

IN touch

JAN
2017

the monthly newsletter for Rushden High Street Independent Wesleyan Church

what would you take...?

...THOUGHT
FOR THE
MONTH

If I was to ask you 'What is Britain's longest running radio programme?', I wonder if you know the answer? It is 'Desert Island Discs' which was first broadcast in 1942. Apart from a five year break in the late 1940's, it has been broadcast continually ever since. During that time it has had only four presenters – Roy Plomley, Michael Parkinson, Sue Lawley and currently Kirsty Young. In addition, two others have hosted it on the two occasions when Roy Plomley was the 'castaway'.

The idea of course is for the guest each week to choose eight pieces of music or songs they would take along with a book and a luxury item. They are all given the works of Shakespeare and a copy of the Bible. I haven't listened to it very often but find it very good when I do.

The question of course is – what would you take? Maybe it would be music that reminds you of some particular event in life, or just a favourite. You might choose an educational book or a novel. More importantly perhaps – would you read the Bible that is there with you? A recent poll found that only 31% of people would want it. I find that quite disappointing but maybe it is a wake-up call to us that if we don't stand up for it, who will? Comedian Lee Mack, however, thought it odd that so many people dismissed the Bible without having read it. "I'm glad you get the Bible," he said. "I would read it."

As Christians, we must make sure that we keep the Bible central to all that we do. It is a book like no other book. Through it, God speaks. At every moment in our Christian lives it is relevant, whether it be encouragement in difficult times, guidance when we are unsure of the way, challenge as to how we're living life, assurance of who we are in Christ... It's all there and much, much more.

Can I encourage you at the start of a New Year to ensure that you give the Bible, the Word of God, its rightful place. Read it daily, meditate upon it, live by it. Have a blessed New Year!

INDEX:

- 2 *word for today*
- 3 *new year, new life*
- 4 *diary dates*
- 5 *sunday services*
- 6 *psalm for the new year // various*
- 7 *various*
- 8 *puzzle page*



the word for today

'Casting down imaginations...'

2 Corinthians 10:5 KJV

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.

this year let God be God...

How does God provide for us? One day at a time. Do you remember the Israelites in the wilderness? God fed them faithfully each day by sending manna from heaven. But some of them wanted to make sure they'd have enough for tomorrow, revealing their lack of trust in God, so they gathered more. But God would only allow them to collect enough for each day; when they tried to collect more the excess rotted. Understand this: when you worry over the future or things you can do nothing about, it's like trying to store up manna for tomorrow. Before you know it you feel rotten. God wants you to give tomorrow's concerns to Him because they're too big for you. You only receive enough grace for today, so stay in the moment.

Question: Are you being tormented by the 'what ifs'? What if I get hurt or become ill, or the company downsizes and I lose my job? What if people don't like or accept me? What if I can't find someone to love me and I end up alone? What if I'm not hearing from God and I make a big mistake? The Bible calls this 'imaginations' - you're literally imagining the worst-case scenario. Paul says, 'Cast it down,' for if you don't you'll live in dread concerning things that haven't happened -and probably never will. What if you 'figure it all out', then God surprises you and does something different, something better? All that time would be wasted. Haven't you already wasted enough time worrying?

Here's an idea: this year why don't you just relax and let God be God in your life?



church offerings

SUNDAY 27th	NOVEMBER	£649.50
SUNDAY 4th	DECEMBER.....	£241.15
SUNDAY 11th	DECEMBER.....	£365.75
SUNDAY 18th	DECEMBER.....	£604.44

In addition, the sum of £950 was paid direct to the bank in November. Many thanks for your very generous giving through 2016.

If you would like to give direct into the bank, then please see Richard Weekley.



new year, new life

The month of January is named after the Roman god Janus, who is depicted with two faces. We may look back to the old year with sadness or regret, but how can we make a fresh start at the beginning of 2017? The apostle Paul writes 'But one thing I do: forgetting what is behind and straining towards what is ahead, I press on towards the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenwards in Christ Jesus.' (Philippians 3:13,14).

