



# Newsletter

## 22nd November 2020



Birthday wishes are sent to Betty who celebrates her birthday this week. We hope you enjoy your special day.

### Daily Bible Readings

- Mon 23rd:** Psalm 7; Esther 2:1-18; 2 Timothy 2:8-13
- Tues 24th:** Psalm 7; Esther 8:3-17; Revelation 19:1-9
- Weds 25th:** Psalm 7; Ezekiel 33:7-20; John 5:19-40
- Thurs 26th:** Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19; Zechariah 13:1-9; Revelation 14:6-13
- Fri 27th:** Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19; Zechariah 14:1-9; 1 Thessalonians 4:1-18
- Sat 28th:** Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19; Micah 2:1-13; Matthew 24:15-31

*Happy Birthday to Betty on 25th Nov, we hope you have an enjoyable day.*

*The family of Andy and in particular his mum and dad, pass on their thanks to all those who showed their love and support by standing outside the church as they passed by on the day of his funeral. Our Superintendent Minister conducted a thoughtful but positive service. Fitting tributes were made by Sean and Heidi to their Dad.*

*We remember everyone who is feeling unwell at this time, be assured of our prayers.*

*Jacquie*

We are pleased to report that new windows have been installed in the church at Great Waking which I know some of you have been able see as you pass. They look fantastic and seem to let a lot more light in. They also open more easily, which is a bonus after the old ones with the long window pole etc. From the outside they now show up the poor state of the window sills, so it would be good to rub them down and repaint them to show the windows off to full effect.

If anyone feels they can help with this project, it may be possible to organise a socially distanced 'working party' one day.

If you can help, please contact me on 01702 218623 or [terrygalley@btinternet.com](mailto:terrygalley@btinternet.com).

Thanks, Terry

## THE LIFE AND TIMES OF TRUMP THE CHUMP

When Donald Trump was called to lead the once great USA,  
He came with promises (or lies) of things he'd do one day.

He said he'd build a wall to stop the Mexicans at the border.  
That's not very friendly start. In fact, it's out of order.

He sacked a lot of loyal staff who dared to make suggestions.  
In fact he dismissed everyone who asked some awkward questions.

He went to see old Kim Jong-Un and found himself befriended.  
But when he got back home again, his boasting never ended.

He went to summits and became the one the others hated.  
He said. 'I THINK THIS CLIMATE CHANGE DISCUSSION'S OVERRATED.

JUST LEAVE ME OUT. I'M NOT ON BOARD; YOU ALL DO WHAT YOU LIKE.'  
He then stormed out, the rest all shouted, 'DONALD, ON YER BIKE!'

He came to England, met the Queen (No celebration banners)  
Then walked in front of our dear Maj – how rude, no flippin' manners.

His ego trip as President was based on, 'I'M THE MASTER  
AND YOU ALL DO JUST WHAT YOU'RE TOLD' – an absolute disaster.

And then, to cap it all, he said that Covid's not a threat.  
And, just to prove it, he announced he's had it. (Yeah, I bet!)

And very shortly afterwards, appearing on the telly,  
He claimed he's now invincible – a raving bonkers nelly!

But then campaigning filled his time to lead the USA.  
He told us all that he would win, the White House is where he'd stay.

His great conceit and arrogance were seen most every day.  
He really thought that he was loved – a shock was on the way.

The polls showed clearly that his share was quickly downward slidin'  
And people like the other guy, a friendly chap – Joe Biden.

But Trump resorted once again to personal derision.  
They had two live TV debates to help folks make a decision.

It seemed quite clear that friendly Joe had won their conversation  
And folk decided he's the one to lead the once great nation.

And when it came to Polling Day (or, for the USA,  
More like the Polling fifteen weeks), Trump still had much to say.

'HE CHEATED, IT'S NOT FAIR, I'LL SUE,' were Trumps self-centred views.  
He wasn't happy, that's for sure, he didn't like to lose.

And even after Joe had won with all the votes he needed,  
The orange man with lacquered hair, who should have just conceded,

Stamped both his feet. 'NO, IT'S MY HOUSE. MELANIA LOVES IT TOO.'  
Well Donald, that's a shame because we're not sure she loves you.

I don't know much about old Joe but what's there not to like?  
He'll stand outside the White House shouting, 'DONALD – ON YER BIKE!'

But what will Trump do next. There have been rumours ringing bells  
He'll live in Scotland where he owns golf courses and hotels.

But if he does I think he will be due a sudden shock.  
'Cos I don't think the Scottish folk'll accept him as a 'Jock.'

Another thing – I know from here that Scotland's far away.  
But it's too close to take a chance. I'm off to the USA.

Terry Galley

## *End times!*

Hello from the Manse!

