

Good-News Desk!

The Magazine of Tylers Green Methodist Church



Minister:
Rev. Vida Foday

New Series No. 129



November, 2018

As I drove to Tylers Green Church, the beautiful colours of the leaves on the trees attracted my attention. It reminded me of God's creation of the seasons, and how fortunate we are to be in the world created by God, who saw it to be good. As lovely as those leaves looked on the trees, most of them will eventually end up on the ground, as trees prepare to shed their leaves for the winter season.

In November, those who served in the great wars of our century are remembered all over the world in a military act of remembrance. On the 11th day of the 11th month at the 11th hour, we pause to honour those of past generation. While many stirring recollections flood our minds, we realise that the time will come when each of us will also be a memory.

When we see on thousands of war memorials the names of the fallen beneath the words of Jesus, 'Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends'(John 15:13), we are face to face with the wish, the belief, that somehow, apparently pointless avoidable suffering can be given meaning by associating it with the purposeful suffering of Jesus.

Long after the deaths of those who died in the service of their country, the record of their lives of faith and obedience still inspire us today. Few of us will be recorded in history books after we leave this

world, but all of us will leave behind memories with our families and friends.

What will others recall of our words and deed when they think of us? Let's determine by the grace of God to live for Him and give ourselves to the needs of others. Then our testimonies will become a blessing and inspiration to all who follow in our steps.



We are all ambitious about a great many things. Deep within the human heart there is a thirst for success, wealth, riches, recognition and affirmation, and we all put an enormous amount of energy and drive into achieving these goals. There is nothing wrong per se in any of this, but we do need to understand that all these things are limited to this world; and are corruptible and perishable. Jesus asks us to put the same amount of energy into pursuing a life of holiness.

Often, Christians are urged not just to “talk the talk” but to “walk the talk”. The same advice may be expressed in these words: we should not let our behaviour contradict our professed belief, rather we should rely on the gift of grace to help us on life's journey.

With love and every blessing.

Vida

Prayer to our God and King

Lord Jesus, King Jesus, In this world of trouble, we thank you that you have overcome the world! You understand the mess we are in and offer us hope and a future. We may not see how to go forward, or how to solve the problems that surround us and those we care about and those who suffer, but you are sovereign over all situations and circumstances. We can trust you, our King and our Saviour. In your name we give thanks and stand with confidence and strength to face each day. Amen.

by Daphne Kitching

Diary and Notice Board - November 2018

INDONESIAN EARTHQUAKE AND TSUNAMI APPEAL

Thank you to all who contributed to our church's response to this appeal resulting in £146 being sent to All We Can (£100 from the Emergencies Fund and £46 from the retiring collection on 30th September.

CHURCH COUNCIL

Wednesday 7th November at 7.30 pm

Our NOVEMBER COFFEE MORNING is on Saturday, 10th. We have been invited to Hazlemere Library for a craft morning. The library is not open until 10.00 am. Please be there by 10.15 so that we are ready to start at 10.30 am. The library is going to provide refreshments. If you require a lift please let Rosemary know.

BIBLE STUDY FELLOWSHIP will meet on Monday, 19th November at 3 Green Street, Hazlemere at 2.30 pm. If possible, please let Rosemary know if you are able to come along.

CHRIS OXBY is now home from hospital following her operation. Please pray for both Chris and Dennis.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES FOR YOUR DIARY

Whilst the plan covering Christmas has yet to be published, we expect to see these service details:

Sunday 16th December—Annual Carol Service (with seasonal readings)

Sunday 23rd December—Morning Worship for the 4th Sunday in Advent

Christmas Day at 10.00 am Shortened form of all-age worship led by Rev Vida Foday

Sunday 30th December—no service

Christian fair-trade business Traidcraft may stop selling goods

Traidcraft plc is in trouble. With very poor recent trading figures and despite enormous efforts by the staff and management and Fair Traders, it warns that the present model for the company may be no longer viable.

Traidcraft's charity branch, Traidcraft Exchange, will continue to support farmers and lobby government through its charitable arm, and the decision about closing the trading arm is still in a consultation period and not final.

Traidcraft plc first started in 1979, selling fair-trade coffee, sugar and chocolate as well as rugs and handmade baskets from Bangladesh. They went on to sell fair-trade clothes and wine.

Most of us remember them from church stalls and markets. Their aim was to keep a close link between producer and purchaser.

A spokesperson for Traidcraft said: 'Traidcraft plc's mission to put the principles of fair trade into commercial practice is not, in any sense, fulfilled but we appreciate that it is time to consider new approaches.'

Remembrance Sunday

Television relays the programme
As thousands attend the Albert Hall,
Music plays and prayers are uttered
Waiting for the poppy fall.

