He Isn't Here;

Aylestone Baptist Church Church Magazine March & April 2021

Letter from Graham

This is the day that the Lord has made

I don't know if you're familiar with the hymn 'This is the Day that the Lord has made' but if you are I'm sure you know that it is a verse taken from psalm 118 v 24.

The hymn goes on to say 'we will rejoice and be glad in it' but this poses a question, which day is the day the Lord is talking about?

Mark 14:22-32 records that at the last supper, Jesus and His disciples sang a Hymn and 'went to the Mount of Olives, coming to a place which was named Gethsemane' (v26)

This wasn't the only Hymn they would have sung together during the meal, but it was the final hymn of a series of psalms (113-118) that are traditionally sung every Passover, called the great Hallel. (Hallel in Hebrew means "Praise")

Well, we know what happened at Gethsemane, but what is especially important about Jesus and the disciples singing psalm 118?

Because Jesus sang these words with the full knowledge they were speaking of Him

Psalm 118 (written by King David 900 years earlier) had long been recognized as a messianic psalm, but Jesus was singing it with the full knowledge of what lay ahead of Him, only hours later.

He had already been recognized as the Messiah throughout His ministry, His miracles, healings and teaching, all fulfilling the prophecies that only the messiah could fulfill, so when on palm Sunday 'the King, just and having Salvation, riding on a donkey, (Zech 9;9; Matt 21;6-9) rode into Jerusalem 'everyone in Jerusalem celebrated and shouted out, Blessed is he that come in the name of the LORD' (Mt 21:9; Mk 11:9;Lk 19:38; Jn12:13)

knew the leaders wanted rid of Him and that Judas 'his friend, in whom He trusted, who ate of His bread,' (Psa 41:9; Jn 13:21-26) would betray him for the 'price of thirty pieces of silver' (Zech 11:12-13: Mt 27:3-4) and that all the other disciples would flee at His arrest in Gethsemane, 'because it has been written: "I will strike the **Shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered.**"(Zech. 13:7; Mk 14:27) The trials, the beatings and the crucifixion awaited Him. (Psalm 22; Isaiah 53) He knew what He had come to do, understanding 'that all things must be fulfilled, having been written in the Law of Moses, and the Prophets, and the Psalms, concerning Him (Lk 24:44) so He faced what was ahead, trusting in the promise that 'His Father would not leave His soul in Hades, nor allow His Holy One to see corruption, (Ps 16:8-10; Acts 2:27) but would raise Him to life on the 3rd day (Jon 1:17; Hos 6:2; Lk24: 6-7) to live forever more, defeating the curse of sin and death for all who would believe in Him, because, Psalm 118 says;

The people knew that Jesus was the long awaited Saviour, but Jesus

The Stone which the builders rejected has become the Cornerstone (Mt 21:42; Mk 12:10; Lk 20:17)
This is from the LORD, it is marvellous in our eyes.
This is the day the LORD has made; we will rejoice and be glad in it. (Psalm 118:22-24)

This Easter, take time to remember once more that anyone who accepts His sacrifice on the cross and the gift of salvation has been set free into new life, so they can say that every day with Jesus is the day that the Lord has made.

So let us rejoice and be glad in it.

May the LORD bless you all, Happy Easter,

Graham

Sunday Services for March/April 2021.

Due to Covid restrictions Services will be on line, both audio and video. If restrictions allow live services in the church, services will be at 10am (face masks and social distancing apply.) and online services will continue.

March

Sunday 7th Maxine Elliott will be leading with Ellie Cockbill peaching. Theme: Introduction to John's Gospel.

Sunday 14th **MOTHERING SUNDAY**. Wendy Hall will be leading With Graham Hill preaching. Theme: John 1:1-18

Sunday 21st Elaine Pantling will be leading with Graham Hill Preaching. Theme: John 1:19-51

Service includes Communion.

Sunday 28th PALM SUNDAY

Stanley Mackley will be leading and preaching.

Theme: John 2 1-11.

<u>April</u>

Sunday 4th **EASTER SUNDAY**

Maxine Elliot will be leading with Ellie Cockbill

Preaching. Theme: John 2: 12 -25.

Sunday 11th William Hall will be leading and preaching.

Theme: John 3: 1-21

Sunday 18th Graham Hill will be leading and preaching.

Theme: John 3: 22-36. Service includes Communion.

