

ASPIRE



is the defining
characteristic

Of a Disciple of

CHRIST

February 2020

Christ Church Haydock URC

MINISTER

Reverend Malcolm Fife

ELDERS

Neil Fairhurst—Church Secretary (01744 635163)

Ray Clare—Treasurer (01942 724809)

Eric Grayson

David Faulkner

Brian Taylor

Mike Nelson

Joanna Cunningham

Debbie Bold

YOUTH PASTOR

Sandra Morris

01257 255675

YOUTH ELDER

Jo Nelson

CHURCH SERVICE TIMES

Sunday morning 10:45 a.m.—Family worship

1st Sunday evening of the month 6:00 p.m.—Communion

MAGAZINE EDITORS

Brian Taylor Mike Nelson Jo Nelson

Please feel free to email anything you would like published in
the magazine at the following address:

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www.christchurchurchaydock.co.uk

A word from the Editors

February is often referred to as the month of **LOVE**, given that it includes Saint Valentine's Day or the Feast of Saint Valentine, a celebration of romance and romantic love.

Therefore the theme of our magazine this month is love, most importantly God's unconditional love for us. There is an interesting article explaining the fact that God loves us because of who He is and not because of who we are. Love is such a special feeling and a unique emotion and we can only experience this because God first loved us. Praise the Lord!

From the Ministers Vestry this month, Malcolm explores the meaning of the word 'love' and discusses the different ways in which we can love. He states that God **IS** love and it is so important that we realise God's love for us in our lives if we want to live the fulfilled, complete lives that God has perfectly planned for us.

We are all pleased that our Youth Pastor, Sandra, is back doing the Lord's work after being quite ill over the Christmas period. Within her article this month she thanks us all for our prayers for healing and all of the kind and encouraging messages, call and cards she received whilst she was ill.

Sandra's article also advertises the Holocaust Art Exhibition for the 75th Anniversary of the Holocaust Liberation which she is organising on 25th January. This includes a free café at Christ Church on 25th January from 10am to 3pm and we hope you can all come along and support the event. It will be another great opportunity to share friendship and fellowship with each other as we enjoy a nice hot drink and delicious treats.

Finally, as we are all aware, social media is a great resource for promoting God's work and sharing the love of Jesus within our community and beyond. Therefore, we now have an official Christ Church Facebook page. If you would like to post anything to the page, please pass your request to Becky Taylor who is the administrator or our church Facebook page.

We hope you enjoy the '**LOVE**' edition of our magazine and we pray that you will feel the love of God and share the love of God with others this month and always.

God bless,

Brian, Mike and Jo

NOTICES

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Here are the upcoming dates for the month:

| | |
|------------------|-----------------------|
| Tuesday 4th Feb | David Faulkner |
| Tuesday 11th Feb | AGM |
| Tuesday 18th Feb | Meal at The Owl's |
| Tuesday 25th Feb | Bill and Jane Burgess |

SWEATY CHURCH and MESSY CHURCH

The next Messy Church is on Saturday **29th January**. Please pray for a special blessing over this venture and that the Lord will continue to bring along new families.



THANK YOU

Dear Friends,

I would like to thank you all for your gifts and cards, and especially your prayers, that I have received during the time I broke my arm.

We received offers of help from baking to washing, shopping to ironing, and anything else we needed help with.

I thank God that we have such a caring, loving fellowship in our church.

God bless you all,

Margaret and David

FLOWER MINISTRY

Due to the sad passing of Jean, our elder who was a great servant with the flower ministry, we are now looking for anyone who wishes to take on this important role within the church. If you feel you would like to get involved in this ministry, please see Neil Fairhurst or any of our church elders.

Thank you to Sandra who has been carrying out the flower ministry since Jean's passing.

High Street Vouchers

A big thank you to everyone who purchased High Street vouchers last year. A total of £300 has been raised and donated to the building fund. If anyone would like a form for 2020 vouchers, please see Sue.

THANK YOU

The church now has an official Facebook page which can be used to advertise upcoming events, special occasions and to make announcements. Included in these can be pictures and promotional materials (posters, leaflets etc). The posts on there reach hundreds, and sometimes even thousands of people, so it is a great resource for promoting the work that we do! If anyone would like anything put on the church's Facebook page, just let Becky know on 07788 279286.