So, after all the excitement of the last couple of weeks, with Bonfire night (cancelled), Remembrance Sunday (spent at home, standing in our doorways at 11 O'clock), US elections (Interesting!), start of a Circuit Breaker Lockdown, we are in a much slower week this week. You'll be forgiven if you took it easy this week, I think most of you have your eyes turned towards Christmas. Getting yourself prepared for the mammoth annual card writing, the hunt for Christmas decorations and prepare yourselves for 'release' in two weeks' time to buy that perfect present for someone.

If we were in church this week it would be the last Sunday of the liturgical year, the Sunday before Advent and actually when we turn our attention to thinking of when Jesus will come again. It's the time to prepare to celebrate the first Christmas in that lowly stable in Bethlehem, to end the year, we remember the promise of Ascension Day that Christ will return. The gift yet to come, promise to each of us. A gift for now Christ came and a gift to come His return.

It is more blessed, we are told, to give than to receive. We can interpret that in two ways. Most of all, of course, it is an encouragement to generosity, reminding us of the joy that comes through giving to others, but if we turn that around, there is another truth beneath the surface, for it can actually be surprisingly hard to receive. When someone presents us with an unexpected gift, or perhaps helps us out financially, we can feel embarrassed and indebted. "You shouldn't have done that!" We say or "I can't possibly accept". We want to do something in return. Some of us go further, actually feeling angry, refusing to accept what they see as charity. Most of us have an innate feeling that we need to earn something rather than have it given. Such a way of thinking actually spills over into our relationship with God. Although we talk of being justified by faith, deep down we feel that we must do something to show we deserve it and to win His approval. That, though, is to forget the key message of the gospel; God's love is not earned but is freely given through Christ. We do not have to prove our worth, pay God back, He asks us simply to receive. It's in that spirit we must remember that Christ in all His grace will come again and ask us to receive His grace completely.

So, at this time of expectation and giving, let us all remember the one true sacrifice that is the truest gift to us all. Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour gave His life that we might live in Him and Him in us.

My prayer this week is that as preparations begin, we can show charity and thanks to those in need as if they were Jesus himself presenting himself for your love and help.

God Bless

*Pete*

**Sunday 22nd November 2020**

This short act of worship has been prepared for you to use whilst we are unable to use Methodist Church premises. If you are well enough why not spend a few moments with God, knowing that other people are sharing this act of worship with you.

**Opening Prayer**

Loving God we come before you today to worship you. Wherever we may be may we know your presence with us. Amen.

**Hymn: StF 264 Make way, make way for the King of Kings**

Sing/ Read /pray /proclaim the words or listen to it here

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=alCQ7fb0hEA>

Make way, make way, for Christ the King  
in splendour arrives;  
fling wide the gates and welcome him  
into your lives.

Make way (Make way), make way (make way),  
for the King of kings (for the King of kings);  
make way (make way), make way (make way),  
and let his Kingdom in.

He comes the broken hearts to heal,  
the prisoners to free;  
the deaf shall hear, the lame shall dance,  
the blind shall see.

And those who mourn with heavy hearts,  
who weep and sigh,  
with laughter, joy and royal crown  
he'll beautify.

We call you now to worship him  
as Lord of all,  
to have no gods before him,  
their thrones must fall!

*Graham Kendrick (b. 1950)*

Let us pray together

Loving God we come before you in adoration and praise for all that you have done for us. At this difficult time it can sometimes feel that we are alone and that you are not with us. But you have promised you will always be there and will never abandon us and for that we praise you.

We are truly sorry for the times that we have let you down. When we have failed to help those we ought to help, when we have passed by on the other side instead of helping people who need our help. Forgive us Lord and help us to share your love with others.

We give you thanks for all your gifts to us. Help us to share them with others that they too may come to know you more and more, that they will learn who you are and the impact that you can have on their lives.

We ask these and all our prayers in the name of Jesus. Amen.

**Today's Reading from the Old Testament:**  
Psalm 100

**Today's Gospel Reading:** Matthew 25:31-46

**Time to Reflect**

Next week Advent begins. It's only 5 weeks till Christmas. The time when we celebrate the coming of that tiny baby into the world, the coming of Jesus, the King of Kings. During this time of Advent let us reflect on who Jesus is for us. We call him King but he certainly

wasn't the king that the Jewish people at the time were expecting him to be. He is our King. He is the Light of the World and we are called to share with others who he is, the Light of the World and the King of Kings.

Our reading talks about helping those in need. By helping those in need we are sharing the love and good news of Jesus with other people. By doing this we are enabling others to come to know him for themselves. In the midst of the pandemic it can be difficult to know how we can help others at the moment. Verse 40 of our reading says this "And the king will answer them, "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me." Perhaps at the moment we can help others by donating food, or clothes or just simply phoning someone up for a chat. All these ways of helping others enable us to do what he asked us to do and to share the love and good news of Jesus which is needed more than ever at the moment.