Following the Service there will be a CHURCH

MEETING.

Sunday 25th Elaine Robinson will be leading with Maxine Elliot

Preaching. Theme: John 4: 1-42.



The **Refresh** Women's Conference is available on YouTube, please register with the above email, when you will receive a welcome email and updates.

If Covid19 restrictions allow, we are hoping to have the Conference on line in the church for those who may prefer to meet together in the quiet of the church building. There would be restrictions on numbers, so if you wish to meet with others in the church on the 17th, please contact Wendy Hall on 0116 2915627, or Dorothy Mackley on 0116 2836422 to secure your place.

Don't miss this opportunity to listen to some excellent speakers and inspirational worship.

A PRAYER FOR MOTHERS

by Heidi Busse

All-loving God, we give you thanks and praise for mothers young and old.

We pray for young mothers,
who give life and count toes
and tend to our every need;
May they be blessed with patience and tenderness
to care for their families and themselves
with great joy.

We pray for our own mothers
who have nurtured and cared for us;
May they continue to guide
in strong and gentle ways.

We remember mothers who are separated from their children because of war, poverty or conflict;

May they feel the loving embrace of our God who wipes every tear away.

We pray for women who are not mothers but still love and shape us

with motherly care and compassion.

We remember mothers, grandmothers & great grandmothers who are no longer with us but who live forever in our memory and nourish us with their love.

Amen.

Church Family News

Please continue to remember Ruth Hopkins in your prayers. Ruth is very comfortable in the care home, but of course is sad that no visitors are allowed at present.



Our sympathies to Marilyn and Chris Winterton, as Chris's sister passed away with COVID, and her husband, their brother-in-law, is seriously ill in intensive care — so please remember this family in your prayers.

Please also remember Laura Westwood's husband, Chris, who underwent emergency surgery and is now at home recovering.

Jean Dixon has been very unwell. We are holding you in our prayers Jean, and hope and pray for a full return to health and strength for you.

Thanks to those who prayed for Wendy Chapman's niece, Becky, in America who was admitted to hospital with severe COVID. As she became well enough to leave hospital the doctors marvelled at her recovery and she was able to testify to the power of prayer, being upheld not only by her friends in USA, but in England and Wales.

Jack Burton has moved into his own home, and we ask God's blessing on him as he begins a new chapter in his life.

Please remember our University students who are having to study from home due to the Pandemic – Daniel, Nicholas and Rianna. Also the children in our Sunday School who have been home schooled for so many weeks, and we hope and pray they will soon settle back into school life as the buildings re-open.

"God shows His love for us in that while we were yet sinners Christ died for us."

Romans Ch.5 v.8

MESSAGE FROM ELLIE

Why is the church starting a series of services based on John's Gospel?



Well, it's probably the best-loved of all four gospels because it's full of love. (The gospels are the stories of Jesus's life on earth, written by different people for different readers.) Dionne Warwick sang:

What the world needs now, is love, sweet love. It's the only thing that there's just too little of. What the world needs now, is love, sweet love. No, not just for some but for everyone.

So if you know that you need a touch more love in your life right now, do come along to a Sunday morning service at Aylestone Baptist Church, once the church is open again. You'll receive a very warm welcome. In the meantime, watch or listen online at aylestonebaptistchurch.org.uk from 7th March onwards, when the John's Gospel series begins.

These are days when it seems as though everyone is dealing with some kind of serious problem, or knows someone who is: facing cancer, chronic pain or depression, has children with eating or behavioural problems, or has work or money problems. When illness, family concerns and other problems confront us, remember we've NOT been left to struggle alone: as John 3.16-17 says: "God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through Him."

In Genesis, the first book of the Bible, God is presented as speaking creation into being. God speaks the word and it happens: earth and sky, seas and trees, birds, animals and humans. Then, in the path of human history, things go wrong when humans take matters into their own hands and spoil God's creation.

In a deliberate parallel to the opening words of Genesis, John's Gospel presents God as speaking the world's rescue – salvation – into being. This time, God's word takes on human form as the person of Jesus, and we read in the gospel stories, that Jesus speaks God's words and things happen: people are healed and saved, and called to follow Him, light shines in the darkness and the devil who plagues people's lives is defeated. Jesus demonstrates forgiveness and judgement, mercy and grace, love and freedom from sin in the way He lives His life and the way He speaks, and He invites us to be part of His plan, to be saved and to save the world. John's Gospel tells it all, from beginning to end!

