

...THOUGHT  
FOR THE  
MONTH

## ...helping to build

**A tourist visiting Italy came upon a construction site. "What are you doing?" he asked three stonemasons. "I'm cutting the stone," answered the first. "I'm cutting stone for 1,000 lire a day," the second said. "I'm helping to build a cathedral," said the third.**

We need to get into perspective the work that we are doing for God. Recently we held our Church Annual General Meeting where one of the agenda items was 'Election of Officers'. Many people continued in the same role as they have had for many years. Others took up an office for the first time. They are the 'Office Holders', officially recognised and very important roles. But there are many more jobs which are done within the church than just those that are listed on our agenda. It would be impossible to go through every job that is done, but perhaps one day it would be a worthwhile exercise to sit down and think on the amount of work which needs to be done and those who do it – often quietly, no-one noticing – just getting on with it.

Some of those jobs may seem mundane to some people. Things that others would not want to do. But if you were asked, "What are you doing?", how would you answer? "Making tea", "Sweeping the floor", "Teaching the children", "Arranging some flowers", "Playing an instrument", "Welcoming people", "Preparing a sermon", "Writing up meeting minutes" ... the list would go on (and sorry if yours hasn't been included!). All very valuable things. But think about this for a moment – would it make a difference to your enthusiasm and value if you said, "I'm helping to build a kingdom"? For that's what you are doing – every job that's being done needs to be seen in perspective – every job is helping to build God's kingdom.

We are the body of Christ in this local church. We are His hands, His feet, His mouth as together we work out our faith and commitment to Him in many practical ways. What you do is valued and I'm thankful for you as we work together. But let's see our work in the Gospel for what it really is. When asked about that cup of tea you make, that welcome you give, that sermon you preach... and every other role in the church you undertake, you can say, "I'm helping to build a kingdom" – and it will make all the difference!

IN  
touch

FEB  
2019



# the word for today

'My servant Caleb has a different spirit'

Numbers 14:24 NIV  
(2014 Edition)

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.

# the spirit of Caleb...

**If Caleb was alive today there's a good chance he'd qualify for 'Person of the Year', someone who has done the most to influence circumstances for the better. Here's his story in his own words:**

'I was forty years old when Moses... sent me... to explore the land ... I brought him back a report according to my convictions, but my fellow Israelites who went up with me made the hearts of the people melt in fear. I, however, followed... God wholeheartedly ... that day Moses swore to me, "The land on which your feet have walked will be your inheritance" ... So here I am today, eighty-five years old... as strong... as the day Moses sent me out; I'm just as vigorous to go out to battle now as I was then. Now give me this hill country that the Lord promised me... Then Joshua blessed Caleb... and gave him Hebron as his inheritance... because he followed the Lord... wholeheartedly (Joshua 14:7-14 NIV 2011 Edition).

**You can learn valuable lessons from a man like Caleb. His life can be summed up in four sentences:**

1. He had a 'different spirit' from those around him. He was positive, a glass-half-full kind of person.
2. He believed that with God's help every giant that stands in your way can be conquered, even when others say they can't.
3. He had a vision that neither age nor circumstances could diminish. And he was willing to wait and work for it even though it took forty-five years to fulfil.
4. In old age he remained young at heart and totally committed to God.

**So, ask God to give you the spirit of Caleb.**



# church offerings

<b>SUNDAY 23rd</b>	<b>DECEMBER .....</b>	<b>£367.32</b>
<b>SUNDAY 30th</b>	<b>DECEMBER .....</b>	<b>£296.00</b>
<b>SUNDAY 6th</b>	<b>JANUARY .....</b>	<b>£273.20</b>
<b>SUNDAY 13th</b>	<b>JANUARY .....</b>	<b>£294.50</b>

In addition, the sum of £1805 was paid direct to the bank in December.  
Many thanks



## missionary report

Kevin Deighton

Missionary  
Secretary

**A belated Happy New Year to one and all!**

**There have been a number of gifts made since the last report so the easiest thing to do is the following list:**

*Missionary boxes £112, £200 sent to WRU Overseas Missions.*

*Christmas Cards £40, £50 sent to WRU Project Yemen.*

*Wednesday Group £91.40, £100 sent to Karen Baxter (Veritas).*

*NAYC are undergoing a £150,000 refurbishment and youthwork plan, a gift of £50 sent.*

*£50 sent to Siloam Christian Ministries for Christmas food parcels in Portugal.*

*£50 each to Eastern European Outreach and Operation Mobilisation for their general funds.*

The total giving to the Missionary fund for all of 2018 was £2972.88, a big thank you to all who gave financially, prayerfully, practically and in any other way. While we are on the subject of thanks, may I also thank Anne Hearson who provided the Christmas card wall this year.

