

TINSHILL FREE CHURCH

MAGAZINE



No 363 – May & June 2026

Pastoral Letter – May & June 2026

True freedom.

“If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”

John 8 verses 31 and 32

When we look around the world we should be so grateful that we live in a democratic country where we enjoy lots of freedoms. So many do not have that privilege and live where they are not free to live as they please but are oppressed in various ways by regimes which keep a tight grip on their people. The fight for freedom has been a constant struggle throughout the ages. Even in our so-called enlightened society here in the west there are people today in our own country who are in slavery to others. We consider that the freedom to live in a dignified way as human beings and to express ourselves without restriction is a basic human right that we are all entitled to. Of course we have to live within the laws of the land and not adversely impact the rights of others but that still gives us lots of freedoms to do and say what we please and to go where we want to and pursue our own way in this life. Any proposed restrictions on those freedoms is normally vigorously opposed. But is this really true freedom?

The Bible – God’s Word – has plenty to say on this subject and points us to a deeper freedom which can only be found in Christ. The verses at the start of this letter are the words of the Lord Jesus speaking to Jewish believers. It is God’s Word which teaches us about true freedom and where we can find it and gives us an honest perspective of our human condition. The Jews at the time you see answered Jesus and said that they were Abraham’s descendants and had never been in bondage to anyone (John 8 v33). In effect they were saying – we are

already free! We might say the same today – we live in a democratic society and are not in bondage to anyone so we are free. Yes, we certainly enjoy freedoms in life but what about in our heart?

Jesus goes on to tell the Jews about the slavery to sin in our lives which traps us and enslaves us so that we are cut off from a holy God and not able to draw near to Him and escape from our own fallen nature and live a pure life free from sin. Jesus says **“Most assuredly I say to you, whoever commits sin is a slave of sin”** (John 8 v34). If we are honest with ourselves we know that we do not live holy, pure lives which please God – we have a propensity to sin which is inbred and from which we cannot escape and it is there from birth. Whether it be in our thoughts, words or actions we are selfish, unkind often to others and more seriously, we ignore or are neglectful of God who made us and gave us life to begin with. So many just live for themselves and have no thought of God or His Son, Jesus – they live as if God did not exist or have any claims upon their lives. Sin, disobedience to God and His Word, is ingrained in us so we do become slaves to it. We do it naturally and habitually without any effort. If we do try and do better then we might succeed for a while but we cannot keep it up and we soon go back to how it was before. We are not free – certainly we are not free from our slavery to sin – and that is what cuts us off from a relationship with God. **“A slave does not abide in the house forever, but a son abides forever”** (John 8 v35).

So how do we get this “true freedom” that Jesus speaks of and which gives us freedom from the penalty and power of sin over our lives? How can we have a relationship with God so we become sons and daughters of the living God with an eternal hope that we can abide forever in the presence of God? Jesus gives us the answer in John 8 verse 36 **“Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed.”** It takes a work of God in our hearts to give us true freedom

based on what Jesus did at Calvary. He was bound to the cross and gave His sinless life that we might be set free and given true freedom as we trust in Him. The penalty for our sin was laid on Him – He bore it for us. We know God’s forgiveness through the sacrifice of Christ on the cross in our place. The power of sin over us was broken at the cross as Christ burst through death and rose from the dead. All those who trust in that **“one sacrifice for sins forever”** and accept Christ as their Saviour receive the guarantee of their adoption into the family of God. God gives us the indwelling presence of His Holy Spirit who convicts of sin and is our divine Helper to strengthen us to resist temptation and live a holy life. We do not always succeed but the bondage to sin is broken and we have the means to live in a way that pleases God with His help.

This is the true freedom that the Lord Jesus speaks of and which only He can give us. We must accept Him into our hearts and lives by real sorrow for our disobedience and a real desire to put Him in charge of our lives so He reigns there in place of us. Then we must live in the light of the true freedom we enjoy as Christians – loving and serving our God and Saviour with thankfulness and perseverance as faithful servants with our waist girded and our lamps burning (Luke 12 v35). May God help us to know the real joy which this true freedom gives us in our hearts despite the many difficulties and restrictions that may be our lot through our journey in this fallen world.

With love in the Lord Jesus,

Martin Sellens

On Sunday May 10th early in the morning I was informed that Ruth Holder had breathed her last breath. We give thanks for a life given in service to God and that Ruth is now truly free in the presence of her Lord.