If you would like to see the church's Facebook page, just go to the Facebook website and search, 'Christ Church Haydock URC'.

If you're looking for a knight
in shining armor, I just so
happen to be wearing the
armor of God.



From the Ministers Vestry

February is a time when we celebrate St Valentines Day and our thoughts move to all things love related.

A young man at one of the churches in my previous pastorate asked my advice on whether he should ask his then girlfriend to marry him and how should he do it, I gave him the usual line to settle the matter. "If you love her, marry her." Of course, he came back with that oft asked question, "What is love?" It's a good question, and of course, he had me struggling for an answer. Mind you, there is the view that men can't really answer the question, for only women have the sensitivity to delve the mystery of this emotion. The is a bit sexist I must say. It is even argued that the emotion cannot really be discussed, but only revealed in art, poetry or the like.

Part of the problem we have is that the word "love" is used to describe a number of emotions. For instance, we use the word "love" to translate a number of different Greek words in the New Testament. So, even the ancient Greeks were better equipped to describe the "love" emotions than we are today. For us, the word "love" is used to describe different emotions and so the context must determine its meaning. Consider some of the meanings we give to this wonderful word.

There is friendship love. We will sometimes say "I love my best friend." Here we are using the word to express an emotion of mutual identity with another person. This is a person we have a common mind with, we feel comfortable with them, able to debate with, share with in safety.

There is family love. We will sometimes say "I love my mother." Here we are using the word to express a feeling of

commonality and responsibility. We may actually say, "I don't like my father, but I love him." There may be no common mind attracting us, but we are attracted by our common blood and by a sense of obligation to the one who gave us life.

There is sexual love. We will sometimes use the word "love" to describe sexual attraction. Teenage love-affairs and pop music constantly use the word "love" to mean passion. So here the word is used to describe the deep desire for union with another, possessing and being possessed physically.

Then there is affectionate love. We will sometimes use the word "love" to describe the deep and abiding mutual affection and bonding sensitivity that exists between partners in marriage, between "lovers".

Finally, there is Christ-like love. We will sometimes use the word in the sense of "brotherly love." This is the love between those who have discovered the love of God toward humanity in Jesus, a love that has a touch of the divine about it. As the Bible puts it, "*God is love.*"

I pray that this year you can realise God's love in your life.



In Christ

Malcolm

Dear Friends,

It now seems a long time since Christmas and New Year and I feel this year is going so fast already (maybe it's just my age!) I would like to thank people for their prayers, cards, texts and calls whilst I was ill. I really did value them.

I would also like to apologise to you for letting people down. I would also like to sincerely thank everyone who ensured Legh Vale visits and Haydock High's Carol Service went ahead. Also, a big thank you to Marina and her team for creating the experience once again. I know the schools really appreciated it.

I will tell you more next month about the Holocaust Art Exhibition which we are hosting from 25th January. This has involved pupils from Haydock High, Legh Vale, Grange Valley and Ashurst schools and the art ideas have been created by Ann (Art teacher). Haydock High and Legh Vale will be visiting the exhibition.

Talks have already started to plan the Easter trips!

The ExploRE group in Haydock High is going well. We get up to 15 young people each week and we have some amazing conversations as they like to ask challenging questions!!

There's so much negativity around these days, so many people hurting and feeling lost especially our young people.

Jesus said to his disciples "*Peace I give you....*". If only people could turn to Him to find that peace and acceptance that they crave! This is one of the reasons I'm passionate about the Outreach work we do, because as it says in Romans 10 "*...if we don't tell them who will?...*"

People are not going to hear about God's love, peace and acceptance in their normal day to day lives, especially on social media. We are privileged, God gives us the opportunities, and all He asks from us is to be faithful.

With blessings

Sandra (Youth Pastor)

IN LOVING MEMORY

Jean's life was remembered and celebrated this week at her funeral. Her family and friends are still very much in our prayers. This was a post that was shared on Facebook where many people paid their respects. Here are just a few of them.



