

TINSHILL FREE CHURCH

MAGAZINE



No 365 – September & October 2026

Pastoral Letter – September & October 2026

Autumn Thoughts

I trust you have enjoyed the summer. We have certainly had a summer this year with lots of hot sunshine (perhaps too hot for some at times) and little or no rain. I trust you have some positive memories of pleasant days to take with you through the days of autumn and winter. It has been good over this past week to experience wetter days – already the parched earth is showing some signs of response in renewed growth and greener grass. We are truly blessed with the seasonal variety that we enjoy in this country where generally we do not experience the extremes found in other countries even though it looks as if things are changing slowly as the summers get hotter and we seem to be getting more intense weather events.

Our thoughts now turn to Autumn and the start of the new school year which begins for many this week. It is part of our annual cycle of life which continues year on year. Our children's meetings restart after the summer break and we look forward to Harvest and beyond that Christmas is on the horizon!

In all of the changing scenes of life, in sorrow or in joy we must remember that our God reigns and that He does not change in His character or purposes towards us who believe. What a comfort it is to know that our God and His Beloved Son Jesus Christ is **“the same yesterday, today and forever”** (Hebrews 13 verse 8). Whatever life throws at us, and we never know from one day to the next what might be brought our way, we are secure in the knowledge that in Christ God loves and cares for us as His people and that we are not at the mercy of circumstances but very much in His grip. We trust in Him and in His good purposes for us, however they may appear. This is all part of having the fear of God central within our lives and in our hearts. So

many folk these days have lost this sense of the “fear of God” and it has significant consequences to how we live and behave. So many are “men pleasers” rather than “God fearing”. They live for themselves rather than to please God and we can see the results in our broken and fractured world as God’s Word is forgotten and ignored.

The Psalmist has important words to instruct us on this subject;

“The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; a good understanding have all those who do His commandments. His praise endures forever.” Psalm 111 verse 10

“Praise the Lord! Blessed is the man who fears the Lord, who delights greatly in His commandments.” Psalm 112 verse 1

One evidence is the attempt being made to bring back a further Private Members’s Bill in Parliament to push for assisted dying and to seek to get it on the statute book and into Law. A vote is scheduled to take place on this issue again in September. This would be a further interference into God’s territory of sovereignty over life and death (as with abortion) for the convenience of people with long term consequences and a lack of concern for the spiritual implications. Whilst, if progressed, it may reduce earthly suffering it may also propel people into eternity without Christ and all the consequences that entails. We should not interfere in matters of life and death which are sacred areas under God’s control and not ours. It clearly reflects where we are as a society if passed and progressed – another step on the slippery downward slope away from the “fear of God” and His commandments. We should be much in prayer about this matter as we seek to uphold our fear of God in today’s world.

As we enter another Autumn season and the days get shorter and the nights longer may we be those who heed the words of the Psalmist, delighting ourselves in God and His commandments and seeking to love and therefore live for Him whole heartedly at home, in the church and in our local community as we serve and worship Him.

With love in the Lord Jesus,

Martin Sellens

The Only One

As I was recently reading through part of Isaiah, I was struck by certain phrases that were repeated time after time in chapters 40 to 48. The exact wording varied slightly, but the basic phrases were the same.

The first was the question, **“To whom will you liken Me?”** This is followed by a description of how futile it is for a man to make and worship an idol that cannot see, hear, speak, move, or help anyone in any way. There is no-one and nothing remotely worth comparing to the living God.

The other phrases are **“I am the LORD”** and **“My glory I will not give to another”**. They occur (either separately or together) more than ten times in these few chapters. This repetition surely tells us that these thoughts are hugely important. In these chapters God reminds us that He is the One who designed and created the earth and the heavens, with everything in them. Creation displays God’s glory, but we must be careful to praise and worship the Creator rather than His creation.

I imagine that very few readers of this magazine would literally bow down to a statue or image made of gold, silver or wood, as the people of Isaiah's day did. But I asked myself what the equivalent might be for us today. An idol is anything that takes the place of God in our life and thinking. An object might be made of metal, plastic, paper, glass, electrical components... We do not bow down physically, but perhaps it can happen that we give our best time and energy to things rather than to God. An activity that we pursue may be good in and of itself, but if it takes over in our lives then it too can become an idol.

God says He will not give His glory to another. Let us be careful to give Him all the worship, credit and honour that is due to Him, so that we do not give His glory to another, or keep it for ourselves.

Rosemary Hilton

A Book Review and Recommendation

Earlier this year I purchased a daily reading book entitled "The One Year Book of Hymns." Each page has the words of a hymn printed out, in its original form, along with a verse or two of scripture and biographical notes about the author, or the circumstances around the writing of the hymn. I have found this book to be a joy and encouragement since it came into my possession. I recommend the book to you for your daily devotions.

