



CHRIST CHURCH DOUGLAS-IN-PARBOLD EASTER 2017 PRAYER NEWSLETTER

'I am Faithful'

As I came to pray this morning I felt the Lord say 'I am faithful' - 'I (God) am faithful'.

It caught me in the moment. Too often I come to pray with a heart that's looking down at the issue as though I have to persuade God to do something, or I come conscious of my own fragility as though I have to be good enough, right enough or strong enough to pray.

But here God turned my eyes to him to see that the issue at the start and at the end of prayer is that **he is faithful**.

Prayer is just normal people like us, beginning to believe God and giving him a chance to show his faithfulness.

I heard a preacher once say that 'God is faithful, he just needs someone to be faithful to'.

The psalms say;

*'I will sing of your steadfast love, O Lord, forever;
with my mouth I will proclaim your faithfulness to all generations.
I declare that your steadfast love is established forever;
your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens'. Psalm 89: 1 & 2*

*'Your steadfast love, O Lord, extends to the heavens,
your faithfulness to the clouds' Psalm 36:5*

and they go on to say that it is God's faithfulness not our own that protects us;

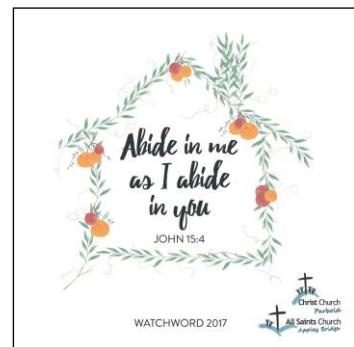
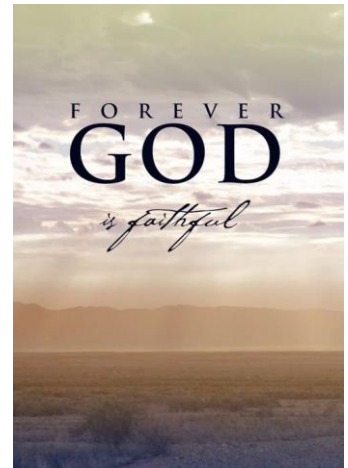
*'he will cover you with his pinions,
and under his wings you will find refuge;
his faithfulness is a shield and buckler' Psalm 91:4*

God is faithful and that is enough. No matter the problem, no matter our own failure in it – he is faithful.

He cannot change;

'The saying is sure if we are faithless, he remains faithful— for he cannot deny himself' 2 Timothy 2:13.

That truth of his faithfulness changed my prayer this morning.



And as I come to the end of the day I'm wondering why there's a quiet happiness in my heart and I realise that it's the consciousness of that truth echoing in my heart - **'I (God) am faithful'**.

May a fresh glimpse of his faithfulness be at the start and end of all of our prayers. Amen.
Sue.

PARISH ADMINISTRATOR

We thank God that Geoff Birchmore has accepted our part-time administrator post here at Christ Church. We've needed administration support for some time and we believe that this is an answer to prayer. Please keep Geoff and Chris in your prayers as Geoff finds his way around the role and begins to prioritise the work. The new Church Admin email address is christchurchparbold.adm@gmail.com



DATES FOR THE DIARY

Church Easter Flowers – Decorating the church for Easter will take place on Good Friday afternoon, if we are short on helpers this may run into Easter Saturday. Please contact Rachel or Viv. Many hands make light work!!!!!! Please come along to help if you can.

Maundy Thursday – 7.30 13th April Communion & Meal at All Saints'.

Good Friday – 10.30am 14th April an Hour at the Cross, Christ Church, when we will walk up the hill with the Cross. Beginning together in church the children will then go to their special Children's Service with activities in the Scout Hut. If you're going up the hill please share cars if you can as we have another service starting at 12.

Easter Saturday 6.15pm 15th April Family vigil and Hot Cross Buns at All Saints'.

Easter Sunday 16th April 10.00am – Holy Communion at Christchurch. There will also be "Messy Easter Church" during the service followed by an Easter Egg Hunt. Please can all children be accompanied by an adult.