That's my introduction to this amazing gospel: I hope you're looking forward to hearing the series of speakers lined up to help us understand it more and to see how it can change our lives for the better. The Gospel of John is one of hope and love – what more do we need to help us through our ongoing struggles?

Every blessing,

Ellie

Lord, thank you for hearing me. Your ears are open to the musings of my heart, the longings of my soul, and the questions of my mind. There is nobody else in my life who promises to hear every part of me. Even in my most insecure moments, I utter words I know will reach your heart. I dwell on worries my friends would not take seriously. I have fears that, brought up in daily conversations, would sound unreasonable. Yet you listen.

It is a gift to be vulnerable with the Creator. You are my Master, yet I can to You with the simplest needs or concerns. As your child, I seek Your will and Your response. As my Father, You listen.

Paul writing to the Church in Rome [Romans 1; 10-12] says

'I pray that now at last by God's will the way may be opened for me to come to you. I long to see you so that I may impart to you some spiritual gift to make you strong – that is, that you and I may be mutually encouraged by each other's faith.'

We hope that by the time of the next magazine, we will be able to plan for reopening the Church. When we can open. Lets pray that we shall have that same longing Paul had to be together face to face to give praise and worship to our Almighty God.

RON WALTON



On 25th January Ron gave plasma with hopefully lots of antibodies to be used with seriously ill Covid patients. Ron realised how lucky he was that when he caught Covid19 he had not been too ill, so he was happy to respond to the call to donate. The photo shows Ron with his donation of plasma – well done Ron! And may God bless the recipient.

Can you find the missing word that fits the other two words?

eg Magnifying [glass] window

1.	Hvmn	[]	Keeping
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2. Sunday [----] Party

3. Church [----] Tower

4. Easter [----] Cup

5. Mouth [----] Donor

6. Palm [----] Best

7. Green [----] Lily

8. Church [-----] Chase

9. Stained [----] Works

10. Wooden [----] Stitch

11. Empty [----] Raider

12. Church [----] Trap.



BMS Birthday Scheme

Happy Birthday and thank you to:

March 11 th	Ruth German
March 14 th	Ron Walton
March 27 th	Mary Shipton
March 30 th	Lucy Satchell

April 1st	Tracy Bryan
April 14 th	Brenda Tester
April 23 rd	Diane Bland
April 24 th	Helena Barratt



If you would like to join the Birthday Scheme, please contact Denise Vernon. Thank you.

Bloomers to make you smile!

Noah's wife was called "Joan of Ark"

The fifth Commandment is "Humour your mother & father"

Lot's wife was a pillar of salt by day and a ball of fire by night.

Salome was a woman who danced naked in front of Harrods.

The patron saint of travellers is Saint Francis of the sea sick.

"and lead us not into Thames station.."

Don't let worry kill you off – let the church help.

The Sermon this morning "Jesus walks on water". The Sermon this evening "Searching for Jesus."



Trying something new in lockdown!

I'm not really a 'crafty' person, but my 'little sister' Hannah is really into needle felting and sent me a kit for Christmas to try it out. I was reluctant, but in the end, I gave it a try and now I love it. Who would have thought that stabbing some fluff could be so therapeutic! It took me a while to get the hang of rolling and stabbing to get the right shapes, but eventually I managed it. I started off with two gnomes and had some left-over fluff so I made a Duncan look-alike to sit with them...admittedly he needed a haircut at the time \bigcirc





After that I got another fluff delivery. This time the pattern was for an owl. This was a bit trickier than the gnomes, but I got there in the end. I had some left-over fluff again, so I got creative and made a monkey and a penguin! They all look a bit odd, but I'm hoping to improve with time. I would definitely recommend giving it a try. The only downside is that it REALLY hurts if you accidentally stab your finger



If you need any needle felting tips...don't ask me (although I could ask Hannah, she's the expert!)

Beth Ellis



I BELIEVE IN EASTER The true Story of Edith Burns

The Lady's name was Edith Burns. She was a wonderful Christian who lived in San Antonio, Texas. She was the patient of a fine Christian doctor by the name of Will Phillips. Dr. Phillips was a gentle doctor who saw patients as people.

His favourite patient was Edith Burns. One morning he went to his office with a heavy heart and it was because of Edith Burns. When he walked into that waiting room, there sat Edith with her big black Bible in her lap. She was earnestly talking to a young mother sitting beside her.