The day I went for surgery, 1st July, the hymn for the day was "God is love; His mercy brightens" by John Bowring 1792-1872. Not a hymn I'm familiar with but the words, shown on the next page, were such an encouragement at a difficult time. The scripture quote was 1 John 4

verses 15 and 16. **“All who confess that Jesus is the Son of God have God living in them, and they live in God. We know how much God loves us, and we have put our trust in His love. God is love, and all who live in love live in God, and God lives in them.”**

God is love; His mercy brightens
All the path in which we rove;
Bliss He wakes and woe He lightens;
God is wisdom, God is love.

Chance and change are busy ever;
Man decays and ages move;
But His mercy waneth never;
God is wisdom, God is love.

E'en the hour that darkest seemeth
Will His changeless goodness prove;
Through the gloom His brightness streameth;
God is wisdom, God is love.

He with earthly cares entwineth
Hope and comfort from above;
Everywhere His glory shineth;
God is wisdom, God is love.

Angela Mathers

Editor's Note: Do continue to pray for Angela as she undergoes chemo and radio therapy treatment following her surgery and will not be in church for some time to reduce the risk of infection.

A Faithful Pastor and Friend

The church was full to overflowing on Tuesday June 23rd when we gathered to give thanks for the life and ministry of our dear brother, Glyn Williams who passed into the presence of His Lord and Saviour on 25th May aged 83. It is clear that Glyn was much loved and respected not just locally but much wider afield – people came from far and wide to pay their respects. There were many Pastors present but also many ordinary people whose lives had been touched and affected by Glyn's care and ministry. There were also some who could not be there and wanted to be but were prevented by distance and other commitments. Margaret has received so many cards and messages from folk both before, on the day and afterwards and these have been a great comfort and source of encouragement and blessing.

I gave a substantial tribute to Glyn in the Service with lots of information about his life and I do not want to repeat that here in the Magazine – instead I want to share some thoughts and reflections about Glyn's life and ministry which I have observed over the 45 years I have known him, much of that time when we served together in leadership at the church. I have learnt so much from him which has helped to equip me for eldership and I have benefitted from his counsel as my Pastor and from his love and encouragement as both my Pastor and my friend. Outside of our church responsibilities we shared common interests in our love of sports and football in particular (we once went to a game at Elland Road together when his beloved Leicester were playing Leeds) and our shared love of the hills and mountains. We had many walks together either as part of a group or together in the Dales and more often the Lakes and shared some special moments together which are etched on my memory.

It is not easy to summarize Glyn's life at Tinshill in just a few paragraphs but here are a few things which I do want to say and put on the record.

Glyn loved the Lord wholeheartedly and that showed in his loyal and dedicated service over so many years to a local church in one place – from 1968 when he and Margaret moved into Tinshill Road to his death this year in 2026 – a total of 58 years. He remained interested, involved and prayerful over the church right up to the end. In 1968 there was a very small group of Christians meeting in the black wooden hut on the present site and Glyn was quickly involved at a leadership level in his 20s. For the next 10 years he sought to establish a church based on New Testament principles and the Scriptures and to purchase the site from the Methodists. That took patient perseverance and quiet determination trusting God for the eventual outcome which came in 1978 with the acquisition of the site and the bringing to birth of Tinshill Free Church with a Constitution and membership. Glyn was truly a Pioneer in every sense of the word and he stood for truth even when others wanted to depart in a different direction.

Glyn worked hard in the work at Tinshill over a sustained period showing total commitment and sacrifice in the role and the calling that God had laid upon him. In those early years he had a full-time job at Huddersfield Polytechnic as well as his leadership role at Tinshill and involvement in many of the activities of the church including preaching and teaching. It was not until 1990 that he was called full-time to be the Pastor as he stepped out in faith on a much reduced salary. He continued as full-time Pastor in a busy local church (the membership had grown to 50 by 1990) until 2010 and then part-time for a further 3 years (until he was 70). He remained an Elder until the end of January

2021 despite enduring health difficulties with the lymphoma diagnosed in 2014 when he was 71. As well as his ministry at Tinshill he was also a great supporter of Leeds City Mission, a Trustee to a small work in Wakefield, and for a time a governor at Tinshill school and the chaplain at Asda at Holt Park. He preached out in other places regularly and was well appreciated across a good part of Yorkshire. He never had any formal theological training but studied hard and sought the Lord's help for every service, study and talk. His preaching developed over time and he was greatly aided by the Holy Spirit.