Sunday 23rd April APCM 10.45 (our church MOT!). We'll have a shortened 45mins service, then a short comfort break followed by the APCM (approx 20-25mins). There will be colouring sheets at the back for parents to sit with children during the APCM. If you are considering standing as a churchwarden, deputy warden, PCC member or sides person please put your name on the lists at the back of church & see Sue, Brian or wardens for more info.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR JUNIOR CHURCH AND SUMMER PROGRAMME

Junior Church urgently needs your help in order to support the youth of our church. Volunteer roles include 4-9 leader, 4-9 helper and 9-13 leader; you could help out as often as you like or even just as a one off! Volunteers are given as much support as they require including a topic, ideas and resources for their sessions.

Over summer we are also looking for volunteers to run one off sessions for the youth. This could be an outside activity/game to make use of the playing field, a craft, or whatever session suits the talents you have!

For more information or to get involved please contact
Freya: fross@christchurchparbold.co.uk

NEWS FROM THE MESSAGE TRUST

(From Judith Townsley)

Around 6 months ago, I started to work for the Message Trust, a youth charity with a passion to share Jesus with the hardest to reach young people - in schools, deprived communities and prisons. Thank you so much for the support of Christ Church and for your prayers!

- I'm helping to run 'Higher' (the largest youth mission for a generation) which is happening in Manchester (including Wigan) later on in the year. Pray for churches and schools to get on board over the next few weeks as we begin to book in school mission days. And pray that people would start to get excited about the potential of Higher reaching thousands of young people with the Gospel across the Greater Manchester region!

- Pray for all the mission teams (and me as I organise them!) going into schools over the next few weeks to take lessons and assemblies in high schools. They're in schools in Manchester, The Midlands, London and Poland and will be covering topics like 'what is faith?' 'Does God exist?' and self-image and identity.

- Pray for all the young people who have made a decision to follow Jesus over the last few weeks through events we've done (gigs, youth clubs, schools days, prison visits and weekly music/dance classes) - that they would be supported through local churches and encouraged in their journey of faith!

- Please pray for me and some of the Message Team as we head to Skegness over the Easter holidays to lead the 11-14s youth venue at Spring Harvest. Pray that young people's lives would be impacted by Jesus!

PARISH TELEPHONE PRAYER CHAIN.

- a) Anyone who has a prayer need can phone his/her request to Brian and Frances McGucken (01257 462058) between 6pm and 6.30pm any day, or for urgent needs, at any time. A team of people is on hand to pray immediately for your need.
- b) If neither is available to take your call live - please do not use the answer phone for this purpose - but contact Lin Milne on 463523 or John Mountain on 463919.

Your prayer request will be treated as confidential – unless you state otherwise.

PAUSE FOR THOUGHT

(sent by Jose Jordan)

When your head starts to worry
And your heart just can't rest
Put your prayers down on paper
And let God do the rest

THANKS

Thank you to all who sent in contributions to the newsletter. The next edition will be available on Sunday 4th June and the deadline for items to be included is Thursday 25th May 2017. Please see Lin Milne or email stemilne@aol.com

MERCY RESCUE TRUST

Over 10 years ago a severe drought swept through Eastern Africa causing a famine that killed thousands of people. Babies were being abandoned in desperate measures for charities to help....and Mercy Rescue Trust was born.

History is now repeating itself and the drought is once again causing much concern. At Mercy Rescue Trust we strongly advocate family connections and we take the children to Turkana during the school holidays to spend as much time with their families as possible.



We have also reunited Bill and Dorcas to live with their family in Turkana last year. Right now the children are worried that their families are struggling. It is becoming increasingly worrying for all of us to think that we may lose these family connections if they don't receive any help.

We are unable to help provide water but we can help to provide food, as their animals and crops are already dying.

Our appeal to you today is for help with this horrific drought causing such a serious famine, which is already directly affecting some of our children's families. There will be much media covering this but we urge you to consider helping a small charity whose funds we guarantee will go straight to the cause.

Can you help us to make a trip to provide food for some of our children and their families in April?