Young men and boys of tender age,
We must remember what it cost
As they fought to save our country,
Some came home and some were lost.

Wars will always be amongst us
Death and darkness, dread and fear,
But one day this all will vanish
When the Prince of Peace is here.

by Megan Carter

ONE CAN Urgent needs

**The One Can Trust say
'Please can you help us to
build up our stocks of size 3
and 6 nappies, biscuits,
long life milk and angel de-
light.'**

**All the usual items are still
needed.**

A Hymn of Remembrance

Once crimson poppies bloomed

Once crimson poppies bloomed
out in a foreign field,
each memory reminds
where brutal death was sealed.
The crimson petals flutter down,
still hatred forms a thorny crown.

For in this present time
we wait in vain for peace,
each generation cries,
each longing for release,
while war still plagues the human race
and families seek a hiding place.

How long will human life
suffer for human greed?
How long must race or pride,
wealth, nationhood or creed
be reasons justifying death
to suffocate a nation's breath?

For everyone who dies
we share a quiet grief,
the pain of loss remains,
time rarely brings relief,
and so we will remember them
and heaven sound a loud amen.

Words: Andrew Pratt (born 1948) © October 2012 Stainer & Bell Ltd,
London, England, www.stainer.co.uk.

The worse you feel, the more likely you are to believe in God.

At least that is a finding from the latest British Social Attitudes (BSA) survey, which has found that patients admitted to hospital are more likely to have religious faith than people in the general public.

It seems that more than half of us are happy to say that we have 'no religion', according to the latest BSA survey, which found that 52 per cent of us deny any religious affiliation. But this figure drops to only 15 per cent once you become a NHS patient.

Data from the Manchester University NHS Trust also shows that while 40 per cent of the population identify as Christian, this figure soars to 66 per cent once people are admitted to hospital.



Every One Remembered

The Royal British Legion, in partnership with the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, is encouraging people to individually commemorate over one million Commonwealth Service men and women who were killed during the First World War.

The losses were felt in almost every town and village in the UK and throughout, what was then, the British Empire.

You can make your commemoration at www.everyoneremembered.org. Choose to commemorate someone you know - a relative or person on your local war memorial - or commemorate someone randomly selected for you.



November
2018

Three religious truths from 'Parish Pump'

- a. Jews do not recognise Jesus as the Messiah.
- b. Protestants do not recognise the Pope as the leader of the Christian faith.
- c. Baptists and Methodists do not recognise each other in the off-license.

Editor: Canon David Winter looks forward to Advent - and the future.

The Way I See It - the future in safe hands?

The Advent calendars, complete with chocolate, are already in the shops. The season actually begins at the end of this month, four weeks when Christians are meant to think seriously about the future. It's always been a human dilemma.

We know a lot about the past – ours and the history of our race. We know quite a lot about the present. But the fact is we know nothing about what might or will happen to us even five minutes ahead. In a few seconds our life can be turned upside down. We are introduced to a stranger who eventually becomes our life partner. The doctor tells us we are pregnant – or seriously ill. We get the sack or are offered a wonderful new job. Anything from a road traffic accident to a financial windfall to a leak in the kitchen ceiling can change everything in an instant.

So, it's not surprising that we are puzzled by the future. The past can be cherished – memories are precious. The present is to be lived to the best of our ability. But what can we do about the future? Our best laid plans are provisional, at best. No wonder soothsayers, fortune tellers and the rest have always done well.

For people who believe in God there is, however, a bit of help in his Name. In Hebrew it is 'Yahweh' (often wrongly transcribed as 'Jehovah'). It means, more or less, I AM. God simply *exists*, a kind of permanent present tense. So, while we see past, present and future, He is just the Existing One. Yes, I know that sounds baffling, but it makes sense that the Creator of everything can't be part of the time, space and matter that He created.

When I was a teenager we sang a gospel song that had a line I've never forgotten: 'We don't know what the future holds, but we know who holds the future'. It's a simple idea, but quite a profound thought for Advent!

Together we're restoring prisoners' lives

Following Deacon Richard's insights into prison chaplaincy when he came to preach, is there a way lay people can help. See below:

For nearly 40 years, Prison Fellowship's volunteers have been supporting prisoners across England and Wales. Here are some of the highlights from April 2017 to March 2018.

PF's 'Letter Link' scheme allows trained volunteers to write to prisoners. It's particularly valued by prisoners who have lost touch with their friends or family. It also enables volunteers who may be unable to visit prison to still play an active part in the PF ministry. As one prisoner wrote: 'I leave here at the end of August. So we've still got time to get another letter in before then. It will indeed be a sad day when I receive my last one from you. The gratitude I feel is immense.'