Glyn was a true Pastor – a humble man and very caring. He never sought recognition from others but has helped so many in his pastoral life. He has supported people in the depths, in times of crises and always made himself available to give advice and guidance when it was needed. The Lord gave him wisdom. He especially supported the poor and needy and spent time with them encouraging them in the ways of God, not just visiting but also writing. Such care was greatly appreciated and remembered. He was kind and very gracious – not holding grudges, not complaining even when others hurt him.



Glyn at Buttermere

Glyn was steady and consistent in his own walk of faith despite the trials he faced. He trusted God deeply and His Sovereignty over his life and never complained or questioned God's purposes for his life even when the going was very tough. God kept him and even towards the end, when he was confined to bed for months, he remained bright in spirit, without complaint trusting the Lord's will for him and the future.

We give thanks for Glyn and his faithful life of service to the Christian gospel and all that has been achieved over the years. May his legacy inspire us as we continue the work at Tinsill and we look forward with anticipation to seeing him again in Glory when the Lord either returns or calls us into His presence.

Martin Sellens

Kenya News Update

Extracts from Daniel Kimeu's recent email are set out below for information and prayer;

"Very warm greetings to you from Kenya in the most blessed name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Even though for now we go through much tribulation and challenges of life many times, yet God is helping us by His Spirit to always look to Him and know for sure He really cares who has loved us with an everlasting love. Indeed in Him we shall hope and daily rejoice during our very short pilgrimage here on Earth. Our dear brother Glyn has just arrived a little time ahead of us and happily we are following him very soon and shall be with the Lord in Glory. O Hallelujah, hallelujah amen.

Thanks for keeping in prayer our nine churches though I would like to shed some more light to you brethren that you may continue to pray

for us both in the Spirit and with more understanding. In the " nine names of the churches" it's six that are constituted as local churches, the other three are not yet. This is because the brethren "pastors" who are in those regions are doing evangelism in hope God will open a door of repentance to the hearers and so get a local church born in their villages. The brethren happen to be members of our constituted churches but come from a distance and so are unable to regularly attend services and therefore having been in membership and in reformed biblical teachings for many years the churches find it prudent to send them back to their home region to share the Good News to their neighbours.

The six constituted local churches are also not big in membership.

(1) **Ulaani Baptist** which also is my sending church and is the church by God's grace I began planting in the year 1996 has a membership of around 20 people where now Benson Kisila is the Elder.

(2) **Kikumbo Baptist** has around 15 members and has Paul Muiva and John Munyao as her Elders.

(3) **Katuaa Baptist** where our brother Stephen Mutuku is the Elder has around five members.

(4) **Miaani Baptist** where Immanuel is pastoring has a membership of five.

(5) **Cairo (Kailo) Baptist** with around eight members where Julious Mumo and Peter Kavember are the Elders.

(6) **Namanga Baptist** where I minister with a membership of seven.

Namanga church is located here at the Border of Tanzania and Kenya and our evangelism is mainly to people on transit, who most of the time stay with us for short durations that's if they stay. All our other five local churches are located in the villages, in the interior not in any town together with the three mission centers where our brother Silas Mwangangi (Konza), Martin Muthoka (Mbisyani) and brother Jona

(Ngovu) are doing evangelism and teaching those who are able to gather in their homes. We really thank God in seeing brethren opening their door to their homes wide that anybody may come and hear the good tidings of repentance and forgiveness of sins in the death and resurrection of our Saviour and God, Jesus the Christ. We therefore pray that this gospel of grace of God in Christ will not be heard in vain, but that many will truly repent in believing the gospel for God's glory.

Our brother Silas Mwangangi (Konza) has been very sick of a problem that has not been fully diagnosed by the doctors here. For some time now he has been admitted to hospital but his condition is not getting better day by day. His wife and his little boy, their only child, are going through a very difficult time at home in the absence of their bread winner and father, even as they understand the pain Dad is going through. The hospital bill is going high and high whereas the Government is helping her citizens with very little percentage in the clearance of the medical bills! Now as we speak, Silas has been referred from his hospital to the biggest hospital in Kenya in Nairobi City and the cost quotation is already going over 100,000 Kenyan Shillings (£570 at recent exchange rate) notwithstanding the other small bills we've not cleared here in the medication he has already received! The brethren here are walking and watching with him in this difficult time but we are evidently finding ourselves falling short of meeting the cost of our dear brother's medication. Please remember him and us in prayer. He has now been surviving on blood transfusion and any delay from it makes him completely weak even unable to stand on his own and he is losing weight. Please pray that the grace of God will be sufficient for him at this time.

We had association meetings this week and the brethren are well.