Please donate whatever you can, every penny helps.

www.justgiving.com/mercyrescue/ PayPal- Payment@mercyrescue.co.uk

Or text £2/£5/£10 or whatever you can to 70070

Trustees of Mercy Rescue

I am doing a sponsored walk raising money for Mercy Rescue from Kendal to Lancaster, along the canal, on the weekend of 6th and 7th May. Sponsor forms at the back of church –

Barbara Long

LETTERS TO GOD

Dear God, I want to be just like my Daddy when I get big but not with so much hair all over. - Sam

Dear God, I bet it is very hard for You to love all of everybody in the whole world. There are only 4 people in our family and I can never do it. - Brad

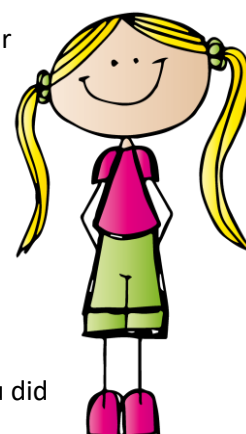
Dear God, Of all the people who work for You, I like Noah and David the best. - Ron

Dear God, If You watch me in Church Sunday. I'll show You my new shoes- Mickey

Dear God I would like to live 900 years like the guy in the Bible. - Chris

Dear God, We read Thomas Edison made light. But in Sunday school they said You did it. So, I bet he stole Your idea. - Donna

Dear God, I do not think anybody could be a better God. Well, I just want You to know that. I am not just saying that because You are God already. - Charles



WHEN YOU TURN - A REFLECTION ON GOD'S HEART

When you turn –
When you turn to me just for a moment, remembering
That I am here – wanting, and longing, and waiting
To see you, like all those who love you, yet stronger –
Impossibly stronger – for I alone witness
That heart-hidden treasure that catches my light
When you turn.

And you trust –
And my heart bursts again like a sunburst, but brighter,
For I know how precious and gentle and tender
That trust is and just what it cost,
And the times that you feel you have lost.
Yet you come back to me
And you trust.

And you cry –
And I cry for you tears
Like they're torn from the sky
Yet still pierced through with hope
For how it will be
When the new comes at last
And you're free.

And you give –
And each time you give
Is astounding to me
That what I gave, you'd give back to me.
And then, for a moment – just for a moment –
You look like the small boy who gave me his bread
And the fish he'd been saving to have for his tea,
But gave up – so freely – just waiting to see
What we'd make together,
Conspiring with miracles
There by the sea.

By Isobel Peaty, Tearfund – Used with permission



NEWS FROM JAMES DAU

Dear Rebecca,
Hope all is well with you in Sierra Leone and people back home during that attack in UK this week.

Am still working with UNICEF in Lakes state (Rumbek), one of ten state of South Sudan, the situation is really really dire, there is huge humanitarian crisis threatening people of this state and whole of South Sudan, over 100, 000 people are at high risk of hunger, and these population have no food, shelter and other basic commodities only waiting assistance from Humanitarian Agencies and International community

South Sudan economy totally collapsed, there is no items in the market and if they are available people could not afford them, South Sudanese pound have lost value against USD

(UN operational exchange rate which is Official rate ;109.3 SSP vs 1USD) and other neighbouring country currencies . And in the Black Market is between 130 and 150 SSP vs 1USD.

There is no local production or farming activities in the country side because of insecurity, many people abandoned and move to Urban or IDPs camps where they struggling with poor hygiene and sanitation which resulted to Cholera, measles and hepatitis E outbreak in almost part of the South Sudan.

Things are really so bad for 'we' South Sudanese even if you are working, the rest of the family and friends depend on you for food and everything that save their life.

Currently, where am working, things also very bad, a lot criminals activities such as unknown gunman, robbery, revenge killing and cattle raiding. Am staying in rental house, one of the National NGO compound which is a bit safe, there is security guard 24/7. This is one of the better accommodation facility in Rumbek which a bit cheaper compare to the rest of the hotels. UNICEF don't give accommodation to National Staff, you look for your own.

My family all fine in Kenya.

I trust God that one day all these problems will be gone and South Sudanese people will enjoy real peace among themselves as they used to be in those days in of struggle.

Pass my greetings to your parents, Lin and people of Parbold Church, you are always in my heart and all those supports you gave me are still fresh in my memory.

May Almighty God Continue blessing your wonderful work
Stay Bless.
Best Regards

Dau Deng

EDUCAID UPDATE - MARCH, 2017

2017 has been an incredibly positive year for EducAid already -

- we're coming to the end of the second term,
- Teacher Training is expanding to Junior Secondary level,
- Lumley School in Freetown achieved 2nd best results in the country in Senior Secondary exams,
- we've recruited some more incredibly talented and driven individuals throughout the organisation,
- and, we have our first EducAidian doctor, Augustine.

Dr. Augustine Bundor

In January Augustine graduated to become a medical doctor from Fourah Bay College.

