

Message from the Minister



Psalm 23 v3

In my journey through the scriptures I have spent some time looking at the 23rd Psalm again and since that time the phrase 'He restores my soul' has been with me at various times. What does 'He restores my soul' mean? I don't think the author of the psalm is talking about 'happiness' here.

From a Christian perspective, the soul in is the place where the 'real me' resides. Not just the 'me' that I present to the world but the 'me' with all its good bits and bad bits, the 'me' who is known to God. In a biblical sense the soul is revived when he/she is at peace with God. The Psalmist states that the 'reviving of the soul' is ultimately a gift from God – but we can help Him!

Modern life seems to be constructed so that we avoid giving time to our 'real self', certainly my diary is full of activity and only some of it does 'revive my soul'. Time spent with friends and family, a holiday in Whitby, or even preaching on Sundays. But too much business leads to a need to 'revive the soul'.

Shrove Tuesday and Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent and in popular understanding this period has evolved into a time of giving something up - anything from chocolate to Coronation Street. The original idea, however, was to use the free time created by abstaining

from Match of the Day (my own obsession) for some quality time with God. To help us do this a number of events are again organised but why not set yourself a personal task like:

Reading a chapter a day of one of the Gospels

Prayer walking (walking round your neighbourhood and praying for the people living in these houses).

or....

Sit in the worship area and pray for the church

or....

Visit a person you know is housebound or lonely

or...

Spend time with God every day through the reading of scripture or the praying of prayers

Lent is a good time to do this!

Grace & Peace

Gert

Words of Inspiration

Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.

Philippians 4:8
King James Version

March 2019

News of the Fellowship

Please pray for Gwen Smith whose son died recently.

And continue to pray for those who are not well:

Maralyn Speight hoping to come home after a time in Coalville Hospital receiving intense Physiotherapy.

Stan Coombes and Alex Fairly both now home after being in hospital.

Hilary Ketton and Pat Maisch both receiving ongoing treatment.

Happy news

Older members may remember Agatha Okojie and her daughters Precious and Esther. She later remarried husband Paul and they had a son, Daniel. Agatha arrived at LBC only a few days after coming to the UK and became a regular worshipper.

Precious is getting married on March 30th to Izaak Bacchus at a Pentecostal Church in Luton. For the future they expect to move to Leamington Spa where his parents live. Wonderfully, we have been invited to the wedding.

Hilary and Stan Cramer

Quiet Reflections

The waves of a mighty ocean of God's love embrace and
Carry us forward.

With Christ our mast and master, may we
Voyage courageously.

The Spirit of peace and power flow In us to strengthen
and guide through calm and storm.

New Zealand Blessing

Offertory Envelopes

Over the next few weeks I shall be distributing the new Offertory Envelopes. This important scheme is vital in funding the work of our church and we are very appreciative of the generous way in which you have supported the church over the past year. Each year our expenses increase and it is important that our offertory keeps pace with these increases. Now is a good time to review our giving and ensure that the work of the church can continue in the future.

If you are not yet a member of the envelope scheme and would like to join, please speak to me and I will be happy to supply you with a set of envelopes. If you contribute by standing order, you too may wish to review your contribution.

Again many thanks for your continued support.

Every good wish and blessing,

Michael Tebbatt

Church Library

The Library bookshelf trolley is overflowing with books on different subjects including some novels and a few children's books taken from the Family Room.

One which children of all ages will enjoy is "Where is Jesus?" and readers are urged to find him among the crowd in the picture.

To borrow any book please put your name, date and title in the notebook attached to the Library shelf. Enjoy and discover!

Hilary Cramer

Monday Nighters

On Monday 4th March our speaker will be our own Minister, Rev Gert Glasius

Monday 18th March we have a return visit from Felicity Austen "Every home should have one"

Monday 1st April "Hope & Homer for Children" with Eleri Bristow

Everyone welcome

Give Lavishly, Live Abundantly

The more you give the more you get

The more you laugh the less you fret –

The more you do unselfishly

The more you live abundantly

The more of everything you share

The more you'll always have to spare –

The more you love the more you'll find

That life is good and friends are kind...

For only what we give away,

Enriches us from day to day.

Helen Steiner Rice

Food for Everyone!