Wendy Conboy

Lovely lady so sorry that I can't make it but her family and friends will be in my prayers xx ❤️

1 d [Like](#) [Reply](#)



Samantha Taylor

Jean was such a lovely lady, always made us welcome when we visited Christ Church. Love and prayers to her family xx

23 h [Like](#) [Reply](#)



Katie Louise

I had no idea! How sad what a special lady she was! Xx

23 h [Like](#) [Reply](#)



Charlene Harrison

Awe Lisa and family so sorry to hear about Jean. She is a big part of Blackbrook and always will be x

22 h [Like](#) [Reply](#)



Roy Monks

Bless you Jean always encouraging when I came to speak. Will be missed by many especially at church. In my thoughts and prayers this Friday

22 h [Like](#) [Reply](#)



Love is one powerful 4 letter word!



1 John 4:7-10

“My beloved friends, let us continue to love each other since love comes from God. Everyone who loves is born of God and experiences a relationship with God. The person who refuses to love doesn’t know the first thing about God, because God is love, —so you can’t know him if you don’t love. This is how God showed his love for us: God sent his only Son into the world so we might live through him. This is the kind of love we are talking about— not that we once upon a time loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as a sacrifice to clear away our sins and the damage they’ve done to our relationship with God.”

Unconditional Love, the love that only comes from God and the love God offers, is the only thing that can truly fill the void in our lives. The “*I just know and feel like there’s something missing in my life*” void that everyone has, but not everyone is willing to admit! While you might find temporary fulfilment of love through people and material things, there is no true fulfilment in life without the love of God. You can't earn it, buy it, or win it. The good news is, GOD LOVES YOU irrespective of who you are and what you have done.

If He loved us because of who we are, would He even want to love us?

How many times have you heard people say “well he's just not the man or woman that I fell in love with and married”? Chances are, he or she was always that person, they just didn't let you see who they really were at the start of the relationship. You see, God knows the real you before the relationship ever starts and He loves and accepts you just the way you are and for who you are.

His Love isn't based on our actions or deeds! Thank God that He loves us because of who He is and not because of who we are!



We can find sweet rest in the very fact that His Love for us is based on His Love alone and has nothing to do with us! His love for us is what makes His grace towards us possible.

God loved us, long before we ever loved Him. He loved us before we were born and nothing can ever change His mind about Loving us. He is the only constant we can depend on. He never changes! Amen!

Romans 8:38-39

I'm absolutely convinced that nothing—nothing living or dead, angelic or demonic, today or tomorrow, high or low, thinkable or unthinkable—absolutely nothing can get between us and God's love.

Sunday 2nd February 2020

The Victory is Yours



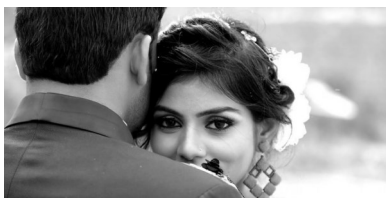
Whenever you watch a sporting event and see the champion crowned, it is a magical moment. That victory is the fulfilment of years of hard work and sacrifice. They are elated beyond comprehension in realising their goals. Strangely, Christians have no idea that they are victorious in Jesus Christ. They walk around with their heads hanging, worrying about every little thing. Jesus has overcome the world, and the victory is yours.

1 John 4:4

Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.

Sunday 9th February 2020

Perfect Love Drives Out Fear



When a man and woman say their vows to one another, there shouldn't be any thought of fear in the back of their heads. There should be complete trust and vulnerability that only grows during their marriage. Sadly, that is not the case, and many wives live in fear of their husband's temper. Perfect love drives out fear. The only one who can love perfectly is Jesus Christ. When we put our trust in Him, we are filled with His love, and that has the power to cast out any fear we have.

1 John 4:18

“There is no fear in love; instead, perfect love drives out fear, because fear involves punishment. So the one who fears is not complete in love.”

Sunday 16th February 2020

Let God Protect You



I am fiercely protective of my children. If someone tries to hurt them, I don't take it lightly. My kids know that I have their back, and that gives them a sense of peace. I won't always be able to be there for them. Once they are adults, they will have to rely upon the Lord to be their shield. We don't have to live in fear of what the enemy can do. Let God protect you.

Jeremiah 20:11

“But the Lord is with me like a violent warrior. Therefore, my persecutors will stumble and not prevail. Since they have not succeeded, they will be utterly shamed, an everlasting humiliation that will never be forgotten.”

