

...treasure quest!

...FROM
THE
MINISTER

Sometimes on Saturday mornings I hear some of the BBC Radio Northampton programme 'Treasure Quest'. For those who don't know what it is, basically it's a treasure hunt where one of the presenters is out in a car and is given various clues to reach the 'treasure' before the programme finishes. Listeners are encouraged to phone or text to give the answers to the clues. Rarely (if ever) have I heard the whole programme, usually it's just snippets as I'm working on something else. Sometimes they reach the treasure, sometimes not. Something which is noticeable though is the various suggestions that are given. Just when they feel they must have the answer, another voice comes in – perhaps they're on the wrong trail?

The Bible has much to say about treasure – let me share something with you. Jesus spoke of the kingdom of heaven being treasure – finding the kingdom is finding Jesus. Matthew 14 records these words 'The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field. Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls. When he found one of great value, he went away and sold everything he had and bought it'.

We see the value of the treasure – worth giving up everything for – the most important thing. Finding the kingdom – finding Jesus is the greatest discovery you could make. The problem though in these days is that people are hearing so many voices – the way to happiness and completeness is... Our role as Christians is to help others to find the treasure that is Jesus Christ – for when we find Him we are part of His kingdom. Looking for treasure takes time and effort – but how fulfilling when one sees that glint of gold, or as Jesus said, that beautiful pearl. Finding Jesus is finding real treasure, life – and it's worth everything! If you've not found it yet – then remember the words of Jesus, "Seek and you will find".

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the word for today

'...blessed is he who considers the poor...'

Psalms 41:1 NKJV

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.

...to give or not to give

One of the most common excuses for not giving to the needy is: 'I had to work hard for what I've got; so should they.' True, the Bible teaches that if you're not willing to work you're not entitled to support (2 Thessalonians 3:10). But did you know:

- 1) Six million children under five die every year of starvation?
- 2) One out of seven people goes to bed hungry every night?
- 3) The three richest people on the planet have more collective wealth than the combined gross national product of the world's forty-eight poorest countries?

General Booth, who founded the Salvation Army, said, 'How can you convince a man of the love of God if his feet are perishing with the cold?' If your prayers aren't being answered, here's something to consider. The Israelites fasted and prayed, then complained that God wasn't answering their prayers. That's when He told them: 'This is the kind of fast day I'm after: to break the chains of injustice, get rid of exploitation in the workplace, free the oppressed, cancel debts... I'm interested in seeing you... sharing your food with the hungry... putting clothes on the shivering ill-clad, being available to your own families. Do this and the lights will turn on, and your lives will turn around at once. Your righteousness will pave your way. The God of glory will secure your passage. Then, when you pray, God will answer. You'll call out for help and I'll say, "Here I am"' (Isaiah 58:6-9 TM). When you care for the needy, the Lord promises to 'deliver [you] in time of trouble' (Psalms 41:1 NKJV)—and you can take that to the bank.



church offerings

SUNDAY 28th	DECEMBER	£182.00
SUNDAY 4th	JANUARY	£284.50
SUNDAY 11th	JANUARY	£243.80
SUNDAY 18th	JANUARY	£463.70

This is addition to the amount paid direct to the bank, which currently stands at £835 each month. If you would like to give in this way, please see the Church Secretary – Dick Weekley. Thank you.



news from the Church Annual General Meeting

Two church members had passed away since the last meeting – Chris Carter and Arnold Maddams were remembered in the opening devotions.

Most of the Church Officers were re-elected for a further year, with the following exceptions: Andrew Porter is the Chairman and Richard Keech the Vice-Chairman, Mark Weekley and Wendy Newman were appointed as Leaders and Jeanette Maddams is now one of the representatives to the Council of Churches.

In the ministry report, particular note was given to the Mission Statement and the role of Leaders and groups within that. Easter events were discussed and will follow the same format as previous years. We are also planning to hold a Christmas Tree Festival in 2015.

The Treasurer's report was very encouraging – Church finances have increased over the year and as a result giving was increased too. We must be grateful to God for our improved position, and of course for His gracious presence and hand upon us.



the minister's school assemblies

(for your prayers please)

- MONDAY 2nd** Whitefriars Infant School
- WEDNESDAY 4th** South End Infant School
- WEDNESDAY 11th** Tennyson Road Infant School
- TUESDAY 24th** Risdene Academy
- WEDNESDAY 25th** Denfield Park Primary School

**2
ND
SUNDAY**

Don't miss this month's 2nd Sunday – 8th February

**It's for people of all ages –
from the youngest children to the more senior ones!**

*With crafts, chat, sketches, videos, refreshments,
a short talk and more. Please do think about giving it a try
and invite others to come along too!*

