

ASPIRE



September 2020

Christ Church Haydock URC

www.christchurchhaydock.co.uk

A word from the Editors

At the time of pulling together this magazine, the doors of Christ Church, Haydock remain firmly closed however our Church is well and truly open!

Over the last few weeks and months, we have worked together, as a church, to publish church services on our website and Facebook page. We have provided help, support, food and comfort to each other during the lock-down. We have prayed for each other continuously and we now look forward to returning to our church building again.

However, we still need to ensure that we consider the health and well-being of our congregation and adhere to the current guidelines put in place by the Government in relation to the re-opening of our church. Therefore, we ask for your continued prayers of wisdom and guidance as the Eldership Team make decision on when we can re-open our church building.

In the meantime, let's continue to work together, support each other and trust in God until we can meet together face to face once again.

A weekly church service, including a message from Malcolm, will continue to be published each week on the Christ Church Facebook page and website. For those of you without internet access, Neil and Brian will continue to deliver DVDs or hard copies of Malcolm's message.

As we discuss returning to church this month, Malcolm has written a very relevant article this month on Jesus' management style. There are certainly some very valid lessons included which we can all learn and relate to.

Included this month, given the current times of uncertainty, there is an article, written by Billy Graham, on Romans 8 v 28 – "All things happen for the good of those who love the Lord".

There is also lots of information about our plans for a 'Virtual' Christmas Fair this year.

God bless, take care and stay safe.

Brian, Mike and Jo xxx

NOTICES

FLOWER MINISTRY

These were the people who received flowers from the church over the last few months.

August: Baptism family of Jacob Henry David Jones

PRAYER SHAWLS

These were the people who received prayer shawls from the church over the last few months.

July: Sam (Ordinand), Mal (Youth Worker), Jean Bridge

August: Irene Swift, Maggie Greenhalsh, David and Doreen McDonald, Irene Potts, Elsie Burrows

CLOTHING COLLECTION

If you have any old or unwanted clothes that you no longer use, please consider donating them to the church's clothing collection. All money raised will go towards Church funds. If you would like any picking up, please call Neil Fairhurst on 01744 635163.

Watch our Church Services

For those of you who may not know, although our church building is not open, church still is! Malcolm and other members of the church have been working hard on putting together digital services each week. These include God's Word, worship songs, sermons, kids slots etc. Each of these are filmed separately and put together into a mini movie which can be viewed on either our Facebook page or our church website.

Facebook: Christ Church Haydock URC

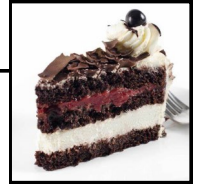
or

www.christchurchhaydock.co.uk

For those of you who don't use the internet, the service is also available on dvd which will be delivered to your own front door. If you would like one of these dvds, please contact Brian on 01744 608826 or 07840 173990.

THE VITUAL CHRISTMAS FAYRE

Due to the current COVID situation and with Church not being open yet, it is looking very unlikely that the annual Christmas Fayre will not go ahead. Instead, some church members are aiming to raise money for church funds in ways they usually would, however, the goods will be delivered to your door! So, if you're missing your sweet fixes, garden delights or other treats from our coffee mornings and would-be Christmas Fayre, they're now available for home delivery! See what's available below.



CAKES

Feast your eyes (and your belly) on these delicious treats ...

Victoria Sponge slices	Millionaire's shortbread
Ginger cake slices	Flapjacks
Marmalade	Swiss rolls
Small cake selections	Fruit loaf (sliced or whole)
Apple pies	Scones (plain or fruit)
Lemon cake slices	Chocolate cake slices
German apple cake slices	Mince Pies

Please ring either Sandra Fairhurst (01744 635163) or Margaret Leivesley (01744 734568) to order what you require. Please make your orders between 1st and 10th October. They will then be delivered on 16th October.

GRAVE POTS

Grave Pots will be being made on 30th November and being delivered the following weeks. If you are interested, please order before 23rd October by ringing Doreen (01744 736108).

CHRISTIAN CHRISTMAS CARDS

Handmade Christian Christmas cards will be available to buy. They are available in packs of 8, size 5x7", assorted fronts but the same verse inside and will cost £5.00 per pack. Please order before October 31st by calling Lesley (01744 451890 or 07814 186621). They will be delivered out in the beginning of December.



WINTER FLOWER BASKETS

Winter flowering baskets with a selection of flowers and bulbs will be available for a cost of £10.00. Please contact Neil (01744 635163) to order. He will collect your basket and redeliver them once they are complete.

RAFFLE

There will be a Christmas raffle available. All donations of sweets, chocolates, food will be greatly received. Please ring Neil / Sandra (01744 635163) to arrange collection by 9th October. The raffle will be drawn between the 1st and 3rd December. Please feel free to buy or sell raffle tickets.