Firstly, if you want a new start, you need to forget the things which are behind. Paul pictures himself as an athlete running for Christ, yet not looking back. He refused to allow his past sins and failures to define who he was. By God's grace, he no longer saw himself that way. The same can be true of ourselves, as we confess our sins and receive God's forgiveness and new life.

Secondly, we need to focus on the things that lie ahead. The athlete is entirely focused on winning the race and gaining the prize. Like Paul, we have to be single-minded in making Jesus the focus of everything we do. How can we go deeper in our prayer life and Bible reading this year? What will it mean to better serve Christ in our workplace and career, or family and children?

Paul looked forward to the day when he would stand before God, and God will say, 'well done, good and faithful servant'. In light of all that Jesus had done for him, Paul wanted to give his very best to Jesus. As we stand at the beginning of this New Year, let's ask ourselves, 'What can I do this year that will help me bring glory and honour to God?'

By: Rev. Paul Hardingham Source – parishpump.co.uk



a prayer for the new year

Lord of the Years,

At the start of this New Year we ask for your presence, protection and guidance for every minute of every day of every month ahead. Thank you that we do not go into this New Year alone. Thank you for loving us so much that you gave us Jesus to lead us to you.

May we commit ourselves afresh to serve you, to love you and to share your love with those who don't yet know you. May we make a difference for your Kingdom in 2017.

In Jesus' name, Amen

inTouch articles

If you have anything you'd like to put in future editions of inTouch then please pass it to Phil or Colin.



january 2017

weekday diary dates

TUES	3rd	10.00am	Prayer Meeting
		2.00pm	Short Mat Bowls
		7.00pm	Officers & Trustees Meeting
WEDS	4th	7.30pm	Home Group – 7 Lodge Road
THURS	5th	2.00pm	Women of Action – Rev. Phillip Hearson
SAT	7th	10.00am	Coffee Morning
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TUES	10th	10.00am	Prayer Meeting
		2.00pm	Short Mat Bowls
		7.30pm	Leaders Meeting at the Manse
WEDS	11th	9.15am	Jellybabes Toddler Group
		2.00pm	Service at Kilburn Place
		7.30pm	Home Group – 7 Lodge Road
THURS	12th	6.00pm	Allsorts Children's Club
SAT	14th	10.00am	Church Members AGM in the Vestry
		10.00am	Coffee Morning
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TUES	17th	10.00am	Prayer Meeting
		2.00pm	Short Mat Bowls Club
WEDS	18th	9.15am	Jellybabes Toddler Group
		7.30pm	Home Group – 7 Lodge Road
THURS	19th	2.00pm	Women of Action – Prayer for Christian Unity
		6.00pm	Allsorts Children's Club
SAT	21st	10.00am	Coffee Morning
		10.00am	Circuit Meeting – Wymington
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TUES	24th	10.00am	Prayer Meeting
		2.00pm	Short Mat Bowls
WEDS	25th	9.15am	Jellybabes Toddler Group
		7.30pm	Home Group – 7 Lodge Road
THURS	26th	6.00pm	Allsorts Children's Club
SAT	28th	10.00am	Coffee Morning
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TUES	31st	10.00am	Prayer Meeting
		2.00pm	Short Mat Bowls Club



january 2017

sunday diary dates

SUNDAY **1st** 10.15am New Year's Breakfast
11.00am Informal Service

SUNDAY **8th** 10.45am Annual Covenant Service
(*incl. Communion*)
– Rev. Phil Hearson
4.00pm **2nd Sunday!**

SUNDAY **15th** 10.45am Rev. Phil Hearson
6.00pm Communion Service

SUNDAY **22nd** 10.45am Exchange of Ministers
– Park Road Baptist Church
6.00pm Service at the Mission Church

SUNDAY **29th** 10.45am Rev. David Baker
6.00pm Prayer Fellowship



A Psalm for the new year

– Psalm 27
v1-4

1. The LORD is my light and my salvation – whom shall I fear? The LORD is the stronghold of my life – of whom shall I be afraid?
2. When the wicked advance against me to devour me, it is my enemies and my foes who will stumble and fall.
3. Though an army besiege me, my heart will not fear; though war break out against me, even then I will be confident.
4. One thing I ask from the LORD, this only do I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to gaze on the beauty of the LORD and to seek him in his temple.



urgently needed: foster carers for refugee children

The charity 'Helpful Humans' are appealing for help:

'Increasing numbers of unaccompanied refugee children are arriving in Northamptonshire who desperately need care. Could you or anyone you know support these vulnerable children?'

