

TINSHILL FREE CHURCH

MAGAZINE



No 364 – July & August 2026

Pastoral Letter – July & August 2026

The Cloud of Witnesses

“Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God”

Hebrews 12 verses 1 and 2

June was quite a month! As we look back and reflect on what has gone before we can give thanks to God first of all for the Bible Exhibition with local schools (June 8th to 11th) when over six sessions we hosted something in the order of 280 children plus some 30 staff from three schools (Holy Trinity, Holy Name and Cookridge Primary). Douglas Young was with us for the week from the Open Air Mission and led us through “The Amazing Acts” and a large team from the church took part either as characters, marking the quiz, providing refreshments, helping out before hand, on the days and clearing up or providing meals for the team. It was a great effort and we trust will build on previous years and yield lasting fruit in due time. It was a great privilege to be given the opportunity to share gospel truth with the children as we witness to the next generations the reality and history of our faith. We are that cloud of witnesses that our Bible verses above speak of. The feedback has been very positive from the schools and books have been gratefully received in all 3 schools now following the Exhibition. Some photos taken at the Exhibition are included in this Magazine.

Also this month we have held two Thanksgiving Services for the lives of Ruth Holder and Glyn Williams who went to be with the Lord in May.

Both have been so influential in the life of the church at Tinsill over many years and we miss their presence greatly. Both Services were well attended and we truly praised God for their lives and testimonies which live on in our hearts – so many lives have been affected by their work and witness for the Lord over decades. A tribute to Ruth appears in this Magazine – a tribute to Glyn will appear in the next edition which is due out at the start of September.

The verses above seem particularly apt to me at this time as they did for the writer to the Hebrews when he wrote them and reflected on the faith of those who had gone before (look at Hebrews chapter 11 for greater detail of those he was referring to). The lives of those like Ruth and Glyn speak to us – they are now part of that great cloud of witnesses who have gone before us and who surround us. We are inspired by their lives to follow in their footsteps. That involves amongst other things laying aside the things that hold us back in following our Saviour in faith – particularly the sin which so often traps us and snares us. We have to deal with it day by day so we are not held back in living our Christian lives. We need to show to others that we are different from the world, that we want to live holy lives pleasing to God and that we are consistent in our love of Christ and our care and kindness to others. We cannot do that alone of course – we have to look to Jesus every day for His help and grace. As our verses indicate there may well be tough times and suffering ahead that we have to endure as the Lord Himself did on our behalf. However, there is joy ahead too – there was for the Lord and there will be for every Christian living by faith in Christ. God is so good to us in helping us through this “vale of tears” but our passage through and His presence with us is guaranteed as is our destination at the end of it all – a permanent home in Heaven with our Saviour with no more tears, sin or death in a resurrected body. The souls of our dear brother and

sister have departed and are with Christ (Philippians 1 verse 23 which Dan Peters so helpfully unpacked and applied for us at Glyn's Service). In due time their bodies will also be raised and transformed to be like the Lord's resurrected body and then they will be forever at home with the Lord. What a glorious prospect! We will also follow in the Lord's timing and will be with them if we are faithful in our faith and service of the Lord Jesus. Let us therefore not lose heart but labour on with renewed zeal in the days/months/years that God gives us.

With love in the Lord Jesus,

Martin Sellens

Remembering Ruth

A service of thanksgiving was held in Tinshill on Monday 15th June for the long and very productive life of dear Ruth Holder who went to be with her Saviour on May 10th at Cookridge Court Care Home where she had lived for two and a half years. She had reached the age of 93. The church was full of her family and friends.

Ruth was a trained nurse, midwife and sister tutor and had worked in several hospitals including St James's Leeds. Ruth and Ernie Holder joined Tinshill in 1982 having moved from Beeston to North Leeds. They came into membership and Ernie soon emerged as an Elder amongst us, having served as an Elder for many years before that in his previous church. Ruth was a humble and totally committed Elder's wife and very quickly she had a role looking after many ladies of all ages and being a key helper in their lives, including those who were disadvantaged, lonely, blind or bringing up children alone.



Photo of Ruth sitting between Margurite Williams and Alice Wilson - two ladies who she cared for and helped.

She was selfless with her love, time, money and energy. Several who have known her caring for them looked upon Ruth as a mother, even though she didn't have any children of her own.

She worked in many of the different meetings in the church at Tinshill – Tots, Thursday at Two, Ladies Prayer Group which she led, Coffee Mornings, Second Tuesday. She was deeply involved in Torch Trust for the Blind from its inception and remained faithful to the Torch branch in Leeds almost up to her final days of life. She went on holiday many times with them as a sighted person to help with those who were partially sighted or with no sight at all. She also served for many years as camp nurse to the Bethel, Leicester camp for the handicapped which ran in Talybont, North Wales, driving there alone with her car packed with every medical provision she could think of.