For several years now people who come along to the church to worship and share fellowship have given generously of food for those who have little or nothing. Most of the food that is given is distributed by Exaireo, a Christian charity for the homeless, as they are best placed to know who is in real need. Sometimes people come to the church who are obviously in need and parcels are given to them. When we have a plentiful supply of food we are able to give some to the Bridge who include this food in their food parcels. Our Lunch Break also gives a certain number of free meals – a sandwich and a cake - to those sent from the Bridge. Christmas sees us using some of the money given to buy a Christmas Lunch for those who otherwise would have no food and nowhere to go; similarly at Easter we try to specially help those who are alone and without food.

Below are extracts from letters we have recently received from The Bridge and Exaireo:

Dear Margaret,

On behalf of all the staff, volunteers and clients of the Bridge, please may I extend my sincere thanks for the generosity of people at Loughborough Baptist Church over the last year and beyond.

We have many people walk through our doors who are hungry and desperate for items that many of us take for granted. Your lunches are really important; they make a real and tangible difference to some of the most vulnerable clients within our community.

Thank you once again for your kind generosity and for choosing to support the Bridge.

Dear Margaret,

Regular donations of food parcels

Please pass on our sincere thanks to the minister and congregation of Loughborough Baptist Church for your generous and regular contributions of food parcels to support our ongoing work with homeless and vulnerable people in and around Loughborough.

As you know we are currently looking after 42 residents in 11 houses around Loughborough and Coalville. Our Reuse project is providing residents with work placements -if you are interested you can see more about this on facebook@Exaireofurniture.

Thanks again for the regular donations of food to make up food parcels and your ongoing support.

During Lent we are being encouraged to give items of food each week to help those in need. A box will be available in the foyer each Sunday.

Margaret

Finishing well and finishing strong

We are all on a journey in this life. The desires of all is to have a good life, have financial security with good health to enjoy the beauty of life among families and friends. Life itself is full of challenges and occasionally, things don't work as planned. The initial design of God was for man to dwell in the garden of Eden enjoying God's blessing and fruitfulness (Genesis 1 vs 27-28) but along the way, the plan was truncated.

Sometimes, we find ourselves at a junction of our journey in life, when we must make decision either to turn left or right, stay where you are or move. Ruth, the Moabite woman is an example of someone who finished well. There were differences between the Israelites and the Moabites as stated in Deuteronomy 23 vs 3 – 6. There was scarcity in Israel, Elimelech decided to take his wife Naomi, his two sons Mahlon and Chilion to a land of opportunity where there was no scarcity.

Elimelech's family mingled with the Moabites and he gained two daughters-in-law. Ruth and Oprah must have been introduced to the God of Abraham, Isaac and Israel, they must have heard the testimonies of how God parted the red sea, how the Israelites were feed with Manna from heaven etc.

Naomi decided to return to Israel since her husband and two sons were no more. Despite the persuasion Naomi made to her daughters-in-law to return to Israel alone, carefully analyzing that she doesn't know what the future holds, Ruth insisted ...I will follow you and your God will be my God (Ruth 1 vs 16).

Ruth followed the God of Israel and her life never remained the same again. Her pains and reproaches of the past were wiped away. Her 'Mrs.' appellation that was cut off suddenly was divinely restored. Her name was registered on the list of joyful mothers and in the lineage of our Lord Jesus Christ. Today, thousands of generations her still reading her story.

It is possible to sail through this journey and smile. Better is the ending of a thing than the beginning there. (Ecclesiastes 7 vs 8a). Our Lord Jesus Christ while He was on earth finished well and strong that was why He was given a name that is above all names. (Philippians 2 vs 9-11). Miracles, signs and wonders happen at the mention of His name.

If only you can attach yourself to the God of Israel, the God of all possibilities to lead and direct your path, you're guaranteed to ***FINISH WELL AND FINISH STRONG!***

Lunchtime Concert

Tuesday 19th March at 12.45pm

Last year we had a new experience when the Chris Hill Jazz Group came and were so well received that, by popular demand, they were immediately booked for a year hence and that date is here on Tuesday 19 March at 12.45pm.

The group is led by Chris Hill who is best known as one of the organists at Trinity Methodist Church and conductor of the Loughborough Male Voice Choir. Their vocalist is Caroline Sharpe who is better known as a classical soprano and conductor of her own chamber choir.

This will be a concert with a difference and not to be missed!

David Gabe

‘Green Spring’ forward but also global warming and a warning!

Good News! A 16 year old school girl 's solitary demonstration in Sweden has shown the way forward by a widespread video for worldwide governments and the public to see and respond to for the current global warming. Her action has led to many schools and children throughout the world going on mass strike action too. Most children were below voting age, but said clearly and with understanding what should be done, saying rightly it is their future which is at stake! So, in the UK on Friday February 15th school children were out in force across the country demanding a political response to governmental delays.