Northants County Council have agreed a new fast-track process for those interested in fostering refugee children. Instead of 6 to 12 months, the application could now take just 2 months. We just need to show our council that there are enough people out there with the commitment, time and space to help these children.

If this could be you, please contact:

Georgina Hickman 07508 163378 www.helpfulhumans.eu



to make you smile!

Dear Lord. Today I am doing OK. I have not gossiped, lost my temper, been greedy, grumpy, nasty, selfish or self-indulgent. I have not whined, complained, cursed or eaten any chocolate. But I will be getting out of bed in a minute and I will really need your help then!

On a church newsletter during the minister's illness:

**God is good.
Dr. Peacock is better.**



church birthdays this month

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, it would be nice for us all to have the chance to wish one another all the best on our birthdays.

21st - JASMINE MADDAMS



flowers this month

Thank you to the following who have arranged to provide flowers for the church and to Madge and Jill who arrange the rota and distribution of the flowers. There are still spare Sundays during the year so if you would like to provide flowers please speak to them.

8th - Elizabeth Alderson

22nd - Caroline Findlay-Line

15th - Madge Trusler

29th - Vera Timpson *(for Mum)*

It would be very helpful if those who provide flowers could distribute them to whoever they feel would benefit from them. Thank you



peaceful new year?

Probably not many of us have included 'peace and quiet' into our resolutions for 2017. Yet the World Health Organisation warns us that 40 per cent of Europeans are exposed to noise levels in excess of 55 decibels throughout each day. That is the level of a loud conversation, and 30 per cent of us have to put up with that same volume at night. Such a level will disturb sleep, raise blood pressure, and even increase the risk of heart disease.

Continual noise can make you ill. Even continually expecting noise or interference can make you ill. Living on the alert keeps you flooded with cortisol, which makes you feel twitchy, unable to focus, hyper-vigilant, and unable to carry out complicated tasks.

Modern life is a cacophony of attempts to distract you with all types of demands on your time. So why not include some regular times of 'peace and quiet' in your year ahead?



seen on church noticeboards

Jesus invested His life in you. Have you shown any interest?

If you're headed in the wrong direction, God allow U-turns

Forbidden fruit creates many jams

Give your troubles to God – He's up all night anyway



puzzle page

This month we have a Word Search – simply find 15 hidden books from the Bible – hand your answers to the Minister before January 28th and you may win a small prize.

P	Y	B	A	J	E	Q	J	D	Y	H	T
H	Y	H	K	U	P	X	A	U	A	R	D
I	S	P	A	P	H	N	O	I	D	L	B
L	R	B	N	I	I	S	M	D	E	E	J
E	M	H	R	E	N	E	O	O	U	J	D
M	R	A	L	E	H	A	J	J	Y	S	D
O	O	I	L	E	V	T	H	A	R	Z	E
N	M	D	N	A	J	O	I	P	Y	D	L
T	A	A	Q	X	C	O	R	T	E	N	V
Y	N	B	W	L	Y	H	B	P	U	Z	W
K	S	O	D	R	T	G	I	D	Q	S	K

Answers to last month:

1. Do they know it's Christmas?; 2. Santa Claus is coming to town;
3. Rockin' around the Christmas tree; 4. In the bleak midwinter;
5. I wish it could be Christmas every day; 6. We wish you a merry Christmas;
7. I saw three ships; 8. Winter wonderland; 9. Mistletoe and wine; 10. Little donkey;
11. Silent night; 12. Wonderful Christmas time; 13. Little St. Nick; 14. Frosty the snowman;
15. Lonely this Christmas; 16. Mary's boy child; 17. White Christmas;
18. Walking in the air; 19. Twelve days of Christmas; 20. Little drummer boy

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High Street Independent Wesleyan Church