Applying The Scriptures to your Life

As you spend time with the Lord meditating over a portion of Scripture, you may find it helpful to ask the following questions:

- Is there an example to follow?
- Is there a sin to avoid?
- Is there a promise to claim?
- Is there a prayer to repeat?
- Is there a command to obey?
- Is there a condition to meet?
- Is there a verse to memorize?
- Is there an error to mark?
- Is there a challenge to face?

If you would like practice in utilizing the above questions then perhaps read and meditate upon the following portion of Scripture: Luke Chapter 14 verse 25 to Chapter 17 verse 10.

*Facts of the Matter submitted by **Paul Crossley***

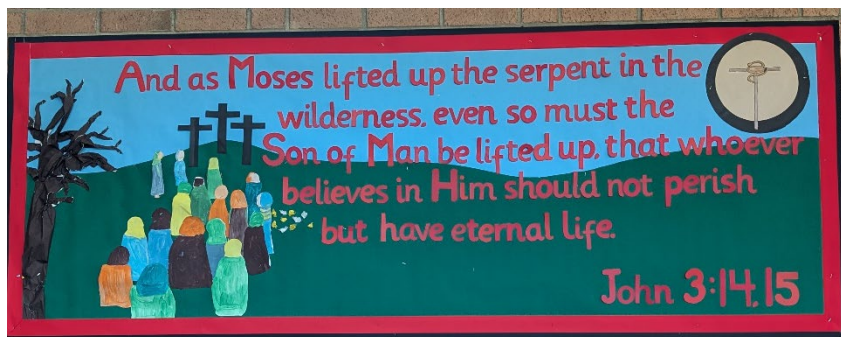
“How sure the Scriptures are! God’s vital, urgent Word, as true as steel, and far more sharp than any sword: so deep and fine, at His control they pierce where soul and spirit join.

Let those who hear His voice confronting them today, reject the tempting choice of doubting or delay: for God speaks still – His word is clear, so let us hear and do His will!”

Christopher Idle – 353 in *Christian Hymns* verses 1 and 3

Lifted up for us and Risen

These two collages displayed on the boards in the church building over Easter helped us consider the deep truths that are at the heart of our faith.



*See the depth of His compassion in love's purest form revealed,
there upon the cross of Calvary where a broken world was healed.
There He lifted all our sorrows, bore them high upon the tree;
prayed in love for our forgiveness, gave Himself to set us free.
(Simoney Girard, 655 in Christian Hymns verse 2)*



*Lifted up was He to die, "It is finished!" was His cry;
Now in heaven exalted high: Hallelujah! What a Saviour!
(Philipp Paul Bliss, 248 in Christian Hymns verse 4)*

Joy comes in the morning

5 years ago I had an accident that caused a traumatic brain injury. I have very little memory of the first couple of weeks that I was in hospital but I'm told I was very confused. If you've ever had a head injury, you'll know that doctors and nurses ask you questions to assess your confusion; things like your name and birthday and "do you know where you are?" and "can you tell me the name of the Prime minister?" I was apparently very worried that I didn't know the answers to those questions and would ring my family and ask the nurses and the different therapists to tell me the answers so that I would know the next time I was asked! I was so preoccupied with wanting to know the answers, that the therapists were finding it very difficult to help me relearn everything I needed to; how to walk, talk and look after myself. I was so anxious about needing to recover quickly that I was making recovery harder and slower!

One day during that very confusing time a verse popped into my head **"Weeping may endure for a night, but joy (rejoicing) comes in the morning"** Psalm 30 verse 5. I don't think I'd given God a thought during the first week or so after my accident because I was so confused and muddled but He knew me and knew exactly the right time to put that verse into my head! It has stayed in my head ever since and has been such an encouragement to me during my recovery that "joy comes in the morning". I just needed to **"Rest in the Lord and wait patiently for Him"** Psalm 37 verse 7.

Once I'd learned the important lesson of waiting patiently for God, my recovery started. I was in hospital for 9 weeks, working hard with different therapists before I was able to go home to continue my recovery. I still have a very poor short-term memory which is very

frustrating, not least because I often retain very little of a sermon or bible study. God knows how much sadness and frustration this causes me though and again He had a “word in season” for me. Not a Bible verse but something Bill Scully spoke about at a Thursday at Two lunchtime special a couple of years ago. Bill's mum had Alzheimer's and was very upset that she couldn't remember sermons, so he told her a story about Albert Einstein! Mr Einstein had been invited somewhere to give a lecture and took the train to get there. During the journey the train conductor came into the carriage and asked to see every passenger's ticket. Mr Einstein started to search in all his pockets for his elusive ticket. He was still frantically looking for his ticket when the conductor reached him and said “Don't worry Mr Einstein, I know who you are!” Albert Einstein replied “Young man, I too know who I am, but I don't know where I am going!” Bill told his Mum that she knows who she is and more importantly she knows where she is going!