We know from the latest report by the Global Carbon Research Project following the Poland Accord in Katowice (which in turn followed the UN's Paris Agreement in 2015) has set a target of two degrees centigrade (2C) while one point five (1.5C) is now being seen as a necessity.

This is now a 'Wake Up' call to all governments before these climate warmings go beyond our control. As we all know last year in the UK there was a serious lack of rain leading to poor harvests. Many other countries across the globe suffered severely e.g. the uncontrollable Californian wildfires, monsoon extremes. We have learned from one of our Church members of serious flooding in Kerala, South India, a beautiful locality which was devastated and left many lost and homeless people over large areas.

Can our governments nationally and globally meet the challenges of global warming as identified by the recent Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change? While their report has been generally welcomed by the UK government, it has been heavily criticised for failing to stop Lancashire fracking for fossil fuels, despite an established legal limit having been reached several times as shown by mini- earthquakes. Solar and wind power energy subsidies were blocked in favour of the more costly on going Hinckley Point Nuclear Power Station. London`s

Heathrow Airport expansion plans were also agreed despite the increase of carbon emissions.

So, what is the latest 'good news' to cheer about? Firstly, there is an increasing reduction in the cost of solar and wind power energy which is considered to be the main source of the world's power by 2040, and even displacing coal. Smaller companies also are ready and waiting to build in the power gap left by nuclear power stations. Greater Manchester and nearby authorities are planning to become carbon neutral by the 2030s. Scotland with its long and windy coastline, has already dumped fossil fuels for electricity and switched to 100% renewable energy sources.

On a different slant, turning to the past for answers, the Open University and Blue Planet 2 have found that the Pliocene geological period of millions of years ago was similar to our own! Research is being carried out to discover the influence on the temperature and marine life at the time on which the smallest phytoplankton at the base of the marine food chain depends. This plays a key role in removing carbon dioxide from the earth's atmosphere and generates half the earth's oxygen. In a similar way, forests, woodland and plants produce the oxygen we breathe and contribute to the delicate balance of nature which is now under such threat.

Coming back to the present a new threatened catastrophe is now evident in the declining number of insects estimated to be over 40% down, which provide essential food for other creatures and pollinators and are also recyclers of nutrients. Urbanisation is believed to be significant and the heavy use of numerous pesticides as well. Our knowledge of this may help to halt the decline and control our unnecessary overuse.

The 'Seabin Project' business venture devised by two Australian surfers, is supplying and shipping abroad cleaning devices which collect ocean waste and filter it and then pump out clean water wherever it is required. This could help reduce the huge amounts of plastic waste being consumed by ocean marine life.

So again we value the wisdom of Professor Stephen Hawking, eminent physicist and scientist, who suggested a shift in our modern thinking towards 'new enterprises and ideas' since it is only humans who have the capacity to act, care and control the survival of our species. It has been estimated that the world population will reach nine to ten billion by 2050, and all will be globally dependent on scarcer food and water supplies.

Sir David Attenborough warns that 'humankind has the power to destroy ecosystems.....and the mechanisms we have for destruction' yet we now know how to study and find ways to prevent such disaster with the knowledge that we have.

Our personal Christian faith, as well as those of many others, teaches us that the loving God who created the universe and ourselves to value and care for it, has also provided us with the knowledge, techniques and wisdom to learn how we can act together to do so. This is our prayer and best hope for survival.

Hilary Cramer

News from the Leprosy Mission

At the start of the New Year, the Leprosy Mission are excited to share some amazing news:

Every pound donated between 27th January and 27th April 2019 to Leprosy Mission's 'Heal Nepal' campaign will be matched by the UK Government

There are thousands of cases of undiagnosed leprosy in Nepal and more people becoming disabled as a result. Every day there is the hurt of rejection for those cast out of families and communities because of the fear surrounding leprosy. By finding cases early, disability will be prevented, leprosy stopped from spreading and hope of ending the disease becomes a reality.

Leprosy Mission: 01733 370505 email: post@TLMEW.org.uk

Messy Church

The topic for our February Messy Church was Noah. We had an ark, animals and lots of children and their parents and carers. We had a very exciting beginning -Sandy told the story of Noah while the children acted it out, made appropriate sounds and banged or blew the correct instrument!!

