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The Magazine

May
2021

Wallasey Village Church

The United Reformed Church in Wallasey Village





Letter from Jeff

“When the Holy Spirit comes...”

I’ve been enjoying the good weather recently which inevitably means that the garden is growing with a vengeance leading to overfull wheelie bins.

I’d mowed the lawns a few weeks ago and filled the bin to the brim and Heather, who had been doing some weeding, had nowhere to put the rubbish. But she noticed a few days later that there was room in the bin. No one had taken any cuttings out but gravity had done its work and the cuttings had been compressed.

The same happens to us as Christians; life and circumstance can often bear down on us even to the point of crushing us. And, as I was thinking about all of this I started to think ahead to Pentecost and it reminded me of an old story I read years ago which I may have shared before.

It’s the story of a man some years ago who would show up at whenever there was a revival meetings in town. At the end of each service when the invitation was given, he would walk to the front, get down on his knees, raise his arms to heaven and cry out, "Fill me, Jesus! Fill me! Fill me!" Then, within a matter of a week or two, he would slip back into his old ways of living. But when the next round of revival meetings

Cover picture
The Dungeons



was held, he would be there, and again, he would go to the front, get down on his knees and pray the same prayer, "Fill me, Jesus! Fill me! Fill me!" And so it went on, the same ritual at every revival meeting. But one time, he was down on his knees yelling to the ceiling, "Fill me! Fill me, Jesus! Fill me!" when suddenly from the back of the church some lady shouted out, "Don't do it, Lord! He leaks!"

The truth is that we all leak. Being filled with the Holy Spirit is not a once-and-for-all thing and our spiritual energies diminish over time, just like gravity working on a bin full of grass cuttings or life and circumstance bearing down on us.

This month, as we prepare for the reopening on our church, we celebrate Pentecost, the time when the Holy Spirit was poured out on all God’s people, and as we do so let’s pray that God will fill us anew that we might be ready to do the work He’s prepared for us.

Acts 9:31 tells us that ‘...the church throughout Judea, Galilee and Samaria enjoyed a time of peace and was strengthened. Living in the fear of the Lord and encouraged by the **Holy Spirit**, it increased in numbers.’

My prayer for our church is that we too might be filled and encouraged by the Holy Spirit that our church too might grow in numbers.

God bless.

Jeff



Does a Funeral/Memorial Service Matter?

I ask this question because of a television advert inviting us to consider (in advance of our death) a “no frills” funeral arrangement that will save us lots of money that could, instead, then go to the grandchildren. It simply involves the funeral director taking the body to the crematorium—no relatives, no friends, no flowers, no prayers, no time of reflection or tributes.

Perhaps this advert is a reminder of how non-religious our society has become, but as Christian men and women, we must never lose sight of the importance and value of a life given and lived.

As our country mourns the loss of thousands of our citizens of all ages and from every culture, we must pray for a compassionate heart in order to be able to reach out to those we know who are having to deal with grief and loss, something that will remain with them always, we can do this through the many different ways available to us today for communicating our love and concern to others. Mavis and I will always be indebted to the many, many people who made time and found a way to support us.

How we say a final good-bye to loved ones, for me, will always remain a very, very important occasion for giving thank, for reflection, for sharing and for remembering the One who is the source and giver of all life—the “cheap and easy funeral is—to me—both offensive and unchristian.

*Thanks to
Ron Taylor
for this article*



The Quick and easy read Bible

Prior to lockdown last March, over 800 people had received copies of the “Quick and Easy read Bible”. I’d love to think that all who have received copies have found them to be a comforting and strengthening their faith and nourishing their souls.

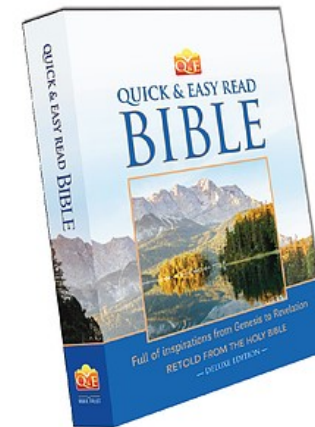
You might like to know that I still have about 30 copies of the Bible left, so I’m asking you to prayerfully consider giving a copy as a gift to someone in need, or perhaps someone celebrating a special occasion.