**2
ND
SUNDAY**



february 2015

weekday diary dates

MON	2nd	7.30pm	Council of Churches Meeting at Park Road Baptist Church
TUES	3rd	10.00am	Prayer Meeting – 11 Kilburn Place
		2.00pm	Short Mat Bowls
WEDS	4th	9.15am	Jellybabes Toddler Group
		7.30pm	Home Group at the Manse
THURS	5th	6.00pm	Allsorts Children's Club
		7.30pm	Y-Not Youth Club
SAT	7th	10.00am	Coffee Morning
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TUES	10th	10.00am	Prayer Meeting – 15 Fern Road
		2.00pm	Short Mat Bowls
WEDS	11th	9.15am	Jellybabes Toddler Group
		2.00pm	Kilburn Place Service
		7.30pm	Home Group at the Manse
THURS	12th	12.30pm	Women's Auxiliary – Fish & Chip Lunch
		6.00pm	Allsorts Children's Club
		7.30pm	Y-Not Youth Club
SAT	14th	10.00am	Coffee Morning
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TUES	17th	10.00am	Prayer Meeting – 50 Boundary Avenue
		2.00pm	Short Mat Bowls
SAT	20th	10.00am	Coffee Morning
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TUES	24th	10.00am	Prayer Meeting – 11 Kilburn Place
		2.00pm	Short Mat Bowls
		7.00pm	Officers & Trustees Meeting
WEDS	25th	9.15am	Jellybabes Toddler Group
		7.30pm	Home Group at the Manse
THURS	26th	2.00pm	Women's Auxiliary – Old Tyme Music – Sue Manton & Margaret Randall
		6.00pm	Allsorts Children's Club
		7.30pm	Y-Not Youth Club
SAT	28th	10.00am	Coffee Morning



february 2015

sunday diary dates

SUNDAY **1st** 10.45am Rev. Phil Hearson
(incl. Communion)
6.00pm Rev. Phil Hearson

SUNDAY **8th** 10.45am Rev. Phil Hearson
4.00pm **2nd Sunday!**

SUNDAY **15th** 10.45am Mr. Roger Copperwheat
6.00pm Mr. Peter Davies
(incl. Communion)

SUNDAY **22nd** 10.45am Rev. Phil Hearson
4.00pm Rev. Phil Hearson

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
Psalm
for the
month
Psalm 46

1. God is our protection and our strength.
He always helps in times of trouble.
2. So we will not be afraid even if the earth shakes,
or the mountains fall into the sea,
3. even if the oceans roar and foam,
or the mountains shake at the raging sea.
.....
10. God says, "Be still and know that I am God.
I will be praised in all the nations;
I will be praised throughout the earth."
11. The LORD All-Powerful is with us;
the God of Jacob is our defender.

(Psalm 46 verses 1 - 3 & 10 - 11)



*If you never felt pain, how would you know that
I'm a Healer?*

**If you never went through difficulty, how would you know that
I'm a Deliverer?**

*If you never had a trial, how would you know that
I'm a Comforter?*

**If you never made a mistake, how would you know that
I'm Forgiving?**

*If you know it all, how would you know that
I will answer your questions?*

**If you never were in trouble, how would you know that
I will come to your rescue?**

*If you never were broken, how would you know that
I can make you whole?*

**If you never had a problem, then how would you know
that I can solve them?**

*If you never had known suffering, then how would you know
what I went through?*

**If you never went through the fire, then how would you
become pure?**

From A Barrel of Laughs, J. John and Mark Stibbe, Monarch Books



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.

- 12th** Abigail Jones
- 14th** Jeanette Maddams
- 20th** Tony Butler



flowers this month

Thank you to the following who have offered to supply flowers, and also of course to Madge and Jill for arranging the rota and distributing the flowers during the following week.

- 1st** Vera Timpson (*for Mum*)
- 8th** Mrs. Mitchell
- 15th** Carol Butler
- 22nd** Caroline Findlay-Line



passion for life

During the week beginning Sunday 5th July, the Council of Churches are arranging a week of mission activities, under the name 'Passion for Life'.

There will be a number of things happening across the town with all the churches (including High Street) being involved. Plans are not complete yet as to the actual activities, but please would you pray for this time. Thank you.



dates for your diary - march 2015

- SATURDAY 7th** – Circuit Prayer Morning
at the Mission Church – 10.00am
- SATURDAY 14th** – Leaders Morning at the
Mission Church – 9.00am



puzzle page

Here's something a little different, your very own 'Treasure Quest'. Below are 20 towns or villages within Northamptonshire, but only alternate letters have been given (some start with the first and some with the second letter). Can you work them out? Hand your answers in by 27th February and you may win a small prize.

1. AETY
2. OLNBR
3. ETRN
4. UHE
5. DSOOG
6. RTWL
7. HASO
8. KLAS
9. MIWL
10. ATNEGAE
11. WSOFVL
12. LNBCB
13. SWL
14. ANS
15. FNDN
16. SRSA
17. SLRTN
18. HRIGTN
19. OTAPO
20. CSESB

Answers to last time:

party poppers; dancing; fancy dress; decorations; festivities; fireworks; balloons; friends; resolution; celebrate; midnight; buffet, thirty first; Auld Lang Syne (apologies there were 14 not 15!)

Contacts:

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

High Street Independent Wesleyan Church