Ruth was a friend. She was my friend. I could weep with her, she was discreet. I could trust her, she was truthful and reliable. She

always wanted to strengthen and support as a true friend does, seeking ways to build up and encourage. She was always there, and not just for me as a friend but always there to support in the church family – services, meetings, prayer meetings, lifts, gardening work-parties, cleaning, flowers, kitchen duties, volunteering for everything where a need was expressed. Her support and encouragement for Glyn during his Eldership and pastoral years was very solid and influential under God.

Ruth never gossiped, didn't criticize, and I can't ever remember her being angry. She had a tender conscience, was receptive to the word of God and was utterly reliable. Her memory to cover all the things she was involved in/responsible for was greatly helped by a mountain of small notes tucked and stuck everywhere. She was determined never to be late. She always wanted to ease a burden for someone or meet a practical need.

I had had a big shock one day when Glyn was away in Nairobi visiting the Kenyan Pastors who we support at Tinshill. Ruth packed a bag and came to stay at 87 overnight in the spare room (when Tom was in his flat) in case I was troubled in the night and she could be of help. A friend who sticks close.

It's a happy task to write about her for the church Magazine. She loved the 'mag'. As well as gaining from its spiritual content, it was her prompt on so many things, it told her who was preaching, doing bible study and preaching out – they were all prayed over faithfully, but it was also her tool of encouragement and evangelism. She delivered loads in the Tinshill area and faithfully packed and posted hundreds off over the years to encourage Christians and to reach unbelievers with the gospel. Heaven will declare the value of that.

She was a humble unassuming lady. Always feeling she should do more for the Lord and His church, sometimes lacking a personal sense of assurance but always rejoicing at small and large providences of God and victories in the church.

I praise the Lord for Ruth and that she was my friend. We all praise Him together for the wonderful salvation Ruth was called into, and for the beauties of the Lamb of God, our dear Lord and Saviour, who Ruth sees now and for eternity.

Margaret Williams





Remembering him

It has been seven years since my grandpa passed away, on May 25th 2019, yet sometimes it seems to me that it happened not very long ago. I had a dream the other night. In the dream, I was only a little girl, about primary school age. I was home with my grandpa at our home. It was past midnight, about two or three o'clock in the morning, still dark in the room. Grandpa was asleep, but I was too afraid to go to sleep. I was afraid to sleep by myself, so I lay beside him, pulling the sheet all the way to my nose and wearing headphones turned to the minimum volume, just so I could hear it to keep me awake. My eyes were firmly fixed on the door, because I had to stay alert for grandpa and me.

In my dream grandpa woke up and got dressed, got his suitcase, and was ready to go outside. I chased after him calling him out loud: "Grandpa! Where are you off to?" Grandpa turned back and looked at me. He was wearing his grey suit with a clean and spotless white shirt; there was light in him. He said, "Off to work! I'm off to treat some patients!" (he had worked as a doctor). But I sensed that something was not right. We would be separated by death, so I cried out to him desperately: "But will you still come back?" Then he smiled at me, and I knew the answer and I smiled with him. I remembered the truth in my dream, the only truth, the One. I remembered Him. The answer is definitely "yes," he will come back. And I woke up from my dream in tears and with great joy and perfect peace.

Yes, grandpa will be back, because He will be back! Because Christ our Lord and Saviour came and died and rose from the dead. He sits on His throne in heaven, at the right hand of God our Heavenly Father, and upholds all things by the word of His power. He saved us, and He will be back again; I will see my Saviour and see my grandpa again. *"But now Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep"* [1Corinthians 15:20].

"Because He lives, I can face tomorrow! Because He lives, all fear is gone. Because I know He holds the future, and life is worth the living, just because He lives!"

I think about my grandpa, and about Ruth and Glyn. I miss them all. I remember vividly how Ruth carried the tray after service and served people tea and biscuits. I ran to her and offered to help (in Chinese culture we serve the elder, and we cannot just let them serve us), but she always said she could manage. She worked hard and served faithfully. And I remember vividly how strong Glyn was, and how I could fully trust him to hold my weight when he baptised me in 2018. I remember how patient and kind he was when explaining spiritual questions that I asked. I greatly enjoyed every fellowship time and every meal I had at their place. I remember his teaching, his soothing voice, which was in fact so calming that I would tend to fall asleep if he taught on Wednesday nights in the winter, especially when I happened to be sitting in the back of the room near the radiator. I am sorry!

In remembering them, I cannot help but remember Him. When I see all their faces in my mind, I see Christ in them.

"Your righteousness, O God, is very high, You who have done great things; O God, who is like You?

You, who have shown me great and severe troubles, shall revive me again, and bring me up again from the depths of the earth.

You shall increase my greatness, and comfort me on every side.

Also with the lute I will praise You— And Your faithfulness, O my God!

To You I will sing with the harp, O Holy One of Israel.

My lips shall greatly rejoice when I sing to You,

And my soul, which You have redeemed." [Psalm 71: 19-23]

Jing Barber

Thought of the month

“The Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. Therefore comfort one another with these words.” 1 Thessalonians 4 v16 to 18

Thought

What do you have that is forever?