PF's Sycamore Tree scheme, a victim awareness programme which helps prisoners understand the effects of crime on the victims, is also flourishing. During 2017–18, 2,271 prisoners in 44 secure units completed 127 courses. Which meant that during this past year, PF has passed the milestone and delivered the Sycamore Tree programme to over 30,000 prisoners in all. That makes PF one of the biggest contributors to building transformed lives through restorative practices.

PF's Angel Tree programme enables prisoners to send a Christmas present to their children, because PF volunteers work with prison chaplains and local churches to choose, buy, wrap and deliver the presents. For Christmas 2017, PF made it possible for 2,346 parents in 87 prisons to send 4,571 gifts to their children. And a further 556 young people in 16 different establishments were able to send a gift to their mum or carer on Mother's Day.

PF volunteers also provide support to the many chaplains who work across 68 prisons. The volunteers visit prisoners, lead or assist with Sunday services, run music groups, Bible studies and parenting courses, and also offer bereavement counselling.

'Ask Your Pharmacist' Week 2018 5th - 12th November

When did you last talk to your local pharmacist? If it has been some time, now may be the month to pop in and share with them any health concerns that you have.

'Ask Your Pharmacist' week is an awareness week aimed at reminding communities of the wide range of services that pharmacists can offer. This year the focus will be on ensuring patient safety.

Smile Lines



Weight Watchers will meet at 7pm next Wednesday in the church lounge. Please use large double door at the side entrance.



When the restaurant next to a church put out a big sign with red letters that said, 'Open Sundays', the church reciprocated with its own message: 'We are open on Sundays, too. And we have live music.'



Come in and pray today. Beat the Christmas rush!



Thought for the month

In war all humanity and equity is buried.

John Calvin



...his constant droning from the pulpit is really getting on my nerves!

REFLECTION

In a month when we remember sacrifice and death it is good to be reminded of new life. I found the following prayerful reflection just a few days after new granddaughter Bethan was born:

A new birth — a special time of rejoicing,
a safe arrival celebrated in rites and rituals,
in the varied customs of different cultures.
But the delight of parents, family, friends
is the same in every place.
Communal celebration,
the joy increased in the sharing,
a sign that we are made for one another.
And for God.

The words come from 'Word of Life' published by St Andrew Press
(Church of Scotland)

Peter Stevens



And finally...

Say that again?

A woman telephoned her bank and spoke to the accountant who looked after her holdings. 'I want to make some changes,' she said.

The accountant asked for more details. 'Are you interested in Conversion or Redemption?' he asked.

'Good heavens,' came the reply. 'I must have got the wrong number. I wanted the Bank, not the Church.'

CHURCH DIRECTORY

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Minister: Rev. Vida Foday* - 📞 562788 (Vida's day off is Friday)

Worship Leaders: Geraldine Nelson* and Chris Oxby*

Senior Church Steward/LP : Peter Stevens*— 📞815256

Church Stewards:

Toyin Akinwale— 📞 817792

Martin Hellewell— 📞 816168

Geraldine Nelson – 📞 815631

Chris Oxby – 📞 814982

Church Treasurer : Geraldine Nelson - 📞815631

Church Council Secretary: Sue Horley Sue.horley1@gmail.com

Room Bookings: Geraldine Nelson – 📞 815631

Pastoral & First Steps: Christine Stevens - 📞815256

Property : Peter Stevens— 📞815256

*** Church Leadership Team**

Church Premises

Please mention anything requiring maintenance or attention to any of the Property Stewards: Peter and Christine Stevens, Martin Hellewell or Rosemary Newman.

Good-News Desk

Items for the next Good-News Desk should reach Peter Stevens by the 14th October for the November edition, either on paper or emailed to psredkite@googlemail.com or 📞815256

Note: Some items in Good-News Desk are included by subscription to Parish Pump—the resource site for Church Newsletters.



SERVICES DIARY - SERVICES AT 10.45 a.m. unless otherwise stated.

Date	Preacher/Service Details	Vestry Steward	Welcome Stewards <small>If you are unable to do your turn,</small>
4th Nov	Linda Lovell	Martin Hellewell	Christine Stevens & Jenny Crayford
11th	Remembrance Service commemorating 100 years since the end of World War 1 led by Peter Stevens	Toyin Akinwale	Angela Davis & Chris Oxby
18th	Rev Vida Foday—Holy Communion	Martin Hellewell	Christine Stevens
25th	Neil Manthorpe	Geraldine Nelson	Margaret Hallam & Rosemary Newman

Please pray for....

All those affected in any way by the Indonesian earthquake and tsunami, for the relief agencies and all those involved including the Methodist Church's All We Can appeal.