Coming up, Leprosy Mission have their annual World Leprosy Sunday at the end of this month, there are envelopes on the back table if you want to give to this. This year they are supporting Anandaban Hospital in Nepal that treats Leprosy sufferers...

FACT: there are still over 3 million sufferers worldwide!

I shall end on that salutatory note, till next time...



## Lent lunches

**The annual Lent Lunches organised by the Council of Churches will be held every Wednesday, beginning on the 13th March with the last one on 17th April. They will once again be held at St. Mary's Church, Rushden. Everyone is invited to go along – there is no charge, but donations received will go to Christian Aid.**

We have been asked to help on Wednesday 3rd April, along with Whitefriars Church. We will need to provide the following:

***40 portions of home-made soup, 40 bread rolls and some milk and butter.***

***People to volunteer to help on the day from around 10.30am – 1.30pm.***

If you can help with either of these, please would you see the Minister as soon as possible. Thank you.



## assembly dates this month (for your prayers please)

**TUESDAY 5th February** – Whitefriars Primary School

**WEDNESDAY 13th February** – Tennyson Road Infant School

**WEDNESDAY 13th February** – Alfred Street Junior School



# FEBRUARY 2019

## Weekday DIARY DATES

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<b>SAT</b>	<b>2nd</b>	10.00am	Coffee Morning
<b>TUES</b>	<b>5th</b>	10.00am	Prayer Meeting – 15 Fern Road
		2.00pm	Short Mat Bowls
		7.30pm	Council of Churches AGM – the Mission Church
<b>WEDS</b>	<b>6th</b>	9.15am	Jellybabes Toddler Group
		7.30pm	Home Group – 7 Lodge Road
<b>THURS</b>	<b>7th</b>	6.00pm	Allsorts Children's Club
		7.30pm	Y-Not Youth Club
<b>SAT</b>	<b>9th</b>	10.00am	Coffee Morning
<b>TUES</b>	<b>12th</b>	10.00am	Prayer Meeting – 50 Boundary Avenue
		2.00pm	Short Mat Bowls
<b>WEDS</b>	<b>13th</b>	9.15am	Jellybabes Toddler Group
		7.30pm	Home Group – 7 Lodge Road
<b>THURS</b>	<b>14th</b>	6.00pm	Allsorts Children's Club
		7.30pm	Y-Not Youth Club
<b>SAT</b>	<b>16th</b>	10.00am	Coffee Morning
<b>TUES</b>	<b>19th</b>	10.00am	Prayer Meeting – 15 Fern Road
		2.00pm	Short Mat Bowls
<b>WEDS</b>	<b>20th</b>	7.30pm	Home Group – 7 Lodge Road
<b>SAT</b>	<b>23rd</b>	10.00am	Coffee Morning
<b>TUES</b>	<b>26th</b>	10.00am	Prayer Meeting – 50 Boundary Avenue
		2.00pm	Short Mat Bowls
		7.00pm	Officer & Trustees Meeting in the vestry
<b>WEDS</b>	<b>27th</b>	9.15am	Jellybabes Toddler Group
		7.30pm	Home Group – 7 Lodge Road
<b>THURS</b>	<b>28th</b>	6.00pm	Allsorts Children's Club
		7.30pm	Y-Not Youth Club



# FEBRUARY 2019

## Sundays at HIGH STREET

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**SUNDAY** **3rd** 10.45am Rev. Phil Hearson  
(incl. Communion)

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**SUNDAY** **10th** 10.45am Rev. Phil Hearson  
4.00pm **Messy Church!**

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**SUNDAY** **17th** 10.45am Revd. Peter Norton

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**SUNDAY** **24th** 9.45am Breakfast, come and join us!  
10.45am Informal Service  
(Rev. Phil Hearson)  
5.30pm Service at the Mission Church

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### **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!**



## the Bible verse of 2018

A Bible app, YouVersion, has named Isaiah 41:10 as the most popular verse of 2018. That verse has been posted, bookmarked, and highlighted more times than any other on the app (which has been downloaded more than 350,000 times around the world).