Crafts were many and varied. Painting is always a very popular activity and the children and their parents painted pictures of animals- some extremely lifelike! We made animal masks, doves, Play Dough animals and origami boats. Many of the children made up a booklet telling the whole story while some coloured pictures of certain parts of it.

As always tea was much enjoyed, this time pizza – a firm favourite! After tea we all met together to remind ourselves of the story, to show what we had made and to share prayers with each other.

Please remember Messy Church in your prayers:

That the families who come regularly will feel at home in the fellowship of the church and come to share something of the faith we hold.

That we will be able to provide something that will interest and challenge some of the children who are getting older.

That in all we do, those who deliver Messy Church will reflect the love of Jesus to all those who come along.

Messy Church leaders

Baptist Women's Fellowship

January 22nd Sandra Northcote led a Poetry Afternoon, interspersed between her own choice of poems, other members read their choices. There was a good mix of poems expressing a wide range of emotions. A happy afternoon.

January 29th Jan Shepherd joined us again from Griffydham Wesleyan Reform Church. Her theme based on the story of the Wise Men using four A's. Anticipation-undertaking a long journey. Apathy- the scribes showing no interest in the prophecies they discovered. Anger-shown by Herod and its consequences. Adoration-when they found the child. Jesus promised he would return, and Jan used these four aspects to talk of the second coming. Where are we on our journey?

February 5th Barbara's theme was "Called to be?" What? In Romans chapter 1 Paul writes "saints" What is its definition? Different versions translate it with other words, some easier to understand. her conclusion- Saints are people who believe in God and Jesus Christ and use the gifts that have been given to the best of their ability for the good of everyone, in His name. That means everyone of use.

February 12th Rev Derek Tickner passed around two plaques from Rome's catacombs. One had loaves, fish and Greek letters Jesus Christ Son of God Saviour. The other had an anchor with symbols for Alpha and Omega on either side. Derek read the passage on Jesus speaking from the boat and the great catch of fish. He spoke of incidents involving Jesus and fish, closing with the breakfast on the beach after the resurrection, Jesus challenge to Peter, finishing with the words-You follow me.

Future Events

March 5 th	AGM
March 12 th	Rev David Butcher
March 19 th	Mary's story
March 26 th	John Todd
Sat March 30 th	Coffee Morning
April 2 nd	Rev Gert Glasius

Rotas for March

CHURCH FLOWERS

Mar 3rd Rhian Green
Mar 10th Creations
Mar 17th Diana Grant
Mar 24th Richard O'Connor
Mar 31st Sheena Samuels



SATURDAY STEWARDS

Mar 2nd Stan Cramer
Mar 9th Michael Tebbatt
Mar 16th
Mar 23rd Richard O'Connor
Mar 30 David Warren



COFFEE MORNINGS

Brownies
Dementia UK
Rainbows
Ladies Choir
B.W.F.



CHURCH STEWARDS

Mornings

Mar 3rd Shade Ojo
Mar 10th Margot Gabe, Victoria Edwards
Mar 17th Katie Tebbatt, Pat Moore
Mar 24th Anne Lockley, Peter Taylor
Mar 31st David & Valerie Green



Evenings Pam Willetts & Marcene Crocker

Items for the February magazine should be handed into the office or sent to edward-atkin@hotmail.co.uk by NOON on Sunday 17th March 2019

Calendar for March 2019

Sat 2 nd	6.30	Link Up
Sun 3rd	10.45 6.00	Family Worship: Luke 23: 32-38 Quiet Communion Service: 'How shall we pray'
Tues 5 th	10-12	Yarn Angels
Wed 6 th	3.30-6.00	Messy Church
Thurs 7 th	11.00	Forget-me-nots
Fri 8 th	12.45	Luncheon Club
Sun 10th	10.45 6.00	Family Worship: 'All about prayer' Evening Service: Give us today our daily bread Matt 7: 7-14
Sun 17th	10.45 4.00	Family Worship: Lent Series An Invitation to hope 2 Cor 1: 3-7 Sunday@ Four:
Tues 19 th	10-12 12.45	Yarn Angels Lunchtime Concert: Chris Hill, jazz, with Caroline Sharpe, soprano,
Thurs 21 st	11.00	Forget-me-nots
Fri 22 nd	12.45	Luncheon Club
Sun 24th	10.45 6.00	Family Worship: Lent Series An invitation to adoption John 19: 25-27 Evening Service: Forgive us our sins Mark 2: 1-12
Sun 31st	10.45 6.00	Family Worship: Mothering Sunday Psalm 22: 1-15 Evening Service: Proverbs 3: 11-20