There are people out there on our streets who have missed out on the opportunity of finding the King of Kings, of finding out for themselves what the real meaning of Christmas is. To them Christmas is just another holiday. They have never known what it is all about, they have never known the difference that this tiny baby will have on their lives if they only take the opportunity to look for him. We know the difference that he has made and it's up to us to give people that opportunity to find him for themselves. Let us take the opportunity to share with others who this King of Kings is and what difference he can make in their lives.

Take a time to sit quietly

### **A time of prayer**

Loving God we come before you now to pray for our world. The world which you created, in which there is so much trouble. Help us to mend your broken world that all may live in peace. We pray for world leaders as they seek to do the best they possibly can in leading us through the pandemic. Give them guidance

and wisdom in all their decision-making as they seek to bring the virus under control.

We pray for the church across the world as it seeks to serve and to share the good news amidst the pandemic. Give strength and peace to our church leaders as they seek to guide us throughout this difficult time. May they find rest and renewal in you when they need it. We pray for our own churches and for the day in which we can all safely meet together for worship once more.

We pray for all those who are in need of our prayers at this time, those in hospital and those who care for them, those struggling with mental health problems, those who feel alone with no one to whom they can turn. We pray for those on the frontline who are working to overcome the virus. May they know your peace, strength and love. We bring before you our concerns for people we know who are in need of our prayers at this time.

We commend to you those who have died, knowing that you welcome them home with open arms. We place them into your care knowing that we will be reunited with them one day. Comfort those who mourn their loss and may they know your presence with them at this difficult time.

We pray for ourselves. You alone know what we need right now. Give us what we need to face the days ahead as we continue to wrestle with this pandemic which affects us all in some way or another. We ask these and all our prayers in Jesus' name. Amen.

### **The Lord's Prayer**

*Our Father .....*

### **Hymn: Listen to StF 693 Beauty for Brokenness**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=08utbDFP9AE>

Beauty for brokenness,  
hope for despair,  
Lord, in your suffering world  
this is our prayer.



Bread for the children,  
justice, joy, peace,  
sunrise to sunset,  
your kingdom increase!

Shelter for fragile lives,  
cures for their ills,  
work for all people,  
trade for their skills;  
land for the dispossessed,  
rights for the weak,  
voices to plead the cause  
of those who can't speak.

God of the poor,  
friend of the weak,  
give us compassion we pray:  
melt our cold hearts,  
let tears fall like rain;  
come, change our love  
from a spark to a flame.

Refuge from cruel wars,  
havens from fear,  
cities for sanctuary,  
freedoms to share.  
Peace to the killing-fields,  
scorched earth to green,  
Christ for the bitterness,  
his cross for the pain.

Rest for the ravaged earth,  
oceans and streams  
plundered and poisoned --  
our future, our dreams.  
Lord, end our madness,  
carelessness, greed;  
make us content with  
the things that we need.

Refrain

Lighten our darkness,  
breathe on this flame  
until your justice burns  
brightly again;  
until the nations  
learn of your ways,  
seek your salvation  
and bring you their praise.

Refrain

*Graham Kendrick (b. 1950)*

## A prayer of blessing

Lord,

As Christmas draws nearer may we share your  
love with others. Help us to show them who  
you are that they may discover you for  
themselves. Amen.

Original Materials by Rebekah Fairhurst, Bolton Methodist Mission  
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Local Churches please insert CCLI No here

## Psalm 100

A Psalm of thanksgiving.

<sup>1</sup> Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth.

<sup>2</sup> Worship the Lord with gladness;  
come into his presence with singing.

<sup>3</sup> Know that the Lord is God.

It is he that made us, and we are his;  
we are his people, and the sheep of his  
pasture.

<sup>4</sup> Enter his gates with thanksgiving,  
and his courts with praise.

Give thanks to him, bless his name.

<sup>5</sup> For the Lord is good;  
his steadfast love endures for ever,  
and his faithfulness to all generations.

## Matthew 25:31-46

'When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and  
all the angels with him, then he will sit on the  
throne of his glory. 32All the nations will be  
gathered before him, and he will separate  
people one from another as a shepherd  
separates the sheep from the goats, 33and he  
will put the sheep at his right hand and the  
goats at the left. 34Then the king will say to  
those at his right hand, "Come, you that are  
blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom  
prepared for you from the foundation of the  
world; 35for I was hungry and you gave me  
food, I was thirsty and you gave me  
something to drink, I was a stranger and you  
welcomed me, 36I was naked and you gave

me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.”

37Then the righteous will answer him, “Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? 38And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? 39And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?”

40And the king will answer them, “Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.” 41Then he will say to those at his left hand, “You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; 42for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, 43I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.” 44Then they also will answer, “Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?”

45Then he will answer them, “Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.” 46And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life. ’