

IN *touch*

MAY
2018

the monthly newsletter for Rushden High Street Independent Wesleyan Church

I can see clearly now...

...THOUGHT
FOR THE
MONTH

I've fairly recently discovered something which I hadn't realised previously that I couldn't do without! I've worn glasses now for around 30 years, maybe more. But it's not long since I started using cleaning wipes. Before that I'd kept them 'clean' by either wiping them with a tissue or one of the cloths usually supplied with a new pair. But then someone gave me some wipes and it opened my eyes to a whole new world.

Before that I'd tried to keep my lenses clean but have to say that there were times when I saw how dirty they were and wondered how I'd managed. Breathing on them and a rub with a cloth did a job, but never really got them totally clean. But the wipes... how did I manage without them? If your glasses begin to get dirty and you get used to them that way, you don't see clearly and cannot take in all the detail.

How that can be true of our spiritual vision too. Psalm 119 is well-known for being the longest Psalm (176 verses), virtually all of it speaking about God's Word. Verse 18 says this: 'Open my eyes, so that I may see the wonderful truths in your law' (Good News Bible). We need to ensure that we are keeping our spiritual 'glasses' clean so that we can see clearly the wonderful things that are in the Word of God, which for us is the whole of the Bible. It means I think ensuring that when we come to read the Bible, we make sure that we are firstly remembering what it is – the very Word of God given to us. It is not just words on a page but God speaking. Secondly, to read with clear sight means that we are ready to make any changes in our lives which we know are needed after reading and meditating on the Word. Thirdly, we need to see that this prayer asks God that He will open our eyes – but when He does we need to ensure that there's nothing which will blur what He wants to say to us.

Let's make sure our vision is clear when we come to His Word, that we might see, with the Psalm-writer 'wonderful truths in your law'.

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the word for today

'grow in grace'

2 Peter 3:18 KJV

are you becoming more gracious?

Every day you live you'll be presented with opportunities to 'grow in grace'. And you must always be open and receptive to them. A grandmother celebrating her fiftieth wedding anniversary shared the secret of her long and happy relationship. 'On my wedding day I decided to make a list of ten of my husband's faults, which for the sake of my marriage I would overlook. I never did get around to listing any. Each time he did something I didn't like, I'd say to myself, "Lucky for him that's one of the ten!" Now there's a very wise lady.

Physical intimacy may bring us together, but growing in grace will keep us together. So when someone upsets you, instead of responding with angry words or angry silence, remind yourself that God is giving you another opportunity to 'grow in grace'. And if you don't do too well with some of the opportunities He sends, don't worry. He will keep sending more until you get it right! Resentment is one of the most expensive luxuries you can indulge in. A deep-seated grudge eats away at your peace of mind like a deadly cancer destroying a vital organ. In fact, there are few things as sad as a person who has harboured a grudge for years.

Without forgiveness, life becomes an endless cycle of resentment and retaliation. One of the secrets to a long and fruitful life is to forgive everybody, everything, every night before you go to bed. It's the key to having personal peace. So, start getting serious about the Bible admonition: 'Grow in grace.'

Source:

The Word for Today
United Christian
Broadcasters,
Westport Road,
Stoke-on-Trent, ST6 4JF

Free issues of the daily
devotional are available for
the UK & Republic of Ireland.



church offerings

SUNDAY 25th	MARCH	£447.00
SUNDAY 1st	APRIL	£296.00
SUNDAY 8th	APRIL	£270.86
SUNDAY 15th	APRIL	£320.10
SUNDAY 22nd	APRIL	£302.00

In addition, an average of over £1200 is paid direct into the bank each month.

The Easter Thank-Offering stands at £1836



a message from Margaret O'Dell

I want to thank everyone for all the love and concern you have given and are giving me at this time. I've started getting out of bed on a hoist for a few steps.

I'm now in Barnwell C Ward at Kettering General Hospital. They are all very kind here, I can't tell you how I am being blessed sharing with the nurses and the little things they are saying – they keep coming back. I don't want any glory for anything, but to give it all to the Lord, praying that they will be blessed of Him.

Love and God bless you all, hope to see you soon.