CHOCOLATE AND SWEETS

Girls Brigade will be a running virtual chocolate and sweet shop. If you would like anything in particular, please contact Becky (07979 947719) to discuss orders. Please place your orders before 15th November and deliveries will be made at the beginning of December. Becky will create a more specific stock list for next month's magazine.

CHRIST CHURCH'S VERSION OF THE BODY SHOP

A range of toiletries and beauty gift sets will be available to order and buy. Small gift hampers can be made up with a selection of different products customised to your requirements. Please ring Sue (01744 608826) for orders before 15th November. Deliveries will be made at the end of November.



A VISIT FROM SANTA

Who knows whether Santa will be able to open his Grottos this year! Why not request a personalised visit from Santa to your very own front door? He will call on an evening time to give your child a pre-Christmas day gift and to talk to your child about the excitement of Christmas. Please call Becky (07979 947719) to arrange a date and time.

From The Minister's Vestry

Before my time in Ministry I had a number of employments including much of my time in the RAF when I was required to be in management of others.

I have to say, when it comes to management I'm no expert. Many years ago I was pushing ahead with a project in my then church and the manager of a large department store, a lovely elderly gentleman, took me aside and gave me my first lesson on managing people: get the troops inside before you rush off into battle. Having watched the UK wrestle with Brexit, it was obvious that the prime minister, Boris Johnson, had never learnt this lesson.

One management method I detest is what I call management by manipulation - "How to win friends and influence (manipulate) people in business." There are two ways of getting people to do what we want by manipulation. There is negative manipulation which employs force, mental abuse, psychological abuse, guilt..... This is the school playground game - you be my friend or I'll pinch you. Then there is positive manipulation which employs kindness for the sake of reward. The game is - you be my friend and I'll give you a lolly.

Management is the business of organising human resources toward the attainment of a particular objective. In fact, most things in life require the involvement of more than one person and so if we are to do it well, management techniques will need to be employed. Little is achieved by ourselves; much by the many. How do we then manage the many to achieve the much?

The standard management technique is fatherly manipulation, usually in the form of emotional blackmail. The method requires making others feel insecure and vulnerable and therefore open to our dictates. I hesitate to give this quotation, but it is just so true. Charles Colson in his book "All the Presidents Men", speaks of a sign on his office wall, "If you've got them by the balls, their hearts and minds will follow." Pure manipulation!

One tried and true method of management does commend itself, namely, Management by Objectives. It is old school, but it does work. Once a group of people have decided on their objectives, it is easy for them to set short-term goals aimed at the objectives and then step out as individuals to achieve those goals without manipulation. It was certainly the way Jesus worked with his disciples. Most of the time he was with them, he would

work at expounding the truth - a truth that would set them free. When Jesus left his disciples, they were a group of empowered individuals with focused objectives. Thus, the gospel moved to the ends of the earth. So here is at least one method of management worth considering.

In the URC we have a system of mutual management which I believe is one of our greatest strengths. Nothing happens unless it is authorised by the church in a meeting. This I believe is the way that Jesus worked in and through his disciples and works with us today. In Christ, Malcolm

1 Corinthians 13 ... for a pandemic

We can have all the best technology, fantastic preachers and music that doesn't lag or jump but if we don't love we're nothing but electronic feedback or an un-muted attempt at singing on zoom. We can talk all the good sense in the world, know all the risks and have faith enough that God will stop this virus in its tracks and he does, but if we don't love, we've got nothing. We can spend our days shopping for others, and our nights on the phone to the lonely and isolated until we're run ragged and exhausted. But if we don't love, we've got nowhere.

Love waits patiently 2m away in the supermarket, love is kind to those who feel forgotten, it does not envy the furloughed or take pride in its status as a 'key worker', it doesn't blame others for the virus's spread or seek to make money from other people's misfortune. It doesn't get angry at its rights being taken away nor does it keep records of its neighbours breaking lock-down. Love does not delight in our leader's failings but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

Love never fails. This virus will mutate or die. Church will change, as it has before and will do again. Scientific knowledge will move on leaving what we have now in the dust. For now we may only see in part but that doesn't mean we have a partial gospel and one day we shall see the full picture. Before this pandemic we knew nothing of R-rates, social distancing and lock-down, now we know better and have put our past understandings behind us. For now we see but through a screen darkly, then we will see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known. And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.

Do All Things Work Together for Good?

“Consider it pure joy, ... whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance.” —James 1:2-3

And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. —Romans 8:28

All things are not good. It would be mockery to say that they are. The death of a child is not good. Cancer is not good, drug addiction is not good, war is not good, blasphemy is not good.

But the Bible says, “We know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.”

In the chemistry of the cross, God takes things that, in and of themselves, are bad, and He puts them together, much as a chemist might take chemicals that, in and of themselves, may be deleterious and mixes them to make a medicine that brings healing.

Many of us have some salt with our meals. Table salt is made up of both sodium and chloride. By itself, sodium is a deadly poison, and so is chloride. Put them together, and you have table salt.

