

St Columba Collingtree Newsletter 22 November 2020

I hope this newsletter finds you in good form. Do let me know how you are coping with the current lockdown. Hopefully things will ease as we approach Christmas? Just a couple of reminders;

The Zoom home group meets on a Tuesday morning, contact me for details if you would like to join us.

The church is open for Private Prayer and Reflection on a Wednesday between 10am and 11am during lockdown.

Philippians 1.1-11

¹ Paul and Timothy, bondservants of Jesus Christ,

To all the saints in Christ Jesus who are in Philippi, with the bishops and deacons:

² Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Thankfulness and Prayer

³ I thank my God upon every remembrance of you, ⁴ always in every prayer of mine making request for you all with joy, ⁵ for your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now, ⁶ being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete *it* until the day of Jesus Christ; ⁷ just as it is right for me to think this of you all, because I have you in my heart, inasmuch as both in my chains and in the defence and confirmation of the gospel, you all are partakers with me of grace. ⁸ For God is my witness, how greatly I long for you all with the affection of Jesus Christ.

⁹ And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in knowledge and all discernment, ¹⁰ that you may approve the things that are excellent, that you may be sincere and without offense till the day of Christ, ¹¹ being filled with the fruits of righteousness which *are* by Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

Matthew 13.31-33

The parables of the mustard seed and the yeast

³¹ He told them another parable: 'The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his field. ³² Though it is the smallest of all seeds, yet when it grows, it is the largest of garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds come and perch in its branches.'

³³ He told them still another parable: 'The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed into about thirty kilograms of flour until it worked all through the dough.'

³⁴ Jesus spoke all these things to the crowd in parables; he did not say anything to them without using a parable. ³⁵ So was fulfilled what was spoken through the prophet:

'I will open my mouth in parables;
I will utter things hidden since the creation of the world.'^(b)

Comment

This morning I would like to draw an unlikely analogy; I am going to compare our Spiritual growth with a tactic that the Allied armies used in World war 2 to liberate the island of the South pacific. I know that sounds unlikely but here goes....

What the Allies did was a 3 stage process.

Firstly, they would "soften up" an island. They did this by weakening the resistance; they would shell the enemies strongholds with bombs fired from offshore ships.

Secondly, a small group of marines would invade the island and secure a beachhead so they had control of a small part of the Island.

Thirdly, they would begin the process of liberating the island, one section at a time. Eventually by doing this, the Island would be liberated.

What has this to do with the spiritual life, you may well ask! Well, we are not usually ready to hear the whole truth about Jesus in one go; nor are we ready to hear the full truth about ourselves in one go. Before we let God into our lives he comes knocking at the door. *"Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with me."* Rev 3.20

The moment we open the door, God has a "beachhead" in our lives. At that moment you surrender all to him. At least we do in intent. In reality there are many aspects of

our lives that don't conform to God's plans for our lives that we are not even aware of. Once God has the beachhead, then he can start the campaign to thoroughly transform us, and that takes a life time. In fact, it is not completed until we go to be with him. *"...being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ."* *Philippians 1.6*

To be transformed into the likeness of Jesus Christ is our goal. It takes a lifetime to achieve it. Let us not give up, but strive on to reach our goal. Like a plant our growth is gradual. As we grow so the light of God shines brighter and brighter.

Eternal Father,
whose Son Jesus Christ ascended to the throne of heaven
that he might rule over all things as Lord and King:
keep the Church in the unity of the Spirit
and in the bond of peace,
and bring the whole created order to worship at his feet;
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

I hope you enjoy listening to these and worshipping our Lord.

[Matt Redman - Once Again \[with lyrics\] - YouTube](#)

[Crown Him with many crowns - YouTube](#)

Please remember in your prayers;
Our government and Prime Minister Boris Johnson.
Our NHS and all who work on the frontline.
Our school here in Collingtree.
Bishop Donald, Bishop John and all who work for Peterborough Diocese.
Steve Kelly and the staff at St Giles.
Those whom we know to be sick or in need at this time.

May the peace of God, which passes all understanding,
Keep your hearts and minds in the love and knowledge of God,
and of His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord,
And the blessing of God almighty; Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
Remain upon you and those whom you love, now and always, Amen.