*Isaiah 41:10 reads: 'So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.'*

The verse also came top in Chile, France, Italy, the Netherlands, Peru, South Africa, Spain and the United States. But in the UK, for 2018, we preferred: *Jeremiah 29:11: 'For I know the plans I have for you,' declares the Lord, 'plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.'*



## organised rain?

**Recently the weather men and women have started talking about 'organised' rain to be expected following drizzle on western parts. It's nonsense, of course. Rain isn't 'organised', it isn't 'tame'. Like all our weather it happens because of vast natural laws of nature, and there's precious little we can do about it. Pleasant summer sun can set fire to forests. The rain that nourishes our crops can turn to storms and floods. It's the disorganisation, or unpredictability, of weather that catches our attention.**

The Psalms in the Bible are full of descriptions about the weather - the lightning and thunder, the gentle spring rain, the baking heat of midday and 'the barren and dry land where there is no water'. The weather is part of the mystery and unpredictability of life; the constantly moving background of life on earth.

In truth, it is the price we pay for living in our beautiful world, with its lakes and marshlands, deserts and rivers. It's the world we have from our Creator - green and pleasant sometimes, wild and scary at others. Our world is not a 'tame' place!

The Bible seems to think we should take the good with the bad – even the weather of February. As Psalm 148 says: 'Praise the Lord from the earth...fire and hail, snow and mist, stormy wind fulfilling his word!'

Or, as our grandmothers used to say: 'Whether the weather be cold or whether the weather be hot, we'll weather the weather whatever the weather, whether we like it – or not!'

*By Canon David Winter [www.parishpump.co.uk](http://www.parishpump.co.uk)*



## a psalm for the month

*Psalm 86 v 1 – 7*

1. Hear me, Lord, and answer me, for I am poor and needy.
2. Guard my life, for I am faithful to you; save your servant who trusts in you.
3. You are my God; have mercy on me, Lord, for I call to you all day long.
4. Bring joy to your servant, Lord, for I put my trust in you.
5. You, Lord, are forgiving and good, abounding in love to all who call to you.
6. Hear my prayer, Lord; listen to my cry for mercy.
7. When I am in distress, I call to you, because you answer me.



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.

**birthdays  
THIS MONTH**

**12th ROY BARNES**

**20th TONY BUTLER**

**14th JEANETTE MADDAMS**



Many thanks to Jane and Madge who arrange the rota and distribution of flowers, and to the following who have kindly agreed to provide them.

**flowers  
THIS MONTH**

**3rd KIT EYRE'S FAMILY**

**17th CAROL BUTLER**

**10th MRS. MITCHELL**

**24th VACANT**



**hall  
extension  
news**

**Each month we will provide an update on the giving towards the planned extension and alterations to the hall.**

At the end of the financial year (31st October 2018), the balance stood at £2,925. Up to the end of December we have received Thank Offerings and donations of £465, increasing the balance to £3390.

Please do give where you can and if you have any ideas of ways to raise funds, or you are willing to organise an event please speak to either Phil or Richard Weekley.

On Friday 8th March we will be hosting a 'Meal at the Manse' as we did several times a few years ago. A 3-course meal will be provided with drinks, for a donation of £10 per person (great value!) and all the proceeds will go to the Hall Extension Fund. Why not come and bring friends? Numbers will be limited, tickets available soon. If there is enough demand, we may put on more than one evening.



**dates for your diary - MARCH 2019**

- TUESDAY 5th** Church Members Meeting (Prayer at 7.00pm, meeting at 7.30pm)
- SATURDAY 9th** Circuit Prayer Morning at Isham. 10.00am – 12.00 noon (coffee from 9.30am)
- SATURDAY 16th** Outreach Training' led by Outreach UK. This is to be held at South End Infant School, starting at 10.00am and finishing by 3.00pm.  
***It's for everyone – look out for further details!***



## PUZZLE PAGE

This month we have a word search. There are 16 hidden words (and a few red herrings!). Can you find 8 pairs which are parables of Jesus? Hand your answers in no later than Sunday February 24th to the Minister and you may win a small prize.

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

### Answers to last month:

Across: 1 Hopefulness; 9 Hitting; 10 Dupre; 11 Ere; 13 Ozni; 16 Wait; 17 Climbs; 18 Obey; 20 Joni; 21 Cuckoo; 22 Init; 23 Yaws; 25 Elm; 28 Alarm; 29 Epistle; 30 Whitsuntide.

Down: 2 Often; 3 Exit; 4 Urge; 5 Node; 6 Soprano; 7 Theological; 8 Westminster; 14 Icy; 15 Ritual; 19 Epitaph; 20 Joy; 24 Acted; 25 Emit; 26 Menu; 27 Gift

### Contacts:

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High Street Independent Wesleyan Church



[www.weschurchrushden.org.uk](http://www.weschurchrushden.org.uk)