Sunday 23rd February 2020

If You Seek the Lord, He Will Be Found



As our children get older, their attitudes change. What they enjoyed as toddlers aren't the same thing they enjoy as teenagers, except for one thing. They still love to play hide and seek. It's more challenging now, we play at night and turn off all the lights. The shrieks of laughter that fill the house as someone is getting found are priceless. Did you know that if you Seek the Lord, He will be found?

1 Chronicles 28:9

As for you, Solomon my son, know the God of your father, and serve Him wholeheartedly and with a willing mind, for the Lord searches every heart and understands the intention of every thought. If you seek Him, He will be found by you, but if you abandon Him, He will reject you forever.”

FINANCIAL REPORT— NOVEMBER & DECEMBER 2019

BUILDING ACCOUNT

Income

| | |
|----------------------------------|------------------|
| Building Fund box | £80.00 |
| Anonymous Donation | £800.00 |
| Donation from Mothers & Toddlers | £250.00 |
| Expenditure | NIL |
| Balance as of 31/12/19 | £19648.28 |

GENERAL ACCOUNT

Income

| | |
|---|------------------|
| Offertories | £3862.70 |
| Barnardo's envelopes | £330.00 |
| Christmas Fayre | £4251.38 |
| Anonymous donation | £300.00 |
| Cross Lane contribution to Minister's & Manse expenses (May—Nov19) | £1484.86 |
| Huyton contribution to Minister's & Manse expenses (Sep—Nov19) | £303.99 |
| Aspire Donations | £40.00 |
| Youth Pastor envelopes | £235.00 |
| Donation from Mothers & Toddlers for Youth Pastor work | £250.00 |
| Expenditure | |
| Organ tuning | £106.00 |
| PAT testing | £116.64 |
| New pressure relief valve associated with Sunday School boiler | £323.36 |
| 5 year subscription for updating SongPro | £195.00 |
| Donation to Barnardo's | £330.00 |
| Rest Routine Items | |
| Overall Income in November & December 2019 | £11224.27 |
| Overall Expenditure in October 2019 | £10660.12 |
| Balance as at 31/12/19 | £12169.96 |

(Includes £2479.12 for Youth Pastor & Youth Mission Work)

COMMUNITY CENTRE ACCOUNT

Income

| | |
|--|-----------------|
| Room Hire | £552.00 |
| Donations for heating and lighting: | |
| Girl's Brigade | £50.00 |
| Junior Fellowship | £50.00 |
| Mother & Toddlers | £250.00 |
| Expenditure | |
| Sanitary Hygiene (2 months) & Waste Transfer | £157.00 |
| Stamps | £7.32 |
| Balance as at 31/12/19 | £5432.85 |

Ray Clare & Wendy Conboy

WEEKLY MEETINGS

TUESDAY

9:15 a.m. Mothers and Toddlers (pre-school age)

2:00 p.m. Women's Fellowship

6:30 p.m. Junior Youth Club (ages 5-11)

WEDNESDAY

10:00 a.m. Prayer Shawl Group

2:00 p.m. Young at Heart

6:30 p.m. Girl's Brigade (ages 5-18)

THURSDAY

9:15 a.m. Mothers and Toddlers (pre-school age)

FRIDAY

7:30 p.m. Sweaty Church once a month (ages 11-16)

SUNDAY

10:45 a.m. Family worship and Sunday Club (ages 3-16)

6:00 p.m. Holy Communion Service (1st Sunday of every month)

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

FEBRUARY

Sat 29th 3—5:00p.m. Messy Church

MARCH

Sat 14th 10:00 a.m. Coffee Morning

Sat 28th 3—5:00p.m. Messy Church—Easter themed

FEBRUARY’S SERVICES & ROTAS

Sun 2nd 10:45 a.m. Rev. Malcolm Fife

Sun 2nd 6:00 p.m. David Faulkner (Communion)

Sun 9th 10:45 a.m. David Faulkner

Sun 16th 10:45 a.m. Rev. Malcolm Fife

Sun 23rd 10:45 a.m. Steven Mitchell

Vestry

Joanna Cunningham

Communion

Sue Pimblett
Doreen Hyde

Porch

Sue Pimblett
Edna Eden