker: Roger Fay  
                    7.30pm Rock up restarts after summer break  
Sat 20    12.30 -4pm Late Summer Praise at Leeds City Mission  
Thu 25            2pm Thursday at Two Speaker: John Harris  
                    7.30pm Rock up  
Mon 29        7.30pm Ladies Autumn Craft Evening

## October

- Sun 5            Harvest – Fellowship Lunch after morning Service  
Thu 9            2pm Thursday at Two Speaker: Martin Sellens  
                    7.30pm Rock up  
Tue 14        7.45pm Elder Deacons Meeting at 23 Kirkwood Drive  
Sat 18        10-12am Caring for Life Coffee Morning  
                    at Cookridge Village Hall  
Tue 21        7.30pm Men's Fellowship  
Thu 23            1pm Thursday at Two Harvest Meal  
                    7.30pm Rock up  
Tots Club and Ketchup will not run in Half Term week – October 27th to 31st.

## November

- Thu 6            2pm Thursday at Two  
                    7.30pm Rock up

## Next Magazine

The next edition of The Magazine will be for November / December 2025 — the deadline for the submission of items and contributions to Martin will be Sunday 26th October - 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

<b>Sept</b>	10th	Martin Sellens	Genesis 42 v1-24
	17th	Alan Brearley	Genesis 42 v25-38
	24th	Paul Crossley	Genesis 43 v1-17
<b>October</b>	1st	Martin Sellens	Genesis 43 v18-34
	8th	Martin Sellens	Genesis 44 v1-17
	15th	Tba	Genesis 44 v18-34
	22nd	Tba	Genesis 45
	29th	Tba	Genesis 46 v1-30
<b>November</b>	5th	Tba	Genesis 46 v31- 47v12

## Preaching Plan

		<b>Morning</b>	<b>Evening</b>
<b>September</b>	7th	Andrew Rowell (Com)	Andrew Rowell
	14th	Mark Rowcroft	Mark Rowcroft
	21st	Alan Brearley	Steve Harding
	28th	Martin Sellens	Martin Sellens
<b>October</b>	5th	Martin Sellens	Steve Harding
	12th	Roger Fay	Roger Fay (Com)
	19th	Martin Sellens	Alan Brearley
	26th	John Harris	John Harris
<b>November</b>	2nd	Stephen Fay (Com)	Martin Sellens
	9th	Mick Lockwood	Gordon Frame
(Com) = (Communion)		Tba = To be arranged	

## Outside Appointments

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

### **Paul Crossley;**

Sunday Sept 14th am – Garforth

Sunday Oct 5th am - Hebron, Altofts

Sunday Oct 12<sup>th</sup> am - Garforth

Sunday Nov 2nd am - Hebron, Altofts

Sunday Nov 9<sup>th</sup> am - Garforth

### **Alan Brearley;**

Wed Sept 10th - Bible Study at Bethel, New Wortley

Sun Sept 28th am - Bethel, New Wortley

## Rotas

### **Cleaning for week ending**

<b>Sept</b>	13th	Hickman Family, Natalie Sellens
	20th	Kathryn Hibbard, Nigel Hibbard
	27th	Elaine & John Snuggs, Sue & Gordon Chell
<b>Oct</b>	4th	Angela Mathers, Christine Crossley, Rosemary Hilton
	11th	Deborah Williams, Eva Ng, Anne Sellens
	18th	Hickman family, Natalie Sellens
	25th	Kathryn Hibbard, Nigel Hibbard
<b>Nov</b>	1st	Elaine & John Snuggs, Sue & Gordon Chell
	8th	Angela Mathers, Christine Crossley, Rosemary Hilton

### **Flowers for Sunday**

<b>Sep 14th</b>	Natalie Sellens	<b>Sep 21st</b>	Kathryn Hibbard
<b>Sep 28th</b>	Mavis Mathers	<b>Oct 5th</b>	Rosemary Hilton
<b>Oct 12th</b>	Anne Sellens	<b>Oct 19th</b>	Carole Brearley
<b>Oct 26th</b>	Margaret Williams	<b>Nov 2<sup>nd</sup></b>	Elaine Snuggs
<b>Nov 9th</b>	Angela Mathers		

## My Life and My Walk with My Lord

I was born in Kings Lynn in March 1938 to two loving parents. They were both nominal Christians, my mother had been in the Salvation Army and my father in a C of E church in Claughton, Birkenhead. Soon after they moved to Lynn originally for perhaps a few years but with the outbreak of war this stay lasted for 19 years. I was the eldest of 3 children. We were all christened in the C of E church in Gaywood, Kings Lynn. I remember going to Sunday School when I was 3 because my parents thought it was important for me even though they did not go to church.



From about 7 years old I attended a small Methodist church and received a good grounding in the scriptures by two lay preachers and I began to take scripture exams (which I continued to do until I was about 18.) After going to High School there was a teacher who held strong Christian beliefs and for a short time I went back to the C of E church where I had been christened, where the teacher also attended. After a short while I realised I was not getting the teaching that I needed or craved. The thrill and love for each other wasn't there. At this point a friend and I went together to a Baptist church. It was when I was about 14 years old that I gave my life to the Lord Jesus. I had been thinking about adult baptism and it was then that the truths of the gospel became alive and very real to me. I knew I needed the Lord Jesus as my Saviour. It was a sadness to me that none of my family were present as they couldn't come to terms with it as I had already been christened.

After leaving school we moved to Leeds as a family and I had to leave all my church friends and school friends behind. City life scared me.

The nearest church was Alwoodley Methodist so I attended there. It was there that I met my husband Barrie although he would not have any involvement in the church. I had joined the Girl Guides and he was in the Boy Scouts. We were married and I have always prayed that Barrie would trust the Lord for himself. I have always felt that the Lord led me to good churches where the truth of the Bible was preached.

I had my first baby followed by the loss of two further babies and both my parents and stopped attending church for a while. My daughter Debbie was then born and I was not well but didn't know what was wrong with me. I was diagnosed with mental illness and spent the whole of 1977 in High Royds Mental Hospital. I was still very ill after coming home following ECT and then I developed epilepsy. Although at this point I was not attending a church I always knew that the Lord with me and still guiding me.

On an occasion when I was talking with my GP (having now settled in Cookridge) he suggested I came to Tinshill Free Church. That is about 30 years ago and, as they say, the rest is history. I still have to work hard at talking to people and know I will have to continue to live with some mental illness, but with my Lord's great help I will make it through.

One hymn for my baptism was "Take my life and let it be". I still try to follow this day by day. One thing the Lord has greatly helped me to do was to bring my grandchildren to church, with their parent's permission, for many years. I wanted them to hear the true gospel and be taught the scriptures. One of my greatest joys has been to see my daughter Debbie, become a real Christian and be baptised at Tinshill. It's a great blessing to be able to worship together. Thank you to all in the Tinshill family who have shown love and friendship all through the years.

*Christine Blayney*

## Diary of Services and Activities

<b>Sunday</b>	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.

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

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

<b>Friday</b>	Ketchup (Children aged 5-11 in term time)	6.00pm
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### Tinshill Free Church

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