

ST DENYS
STANFORD IN THE VALE



Friday Fellowship News No 45, 12 March 2021

HAVE YOU RECEIVED YOUR CENSUS YET?

HAVE you got your census letter?

The census is coming, and it's about you. Without the information you share, the Government says it will be more difficult to understand our community's needs and to plan and fund public services.

By taking part and encouraging our congregation to do the same, we will help inform decisions about the services our community need, like doctors' surgeries and new schools.

Census day is on **March 21**, but households will now be receiving letters with online codes explaining how they can complete their forms. If you don't get one in the next couple of weeks, please get in touch with the Census Contact Centre. You can also request a paper questionnaire if you'd prefer to complete your census that way.

There is lots of support available such as a help area on the census website and a Contact Centre that can give you help over the phone, and guidance in a range of languages and accessible formats, including paper questionnaires and large print. You can also use your postcode to find local Census Support Centres on the census website.

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) runs the census in England and Wales and is independent from the government. All information is held securely for 100 years. Statistics are only compiled based on anonymised data and personal information is not shared with any organisation and is never sold.

For more information, and to find out how to get help, visit www.census.gov.uk or call the Census Contact Centre on **0800 141 2021**.

PRAYER TOPICS

Saturday – Fire Service

Sunday – Persecuted Christians in China

Monday – Colleges and University students

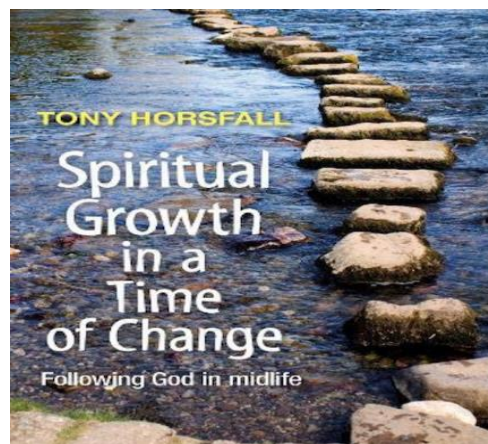
Tuesday – those awaiting test results

Wednesday – the lonely

Thursday – the citizens of Myanmar

Friday – thank God for Janet Causer's safe arrival home

BOOK OF THE WEEK



MANY of us enjoyed reading Tony's Rhythms of Grace a few years back. In this book, Tony shares how our 40s-60s can be some of the most fruitful times of our lives.

Whether you are in that age bracket or not, you're sure to find refreshment and renewal from Tony's wise, gentle ministry.

MORNING PRAYER READINGS & REFLECTIONS

Keep an eye out for the daily Reflections I'm sending over Lent, Monday through to Saturday. Nigel Knights Johnson will be posting his Sunday sermon on our Facebook and YouTube Channel this weekend. The Bible Readings for Sunday 14 March 2021, are: -

Psalm 107:1-22

¹ Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good! His faithful love endures forever. ² Has the LORD redeemed you? Then speak out!

Tell others he has redeemed you from your enemies.

³ For he has gathered the exiles from many lands, from east and west, from north and south.^[a] ⁴ Some wandered in the

wilderness, lost and homeless. ⁵ Hungry and thirsty, they nearly died. ⁶ "LORD, help!" they cried in their trouble, and he rescued them from their distress. ⁷ He led them straight to safety, to a city where they could live.

⁸ Let them praise the LORD for his great love and for the wonderful things he has done for them. ⁹ For he satisfies the thirsty and fills the hungry with good things. ¹⁰ Some sat in

darkness and deepest gloom, imprisoned in iron chains of misery. ¹¹ They rebelled against the words of God, scorning the counsel of the Most High. ¹² That is why he broke them with hard labour; they fell, and no one was there to help them. ¹³ "LORD, help!" they cried in their trouble, and he saved them from their distress. ¹⁴ He led them from the darkness and deepest gloom; he snapped their chains. ¹⁵ Let them praise the LORD for his great love and for the wonderful things he has done for them. ¹⁶ For he broke down their prison gates of bronze; he cut apart their bars of iron.

¹⁷ Some were fools; they rebelled and suffered for their sins. ¹⁸ They couldn't stand the thought of food, and they were knocking on death's door. ¹⁹ "LORD, help!" they cried in their trouble, and he saved them from their distress. ²⁰ He sent out his word and healed them, snatching them from the door of death. ²¹ Let them praise the LORD for his great love and for the wonderful things he has done for them. ²² Let them offer sacrifices of thanksgiving and sing joyfully about his glorious acts.

Ephesians 2: 1-10

Once you were dead because of your disobedience and your many sins. ² You used to live in sin, just like the rest of the world, obeying the devil—the commander of the powers in the unseen world.^[a] He is the spirit at work in the hearts of those who refuse to obey God. ³ All of us used to live that way, following the passionate desires and inclinations of our sinful nature. By our very nature we were subject to God's anger, just like everyone else.

⁴ But God is so rich in mercy, and he loved us so much, ⁵ that even though we were dead because of our sins, he gave us life when he raised Christ from the dead. (It is only by God's grace that you have been saved!) ⁶ For he raised us from the dead along with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms because we are united with Christ Jesus. ⁷ So God can point to us in all future ages as examples of the incredible wealth of his grace and kindness toward us, as

shown in all he has done for us who are united with Christ Jesus.

⁸ God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God. ⁹ Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it. ¹⁰ For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.

Luke 2: 33-35

Jesus' parents were amazed at what was being said about him. ³⁴ Then Simeon blessed them, and he said to Mary, the baby's mother, "This child is destined to cause many in Israel to fall, and many others to rise. He has been sent as a sign from God, but many will oppose him. ³⁵ As a result, the deepest thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your very soul."

PRAYER REQUEST

PLEASE can we pray for Betty Moore who sadly fell out of bed and is now in hospital. Thankfully, nothing broken but a nasty shock, and not long after her bereavement. I'm sure she'd value yours prayers and any cards/notes for her arrival home. Mrs Betty Moore, 32 Perry's Road, Stanford in the Vale SN7 8HS. Please also pray that Janet Causer makes a full recovery now that she is back at The Grange.

HOW TO INTERPRET THE BIBLE

EVER wondered how best to understand the Bible in its original context? A former college tutor of mine gave a very helpful address to a church recently.

I attach with FFNews his summary and a link to a video he has made which I'm sure you will find really helpful if you want to understand the bible in more depth, and understand the original context first, and then to help you apply to 2021.

HEALTH UPDATE

GW HOSPITAL has confirmed April 8 with pre-checks on the 6th. So I'd value prayers that it proceeds, does not get cancelled, and for strength to cope with the pain and sleepless nights until it comes. Thank you very much.

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