Dr. Phillips knew why Edith was there and what she was doing.

You see, Edith Burns had a habit of introducing herself in this way: "Hello, my name is Edith Burns. Do you believe in Easter?" Then she would explain the meaning of Easter, and many times people would be saved.

Dr. Phillips walked into that office and there he saw the head nurse Beverly. Beverly had first met Edith when she was taking her blood pressure. Edith began by saying, "My name is Edith Burns. Do you believe in Easter?"

Beverly said, "Why yes I do."

Edith said, "Well, what do you believe about Easter?"

Beverly said, "Well, it's all about egg hunts, going to church, and dressing up."

Well Edith kept pressing her about the real meaning of Easter, and finally led her to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ.

Dr. Phillips said, "Beverly, don't call Edith into the office quite yet.

I believe there is another delivery taking place in the waiting room.

After being called back in the doctor's office, Edith sat down and when she took a look at the doctor she said, "Dr. Will, why are you so sad?

Are you reading your Bible? Are you praying?"

Dr. Phillips said, "Now Edith, I'm the doctor and you're the patient."

With a heavy heart he said, "Your lab report came back and it says you have cancer, and Edith, you're not going to live very long."

Edith said, "Why Will Phillips, shame on you. Why are you so sad? Do you think God makes mistakes? You have just told me I'm going to see my precious Lord Jesus, my husband, and my friends. You have just

told me that I am going to celebrate Easter forever, and here you are having difficulty giving me my ticket!" Dr. Phillips thought to himself, "What a magnificent woman this Edith Burns is!"

Edith continued coming to Dr. Phillips every day. Christmas came, and the office was closed through January 3rd. On the day the office opened, Edith did not show up. Later that afternoon, Edith called Dr. Phillips and said she would have to be moving her story to the hospital and said, "Will, I'm very near home, so would you make sure that they put women in here next to me in my room who need to know about Easter. Well, they did just that and women began to come in and share that room with Edith.

Many women were gloriously saved. Everybody on that floor from staff to patients were so excited about Edith, that they started calling her Edith Easter; everyone except Phyllis Cross, the head nurse. She made it plain that she wanted nothing to do with Edith because she was a "religious nut".

She had been a nurse in an army hospital. She had seen it all and heard it all. She was the original G.I. Jane. She had been married three times, she was hard, cold, and did everything by the book.

Well, one morning the two nurses who were to attend to Edith were sick.

Edith had the flu, and Phyllis Cross had to go in and give her a shot.

When she walked in, Edith had a big smile on her face and said, "Phyllis, God loves you and I love you, and I have been praying for you."

Phyllis Cross said, "Well, you can quit praying for me, you religious nut, it won't work.

I'm not interested."

Edith said, "Well, I will pray and I have asked God not to let me go home until you come into the family."

Phyllis Cross said, "Then you will never die because that will never happen." She walked out of the room.

Every day Phyllis Cross would walk into that room and Edith would say, "God loves you Phyllis and I love you, and I'm praying for you." One day Phyllis Cross said she was literally drawn to Edith's room like a magnet would draw iron. She sat down on the bed and Edith said, "I'm so glad you have come, because God told me that today is your special day."

Phyllis Cross said, "Edith, you have asked everybody here the question, 'Do you believe in Easter?' but you have never asked me."

Edith said, "Phyllis, I wanted to many times, but God told me to wait until you asked, and now that you have asked ..."

Edith Burns took her Bible and shared with Phyllis Cross the Easter Story of the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Edith said, "Phyllis, do you believe in Easter? Do you believe that Jesus Christ is alive and that He wants to live in your heart?"

Phyllis Cross said, "Oh I want to believe that with all of my heart, and I do want Jesus in my life." Right there, Phyllis Cross prayed and invited Jesus Christ into her heart. For the first time Phyllis Cross did not walk out of a hospital room, she was carried out on the wings of angels.

Two days later, Phyllis Cross came in and Edith said, "Do you know what day it is?"

Phyllis Cross said, "Why Edith, it's Good Friday."

Edith said, "Oh, no, for you every day is Easter. Happy Easter Phyllis!"

Well, two days later, on Easter Sunday, Phyllis Cross came into work, did some of her duties and then went down to the flower shop and got some Easter lilies because she wanted to go up to see Edith and give her some Easter lilies and wish her a Happy Easter. When she walked into Edith's room, Edith was in bed. That big black Bible was on her lap.