Margaret



the minister's school assemblies this month (for your prayers please)

MONDAY 30th April – Whitefriars Junior School (Juniors)

WEDNESDAY 2nd May – Tennyson Road Infant School

WEDNESDAY 9th May – Denfield Park Primary School

WEDNESDAY 9th May – South End Infant School (Anne to lead)

WEDNESDAY 16th May – Risdene Academy (Newton Road)

WEDNESDAY 23rd May – Denfield Park Primary School



Following the success of the last Informal Service on Easter Day, the Church Leaders decided that we should hold more with this format.

Informal Pentecost Service
– **SUNDAY May 20th**

The first one will be on Sunday 20th May which is Pentecost Sunday. There will be light refreshments and tea / coffee served from 10.00am with the service beginning at 10.45am.

Please try to be there and invite your family and friends.



Life without God is like an unsharpened pencil. It has no point. *Anon*

Give God what's right - not what's left. *Anon*

Bibles that are falling apart are usually owned by people who aren't. *Anon*

Though the Lord is out of sight, we are not out of His. *M Henry*



may 2018

weekday diary dates

TUES	1st	10.00am	Prayer Meeting – 15 Fern Road
		2.00pm	Short Mat Bowls
WEDS	2nd	9.15am	Jellybabes Toddler Group
		7.30pm	Home Group – 7 Lodge Road
THURS	3rd	6.00pm	Allsorts Children's Club
		7.30pm	Y-Not Youth Club
SAT	5th	10.00am	Coffee Morning

TUES	8th	10.00am	Prayer Meeting – 50 Boundary Avenue
		2.00pm	Short Mat Bowls
WEDS	9th	9.15am	Jellybabes Toddler Group
		7.30pm	Home Group – 7 Lodge Road
THURS	10th	2.00pm	Women's Auxiliary – Colin Hill
		6.00pm	Allsorts Children's Club
		7.30pm	Y-Not Youth Club
FRI	11th	6.00pm	Family Cinema Night – Paddington 2
SAT	12th	10.00am	Coffee Morning

TUES	15th	10.00am	Prayer Meeting – 15 Fern Road
		2.00pm	Short Mat Bowls
		7.00pm	Officers & Trustees Meeting in the vestry
WEDS	16th	9.15am	Jellybabes Toddler Group
		7.30pm	Home Group – 7 Lodge Road
THURS	17th	6.00pm	Allsorts Children's Club
		7.30pm	Y-Not Youth Club
SAT	19th	10.00am	Coffee Morning

TUES	22nd	10.00am	Prayer Meeting – 50 Boundary Avenue
		2.00pm	Short Mat Bowls
WEDS	23rd	9.15am	Jellybabes Toddler Group
		7.30pm	Home Group – 7 Lodge Road
THURS	24th	2.00pm	Women's Auxiliary – Rosemary Barrett
SAT	26th	10.00am	Coffee Morning

TUES	29th	10.00am	Prayer Meeting – 15 Fern Road
		2.00pm	Short Mat Bowls
WEDS	30th	7.30pm	Home Group – 7 Lodge Road



may 2018

sundays at high street

SUNDAY **6th** 10.45am Rev. Phil Hearson
(incl. Communion)
6.00pm Home Meeting

SUNDAY **13th** 10.45am Rev. Phil Hearson
4.00pm **2nd Sunday!**

SUNDAY **20th** 10.45am **Informal Pentecost Service**
- Rev. Phil Hearson
6.00pm **Council of Churches**
Pentecost Service
at St. Mary's, Rushden

SUNDAY **27th** 10.45am Mr. Roger Copperwheat
6.00pm Service at Wymington
- Rev. Ian Fall

a reminder...

Should you ever find it difficult to join us for any service you wish to attend please don't hesitate to speak to either the minister or a church leader about arranging a lift, we are always happy to sort something out - **don't miss out!**



a special reading for a special day

– Acts 2:42-47
(The Message).

On the 20th of May we will be celebrating Pentecost. Here's the account of what the early church looked like on that day and just after...

That day about three thousand took him at his word, were baptized and were signed up. They committed themselves to the teaching of the apostles, the life together, the common meal, and the prayers.

Everyone around was in awe—all those wonders and signs done through the apostles! And all the believers lived in a wonderful harmony, holding everything in common. They sold whatever they owned and pooled their resources so that each person's need was met.