They have requested me to greet you and the Tinsill Free Church so much for them. They love you a lot and are ever thankful for the regular gift you send for them which is a very big relief from their true needs, especially in buying food for our starving families and many other truly needy sisters and brothers in the church. Sometimes also helping in buying medicine for the sick among us and above all in helping the tremendous needs we have in the spreading of the gospel of Christ. We fall short of words to explain to you how much we appreciate your gift and care to us and how much it relieves us whenever we receive! May the good Lord continue blessings in every way that may lack nothing for more fruitfulness for His own Kingdom and glory.

My wife Victoria greets you and the children. Rejoicing in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

Daniel Kimeu, Kenya

Thought for the month on Thankfulness

“Let us pray for a deeper sense of our own sinfulness, guilt and undeserving. This, after all, is the true secret of a thankful spirit.

It is the man who daily feels his debt to grace, and daily remembers that in reality he deserves nothing but hell, who will be daily blessing and praising God.

Thankfulness is a flower which will never bloom excepting upon a root of deep humility.”

J.C. Ryle extract from a book of his Daily Readings

Diary

Sept

Mon 7	7.45pm	Elder Deacons Meeting at 23 Kirkwood Drive
Wed 9	1.15pm	Tots Club restarts after summer break
Thu 10	7.30pm	Rock up restarts
Sun 13	11am	Key Club restarts
Thu 17	1pm	Thursday at Two Harvest Special
Sat 19	12.30pm	Leeds City Mission Late Summer
	To 4pm	Praise and Open Afternoon
Thu 24	7.30pm	Rock up
Mon 28	7.30pm	Ladies Autumn Crafts at church

Oct

Thu 1	2pm	Thursday at Two
Thu 8	7.30pm	Rock up
Sun 11		Harvest Fellowship Lunch after morning service
Tue 13	7.30pm	Men's Fellowship at church
Thu 15	2pm	Thursday at Two
Thu 22	7.30pm	Rock up
Sat 24	Bedtime	Clocks go back 1 hour at end of British Summertime
Thu 29	2pm	Thursday at Two

Note - The Missionary Prayer Meeting in October is yet to be arranged.

October Half Term is the week October 26th to 30th and there will be no Tots Club or Ketchup that week.

There are two Harvest Services being planned in October at Cookridge Court and Bedford Court – dates are still being finalized on Sundays at 2pm.

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

Sept	9th	Revelation 3 v1-6	Alan Brearley
	16th	Revelation 3 v7-13	Paul Crossley
	23rd	Revelation 3 v14-22	Martin Sellens
	30th	Revelation 4	Martin Sellens
Oct	7th	Revelation 5	Alan Brearley
	14th	Deputation	To be confirmed
	21st	Prayer Meeting	
	28th	To be arranged	

Preaching Plan

		Morning	Evening
Sept	6th	Martin Sellens (Com)	Martin Sellens
	13th	Alex Yare	Jonathan Cannon
	20th	Mick Lockwood	Alan Brearley
	27th	Frank Brearley	Frank Brearley
Oct	4th	Martin Woodier	Martin Woodier (Com)
	11th	Martin Woodier Harvest	Martin Woodier Harvest
	18th	Roger Fay	Roger Fay
	25th	Alan Brearley	Steve Harding
Nov	1st	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 Sept 6th, Oct 4th and Nov 1st am – Hebron, Altofts

Sunday Sept 13th and Oct 11th am - Garforth

Alan Brearley;

Sunday Sept 6th am - Bethel, New Wortley

Sunday Oct 18th pm - Garforth

Rotas

Cleaning for week ending

Sept	12th	Elaine & John Snuggs, Sue & Gordon Chell
	19th	Angela Mathers, Christine Crossley, Rosemary Hilton
	26th	Deborah Williams, Eva Ng, Anne Sellens
Oct	3rd	Hickman family, Natalie Sellens
	10th	Kathryn Hibbard, Nigel Hibbard
	17th	Elaine and John Snuggs, Sue and Gordon Chell
	24th	Angela Mathers, Christine Crossley, Rosemary Hilton
	31 st	Deborah Williams, Eva Ng, Anne Sellens

Flowers for Sunday

Sep 13th	Elaine Snuggs	Sep 20th	Angela Mathers
Sep 27th	Deborah Williams	Oct 4th	Colette Hickman
Oct 11th	Margaret Williams	Oct 18th	Sue Chell
Oct 25th	Christine Crossley	Nov 1st	Eva Ng

Next Magazine - The next edition of The Magazine will be for November / December 2026 — the deadline for the submission of items and contributions to Martin will be Sunday 18th October - all contributions welcome.

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

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