Bill's message that day was and, still is, such an encouragement to me. Despite the limitations I have, I know who I am and where I am going but more importantly God knows who I am and He knows where I am going!

I hope that you too have God's assurance that joy comes in the morning and the knowledge and peace that He knows you and that you and He know where you are going.

Carol Getzels

“The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord, and He delights in his way. Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down; for the Lord upholds him with His hand.” Psalm 37 verses 23&24

Diary

May

- Thu 7 am/pm Church open as a Polling Station
Thu 14 1pm Thursday at Two Food Special
 Speaker: Roger Fay
Tue 19 7.45pm Members Financial Planning Meeting
Thu 21 7.30pm Rock up
Thu 28 2pm Thursday at Two

June

- Tue 2 7.45pm Elder Deacons Meeting at 23 Kirkwood Drive
Thu 4 7.30pm Rock up
Sun 7 2pm Cookridge Court Service
Mon 8 - Thu 11 am/pm Bible Exhibition for local schools at church
 with Douglas Young, Open Air Mission
Thu 11 7.30pm Missionary Prayer Group
Tue 16 pm Mens Fellowship trip out
Thu 18 7.30pm Rock up
Thu 25 1pm Thursday at Two Summer Meal
 Speaker: Alan Brearley

July

- Thu 2 7.30pm Rock up

Note - There will not be a Missionary Prayer Group or Men's Fellowship in May.

Tots Club and Ketchup will not meet during Spring Bank Holiday week (May 25th to 29th)

Next Magazine - The next edition of The Magazine will be for July / August 2026 - The deadline for the submission of items and contributions to Martin will be Sunday 21st June - 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

May	13th	Habakkuk Chapter 1	Alan Brearley
	20th	Deputation - AEM	Paul Stark
	27th	Prayer Meeting	
June	3rd	Habakkuk Chapter 2	Martin Sellens
	10th	Deputation - OAM	Douglas Young
	17th	Habakkuk Chapter 3	
	24th	Prayer Meeting	
July	1st	To be confirmed	

Preaching Plan

		Morning	Evening
May	10th	Martin Sellens (Com)	Steve Harding
	17th	Martin Sellens	Martin Sellens
	24th	Steven Bowers	Jonathan Cannon
	31st	Stephen Fay	Jonathan Cannon
June	7th	Martin Sellens	Douglas Young (Com)
	14th	Mick Lockwood	Alan Brearley
	21st	Martin Sellens	Adam Broughton
	28th	Martin Sellens	Martin Sellens
July	5th	Martin Sellens (Com)	Martin Sellens

(Com) = (Communion)

Outside Appointments

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

Paul Crossley;

Sunday May 31st am – Garforth

Sunday June 7th and July 5th am - Hebron, Altofts

Sunday June 21st am - Morley

Alan Brearley;

Weds May 27th pm - Bible Study at Bethel, New Wortley

Sunday June 28th pm - Garforth

Sunday July 5th am - Bethel, New Wortley

Martin Sellens;

Saturday May 16th pm - Torch Trust for the Blind

Rotas

Cleaning for week ending

May	16th	Hickman family, Natalie Sellens
	23rd	Kathryn Hibbard, Nigel Hibbard
	30th	Elaine & John Snuggs, Sue & Gordon Chell
June	6th	Angela Mathers, Christine Crossley, Rosemary Hilton
	13th	Deborah Williams, Eva Ng, Anne Sellens
	20th	Hickman family, Natalie Sellens
	27th	Kathryn Hibbard, Nigel Hibbard
July	4th	Elaine & John Snuggs, Sue & Gordon Chell

Flowers for Sunday

May 17th	Carole Brearley	May 24th	Margaret Williams
May 31st	Elaine Snuggs	June 7th	Angela Mathers
June 14th	Deborah Williams	June 21st	Colette Hickman
June 28th	Kathryn Hibbard	July 5th	Sue Chell

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
----------------	--	--------

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
---------------	---	--------

Tinshill Free Church

Holly Avenue, Leeds LS16 6PL

Registered Charity CIO No 1198328

www.tinshillfreechurch.org.uk

Elder:

Mr Martin Sellens, 68 Moseley Wood Walk, LS16 7HG

Tel: 2679529 **Email:** martin.sellens@gmail.com

Deacons:

Mr Nigel Hibbard (Fabric) nk_hibbard@btinternet.com

Mr Tim Hickman (Treasurer) tim_hickman_2000@hotmail.com