They followed a daily discipline of worship in the Temple followed by meals at home, every meal a celebration, exuberant and joyful, as they praised God. People in general liked what they saw. Every day their number grew as God added those who were saved.



no escape clauses

I've noticed a sudden increase in the number of banns of marriage being read in our church. I suspect that a few couples reckon it would be a nice idea to get married in the same month as Prince Harry and his bride Meghan – at least you'll be regularly reminded of the date!

But I hope, and believe, that some couples are not just looking for a bit of reflected glamour on the occasion, but instead are wanting to share in its solemnity. After all, they will make (if they marry in church) exactly the same awesome vows as the royal couple. 'I Harry take you, Meghan, to be my wife; to have and to hold from this day forward, for better for worse, for richer for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish till parted by death.' Wow! I remember one young man at a wedding preparation saying, when I read out those words, 'No escape clauses, then?'

No, there aren't. On a wedding day we celebrate the joining together of two people for life. Their commitment is not based on rules, laws or tradition, but on love: 'to love and to cherish'. Sadly, on occasions that commitment may prove unattainable, in the complexity of human relationships. But the great majority of marriages which begin with those vows are indeed life-long and life-giving.

Harry and Meghan will be surrounded by a nationwide burst of goodwill as they set out on their journey together. It will be a good time to hold every married couple, young or old, in our prayers.

*By Canon David Winter
parishpump.co.uk*



church birthdays

If you would like to be included please let Jeanette know and we'll endeavour to get a card to you on the Sunday nearest the date, giving us all the chance to wish one another all the best on our birthdays.

10th - MAISIE BLAKE **28th - JO LAMBERT**
24th - MARK WEEKLEY **29th - PHIL HEARSON, JIM KENDALL**



flowers this month

Thank you to the following who have kindly agreed to supply flowers for the church, and as always to Madge and Jill who arrange the rota.

6th SUE MANTON **20th KIT EYRE'S FAMILY**
(for mum) *(on what would have been Kit's 90th birthday)*
13th Vacant **27th ELSIE KEECH**
(for mum)

There are a few dates still vacant – if you'd like to give flowers on these Sundays please speak to Jill or Madge (*the rota is in the kitchen*).



The Church: under the same management for over 2000 years.

.....
Always keep your words soft and sweet, just in case you have to eat them.
.....



one sentence sermons

A lot of kneeling will keep you in good standing.
Forbidden fruits create many jams.
Give Satan an inch and he'll be a ruler.
He who kneels before God, can stand before anyone!
Watch your step carefully! Everyone else does!
We set the sail; God makes the wind.
Wisdom has two parts: 1) Having a lot to say. 2) Not saying it.



dates for your diary - june 2018

FRIDAY 8th Circuit Meeting at High Street (7.15pm)
MONDAY 11th WRU Annual Conference at Swanwick
- WEDNESDAY 13th
TUESDAY 19th Church Members Meeting in the Vestry (7.30pm)



puzzle page

This month is a cryptic quiz. The following all give clues to a type of foodstuff. Hand your answers in before 27th May and you may win a small prize.

1. A baker's best seller to keep vampires away
2. Northern dales and dessert
3. A small country house - covered in pastry
4. Mother will perhaps do it
5. Bring a law-suit on her
6. A creature in the aperture
7. Used to keep hands warm, but not out
8. The best man will do this with a drink
9. Border dog is blooming
10. To fret or fuss
11. Snow on the cob?
12. North American animal
13. This granny is fragmenting
14. A cow in boots
15. The cat's door in a box
16. Throw it then mix it
17. You might say this to a photographer
18. How old a taxi i
19. GSGE
20. An exceptional letter

Answers to last month:

1. Tintagel Close; 2. Oakpits Way; 3. Moor Road; 4. Wisteria Close; 5. Carnegie Street;
6. Crocus Way; 7. Beaconsfield Terrace; 8. Pine Close; 9. East Crescent;
10. Arundel Court; 11. Abbotts Way; 12. Goodwood Road; 13. Eaton Walk;
14. Coffee Tavern Lane; 15. Aintree Drive; 16. Rose Avenue; 17. Upper Queen Street;
18. Coronation Avenue; 19. Carey Way; 20. Hall Avenue

Contacts:

Minister: PHIL HEARSON
on 01933 312392
Hall Manager/Caretaker:
WENDY NEWMAN
on 07551 667505

High Street Independent Wesleyan Church