Augustine will become 1 of only 136 doctors in Sierra Leone.
Sierra Leone had a population just over 6,000,000 in 2013.



How EducAid supports Girls in Education



As you all know, EducAid is committed to change and improvement in the life chances for everyone in Sierra Leone, and seeks to make that change and improvement through Education. The support of groups in England and other countries, including the congregation of Christ Church, Douglas-in-Parbold, enables EducAid to provide a high quality education free of monetary fees, to many boys and girls, (and young men and women) in Sierra Leone. However, the pupils and students do have to pay fees; these are Excellent Effort, Excellent Behaviour, and Excellent Attendance, and these are paid by all pupils/students, in full, every day.

It is a commonly accepted truism that if a male is educated we have educated an individual, but if a female is educated a whole family is educated. EducAid acts upon this, and not only provides education for girls on an equal basis, but, in recognition of the additional difficulties girls face in accessing education, provides extra assistance for girls to learn in EducAid schools.

The Situation

In Sierra Leone, based on the 2012 Social Institutions Gender Index [SIGI] -
34.1% of girls - under 19 years of age are married, divorced or widowed
88% of women - are subject to genital mutilation, with a 66% support for the practice.
In Sierra Leone - 73% of women think that domestic abuse is justifiable.

The above statistics indicate an environment where it is extremely hard for any girl to achieve her full potential in any aspect of life and thus overall as a woman. There is little or nothing in the life of an average little Sierra Leonean girl to make her feel of value.

EducAid's Response

- We found ourselves turning girls away after the admission exams while at the same time wanting to increase the number of girls in the schools. The girls had simply not been given an equal chance at education and were unable so often to pass the admission exams.
- We started the **'Women's Project'** in March 2007. The purpose was to encourage girls of any educational standard who wanted to, to come back to school.
- Regular promotion tests are held for pupils' students in the Womens' Project, so there is a steady stream of girls from the Women's Project to the mainstream school as they gain confidence and competence.
- We have seen at least 600 girls join the mainstream schools via the Women's Project since its inception.
- The **'Girl Power Group'** takes up the relay and encourages the girls in the mainstream to achieve their full potential.
- Janet Mbayo & Mabinty Sesay, ex-EducAid students, decided after their final exams to work as volunteers to start the Rolal branch of the Women's Project in September 2007. As both Janet and Mabinty have been sponsored into university, Abibatu and Fatmata now run things.

- Mamie Mansaray followed Janet and Mabinty's example a year later, starting the Women's Project in Magbeni.
- All the Women's Project teams have been exceptionally successful in bringing girls back into education.

After a short while we realised that so much damage had been done to the girls' self-esteem in their early years that we should start as young as possible to address these issues.

We started a **Girls' Safe House** in the Maronka School to provide a safe, happy environment for the girls who live in the Primary school.

There will be details on the projects Educaid's Women's Project, Maronka Girls' Safe House, Girl Power Group and Mentoring with 'GoWoman' in the next Newsletter.



In the Safe House, Secure and Happy !!

Pat Horn 01257462008

WORD FOR TODAY 29TH MARCH 2017

When God said, 'I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you,' you could call it 'a spiritual heart transplant'.

Tara Storch understands this miracle. In 2010 a skiing accident claimed the life of her thirteen-year-old daughter, Taylor. What followed for Tara and her husband, Todd, was every parent's worst nightmare: a funeral, a burial, a flood of questions and tears. They decided to donate their daughter's organs to needy patients.

And few people needed a heart more than Patricia Winters. Her heart had begun to fail five years earlier, leaving her too weak to do much more than sleep. Taylor's heart gave Patricia a fresh start in life. Taylor's mum had only one request: she wanted to hear her daughter's heartbeat.

She and Todd flew from Dallas to Phoenix and went to Patricia's home, where the two mothers embraced for a long time. Then Patricia offered Tara and Todd a stethoscope. The question is: when they listened to the healthy rhythm, whose heart did they hear? Did they not hear the still-beating heart of their daughter? It indwelt a different body, but the heart was still the heart of their child.

And when God hears your heart, does He not hear the still-beating heart of His Son? Paul said, 'It is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me' (Galatians 2:20 NKJV). The apostle sensed within himself not just the philosophy, ideals, and influence of Christ, but the person of Christ. Christ moved in - and He still does. 'Christ in you, the hope of glory' (Colossians 1:27 NKJV).

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