Most of what we have in this world falls apart, breaks, or wears out quickly. But we have three things that last forever: God (Father, Son and Holy Spirit), our Christian friends, and our praise of God. These are eternal. The glorious truth is that Jesus is going to return. The dead who died in Him will be raised to receive their eternal bodies, and those living at His return will have their bodies changed into their immortal bodies. The best part is we will be reunited with all the faithful of all the centuries, and we all will be with the Lord forever. As the old hymn says it, "One day He's coming, O glorious day."

Prayer

Heavenly Father I look forward to the day of your next great surprise, the return of Jesus in glory. I join the angels in standing on tiptoe as I look to the clouds to see my LORD and your Son return in glory and receive the welcome and honour He deserves. I praise you for that day now, even though I only see it by faith. Until I see You on that day, please know my heart's desire is to serve You, even when my weakness gets in the way of showing it as fully as I should, and my heart loses touch with the promise of Jesus' return. I offer you my sincerest thanks and praise in Jesus' name. Amen.

Phil Ware, Christian Police Association submitted by Paul Crossley.

Diary

July

Tue 7	7.45pm Elder Deacons Meeting at 68 Moseley Wood Walk
Thu 9	1pm Thursday at Two Summer Meal Speaker: John Harris 7.30pm Missionary Prayer Group
Fri 10	6pm Ketchup – final meeting of term
Wed 15	1.15pm Tots Club – final meeting of term
Thu 16	7.30pm Rock up – final meeting of term
Sun 19	am Final Key Club before summer break
Tue 21	pm Men's Fellowship Outing
Thu 23	2pm Thursday at Two

Aug

Thu 6	2pm Thursday at Two Speaker: Mick Lockwood
Thu 20	2pm Thursday at Two
Mon 24	7.30pm Trustees Meeting at 68 Moseley Wood Walk

Sept

Thu 3	2pm Thursday at Two
Fri 4	6pm Ketchup restarts after summer break
Wed 9	1.15pm Tots Club restarts after summer break
Thu 10	7.30pm Rock up restarts after summer break
Sun 13	am Key Club restarts after summer break

NOTE - The Children's / Young People's Meeting will not take place during the summer holidays (Tots, Key Club, Ketchup and Rock up).

NEXT MAGAZINE – The next edition of The Magazine will be for September / October 2026 — the deadline for the submission of items and contributions to Martin will be Sunday 23rd August - 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

July	8th	One off study	Martin Sellens
	15th	Deputation - Noor	Sajida Iqbal
	22nd	Revelation 1 v1-8	Martin Sellens
	29th	Revelation 1 v9-20	Alan Brearley
August	5th	Revelation 2 v1-7	Paul Crossley
	12th	Revelation 2 v8-11	Martin Sellens
	19th	Prayer Meeting	
	26th	Revelation 2 v12-17	Tim Hickman
Sept	2nd	Revelation 2 v18-29	Martin Sellens

Preaching Plan

		Morning	Evening
July	5th	Martin Sellens (Com)	Paul Crossley
	12th	Jonathan Chell	Jonathan Chell
	19th	Steve Harding	Roger Fay
	26th	Alan Brearley	Martin Sellens
August	2nd	Martin Sellens	Tba (Com)
	9th	Alan Brearley	Tba
	16th	Martin Sellens	Tba
	23rd	John Harris	John Harris
	30th	Martin Sellens	Tba
Sept	6th	Martin Sellens (Com)	Tba
(Com) = (Communion)		Tba = To be arranged	

Outside Appointments

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

Paul Crossley;

Sunday July 5th, August 2nd and Sept 6th am – Hebron, Altofts

Sunday July 12th and 26th am - Garforth

Sunday August 30th am - Scott Hall

Alan Brearley;

Sunday July 5th am - Bethel, New Wortley

Sunday Sept 6th am - Bethel, New Wortley

Rotas

Cleaning for week ending

July	11th	Angela Mathers, Christine Crossley, Rosemary Hilton
	18th	Deborah Williams, Eva Ng, Anne Sellens
	25th	Hickman family, Natalie Sellens
Aug	1st	Kathryn Hibbard, Nigel Hibbard
	8th	Elaine & John Snuggs, Sue & Gordon Chell
	15th	Angela Mathers, Christine Crossley, Rosemary Hilton
	22nd	Deborah Williams, Eva Ng, Anne Sellens
	29th	Hickman family, Natalie Sellens
Sept	5th	Kathryn Hibbard, Nigel Hibbard

Flowers for Sunday

July 12th	Christine Crossley	July 19th	Eva Ng
July 26th	Natalie Sellens	Aug 2nd	Margaret Williams
Aug 9th	Mavis Mathers	Aug 16th	Rosemary Hilton
Aug 23rd	Anne Sellens	Aug 30th	Carole Brearley
Sept 6th	Kathryn Hibbard		

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

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