Salt flavours food, and a certain amount of salt is necessary for health and life. We cannot live without some salt in our systems.

God can take things that are bad and put them in the crucible of His wisdom and love. He works all things together for good, and He gives us the glorious, wonderful promise that He will do so.

We know that we have victory over sin and over Satan, but this verse in Romans teaches us that we also have victory over our circumstances. It says that all things work together for good.

I want to point out five things about this promise in Romans 8:28 so that we can see how God works together to help us rise above our circumstances:

1. Certainty

Sometimes it may look as if God's plan ebbs and flows, but in God's timing His plan will be high tide. We can be certain if we live by His promises.

2. Completeness

The second thing is the completeness of the promise: "We know that all things work together for good." That's a big promise, but it's there, and it's absolutely certain.

3. Cause

God is not dead. He is alive and well. He's not sick. He's not worn out. He's not even old. It is God who made this promise. He is the cause of it.

4. Condition

The fourth thing is the condition of the promise. It's not axiomatic, it's not automatic. The promise has a condition. What is the condition? "We know that all things work together for good to them that love God." If you don't love God, you can't claim this promise. The condition is that we must be lovers of God. Haters of God cannot claim this promise.

5. Consequences

That's the key. What is the good that all things are working together for? To make us like Jesus. To be conformed to the image of His Son. There is no higher good than to be like the Lord Jesus Christ.

The good is not to make us necessarily healthy or happy but to make us holy, to make us like Jesus. If the goal of our lives is not to be like Jesus, that goal is too small. Our goal must be to be conformed to the image of God's Son.

We may go through many dangers, toils and snares, but one day we will be like the Lord Jesus Christ. Whatever the circumstances that come to us, we can rely on God's promise in Romans 8:28. No matter our circumstances, no one can take this verse out of the Bible...and may Satan never take it out of your heart.

Sunday 6th September 2020

Eye of the Needle



Legend has it that there was a small gate in the wall that surrounded Jerusalem. When they closed the main gate at sunset this small gate, called the “eye of the needle” was the only way you could get in and out of the city. It was only big enough for a human to walk through. If you had a camel and needed to get inside, the camel would have to get on its knees and crawl. That wasn’t an easy task, and Jesus uses it as an example to make His point.

Mark 10:25

“It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God.”

Sunday 13th September 2020

Your Greatest Gain



Yesterday the stock market hit a new high, property values reached all-time levels, and consumer confidence is on the rebound. The gurus would have you believe that the rebound is happening, and prosperity is right around the corner. Before you buy into what they are selling, ask yourself one question, “Is this all there is?” Your greatest gain shouldn’t be in your portfolio or bank account but in your spirit. Your greatest gain comes with the combination of godliness and contentment.

1 Timothy 6:6

“But godliness actually is a means of great gain when accompanied by contentment.”

Sunday 20th September 2020

Learning to Forgive



Have you ever noticed how selfish toddlers can be? Their favourite word is “mine!”

They don’t like sharing, and if someone takes their toy, they will often hurt the person. Teaching them to ask for forgiveness can be straight-up comedy. Nothing in their body wants to cooperate. Learning to forgive others when they have done something wrong is even more difficult.

Mark 11:25

“Whenever you stand praying, forgive, if you have anything against anyone, so that your Father who is in heaven will also forgive you your transgressions.”

Sunday 27th September 2020

Follow the Pattern



Were you very good at drawing within the lines? I wasn’t. It’s not that I was trying to be a rebel; I just had too heavy of a hand on my crayon. I know it is hip today to draw outside the lines because it supposedly expresses creativity. That can get us into trouble in other areas. When we stray outside the lines of doctrine, it gets us in trouble. Paul tells Timothy to follow the pattern.

2 Tim 1:13-14

“Follow the pattern of the sound words that you have heard from me, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. By the Holy Spirit who dwells within us, guard the good deposit entrusted to you.”

FINANCIAL REPORT— JULY 2020

BUILDING ACCOUNT

Income

Building fund boxes £10.00

Expenditure Nil

Balance as of 31/07/20 **£9592.88**

GENERAL ACCOUNT

Income

Offertories £1601.50

Donation to Church In Loving Remembrance of Wendy Conboy £10.00

Donation to Church In Loving Remembrance of Gillian Hughes £100.00
from work colleagues

Other donations £25.00

Government Grant for caretaker work (July) £321.89

Government Grant for youth pastor work (July) £782.46

Youth Pastor Envelopes £105.00

Expenditure

Donation to Christ Church Flower ministry £100.00

Cleaning Items £11.72

Overall Income in July 2020 **£2947.74**

Overall Expenditure in July 2020 **£4216.40**

Balance as at 31/07/20 **£23165.13**

(Includes £2944.34 for Youth Pastor & Youth Mission Work)

Ray Clare