Her hands were in that Bible. There was a sweet smile on her face. When Phyllis Cross went to pick up Edith's hand, she realized Edith was dead.

Her left hand was on John 14: "In my Father's house are many mansions. I go to prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself, that where I am, there you may be also."

Her right hand was on Revelation 21:4, " And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes, there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying; and there shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away."

Phyllis Cross took one look at that dead body, and then lifted her face toward heaven, and with tears streaming down her cheeks, said, "Happy Easter, Edith - Happy Easter!"

Well, Phyllis Cross left Edith's body, walked out of the room, and over to a table where two student nurses were sitting. She said, "My name is Phyllis Cross. Do you believe in Easter?"

God bless you Edith, Happy Easter.

SIGMA UPDATE

Life in India continues to be very challenging with Covid infections still very high. In addition there are nation wide protests against new laws to bring in agricultural reforms, and religious freedom is still under attack.

Calvary Baptist Church in Akividu recently held a meeting to promote religious freedom and peace.





It continues to support the poor people in the area now also hit by the new agricultural laws which will affect their already uncertain lives.

Work to complete the shelter in the 'grass hut' village had been

halted due to the pandemic, but they are now pushing to lay a proper floor and install electrics before the monsoons.



As we are still unable to hold any fund raising events — **Dorothy's Home Made Fayre** initiative continues — please order by email, text or phone [<u>stanmackley@btinternet.com</u>; 07825586677]



Steak & Mushroom Pies £4; Chicken & Leek Pies £4; Cottage Pies £3

Fruit Crumbles £1.50 ea. Apple & Blackcurrant; Apple & Gooseberry; Apple & cinnamon.

Sponge Cakes £3.50 ea Coffee & Walnut; Chocolate; Lemon ; Vanilla

Scones £0.50 ea Fruit; Cheese; plain

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A morning prayer.....

Lord increase my love so that I may love others.

Lord give me joy so others may see joy in me.

Lord grant me peace for a day of serenity.

Lord give me patience in all that I face today.

Lord give me kindness to those around me.

Lord give me goodness in everything I do today.

Lord give me faithfulness to you and those I meet.

Lord give me gentleness in all I do or say.

Lord give me self-control in all my actions.

Fill me with your Spirit and lead me today, I pray.

Amen.



Just a string of letters?

AACDEEEEEFHHIIILMNNORRRSTTTU

It's just a string of letters in alphabetical order, but when you re-arrange these letters you get:

ISN'T THERE A MIRACLE HERE? FIND OUT!

Amazingly if you swap these same letters around once more you get:

I AM THE RESURRECTION AND THE LIFE!

From one message to another, it's an astonishing transformation, but not half as astonishing as the miracle that we celebrate at Easter:

THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS CHRIST FROM THE DEAD.

Answers to missing words quiz:

- 1. Book 2. Dinner 3. Bell 4. Egg 5. Organ 6. Sunday
- 7. Peace 8.Steeple 9.Glass 10.Cross 11.Tomb 12.Mouse.

Aylestone Baptist Church

Lutterworth Road Aylestone Leicester LE2 8PE Church Moderator Rev Elaine Cockbill / Youth Minister: Graham Hill

Sunday 10.00am Morning Service [when conditions permit]

[ALL OTHER ACTIVITIES SUSPENDED AT PRESENT DUE TO COVID19]

Our services current and recent you can get on line ACCESSING OUR ONLINE SERVICES - AUDIO AND VIDEO

Audio – go to our website use www.aylestonebaptistchurch.org.uk/sermons Video - go to our website use www.aylestonebaptistchurch.org.uk/videos

These to take you direct. Otherwise go to the website www.aylestonebaptistchurch.org.uk and click on Media/ sermons for audio or Video for videos as shown below





Loop System Installed





To find out more about church membership, Baptism, etc. Or any of the activities Please call us on 01162 832 527; by email: minister@aylestonebaptistchurch.co.uk or by visiting the Church website at, www.aylestonebaptistchurch.org.uk

WE ARE STILL HERE FOR YOU AND ARE PRAYING FOR YOU IF WE CAN BE OF ANY HELP PLEASE Phone 0116 283 6422 AND PLEASE LOOK AT OUR WEBSITE

www.aylestonebaptistchurch.org.uk