It’s possible that circumstances have caused us to grow lazy in our reading of the scriptures, so can I take this opportunity to encourage us all to begin again.

What we can be sure of is that we will never be disappointed in what awaits us there.

Paul says to the Christians of Philippi:

“You must shine amongst them like stars lighting up the sky, as you offer them the message of life”.





A New Wardrobe



I wonder if you have yet realised that as a son or daughter of Christ, He has provided us with a complete set of new clothes that will not only change the way we live and behave, but will also make a tremendous impact upon the lives of those around us. In Colossians ch3 v12 there are some wonderful promises that I want to share with you and explain what “clothes” await us in God’s wardrobe. But, first of all, God wants us to know why he has done this:

1. Because we are His people—we belong to Him

2. Because He has chosen us to be His own
And, therefore, because of these things, says our Heavenly Father, you must clothe yourselves with the following:

Compassion; Kindness; Humility; Gentleness and Patience.

What beautiful people we will become, reflecting all the characteristics of our heavenly Father, and pointing people in His direction.

These clothes cost us nothing, they are freely given. The Lord Jesus has paid the price in full. So why not ask God to give you this lovely set of clothes today?



Re-opening

We are ready to begin compiling duty rotas for our reopening on 27th June. If you would like to be included for a particular duty, please contact Joyce. All are welcome to volunteer. We need people for:

Welcome and offertory

sound (training and support will be provided)

reading

prayers

flowers

Coffee (Saturday & Sunday)



People News

Please remember the following in your prayers:

Jim Varty; Peter Evans, Sue Norris’ sister Jean

Jeff and all of the elders as they prepare to reopen church safely.

Thank you

I would like to say thank you for the prayers and best wishes I received during my recent stay in hospital

Joan Leighton



Due to current restrictions, we are unable to meet for worship and our usual weekly activities. However, we have produced some online worship as a way of keeping connected .

We do hope you can join in with us – The services are on the church website:

<https://wallaseyvilleurc.org.uk/>

Fellowship and community are important to us and this is one way we can keep together even in isolation. Our prayer for you and those you love is that you keep safe and well and that God's blessing will rest upon you.

Jeff would like more hymns to be sent to him, each with a short reason why it is a favourite.

For news of any future events, refer to the website above



May Dates for your Diary

Thurs 6th	Village Rooms	Election Day
10th—16th May		Christian Aid Week
Thurs 13th		Ascension Day
Sun 23rd		Pentecost (Whit Sunday))

Advance Notices

Sunday 27th June	Proposed re- opening Service
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GoronwyHumphreys@virginmedia.com

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14 Prospect Vale, Wallasey CH45 6TQ

tel 0151 513 3678



Christian Aid Week 10 - 16 May 2021

The climate emergency is one of the greatest injustices we face. Together we stop this climate crisis.

This climate crisis hurts us all. But people living in poverty fight the worst of it every day.

From drought to flooding, climate change robs people of control over their lives. Extreme weather means [people like Rose](#) are struggling to survive without a reliable source of water.

Your gift could help a community build an earth dam, so when the rains do come, they will have the water they need to live. A reliable source of water will help families withstand long drought or relentless rainstorms.

Every envelope. Every gift. Every challenge can change lives.

[Together we stop this climate crisis.](#)

Rose is caught in a cycle of climate chaos. From severe drought to flooding, extreme weather robs her of what she needs to survive: a reliable source of water.

When she was a child, Rose remembers how often the rains would fall, giving fruit to the baobab trees and providing plenty of nutritious food to eat.

'When I was a young girl, there was plenty of food,' Rose says. Now, the rains are totally unreliable.



The climate crisis has galvanised extreme weather and Rose's community are feeling the brunt of it. For months at a time, Rose and her family live with drought.

"Because of climate change, I worry a lot about food. I pray to God that the rainfall will become normal like it used to be."

Rose strives to provide for her grandchildren who live with her. She does all she can to give them happy childhoods, but the climate crisis is driving her to the brink.

In times of drought, Rose sets out on a long and dangerous journey every morning to collect water for her family. She walks on an empty stomach.

'Because I am old, I can't walk very fast. When I get home I just rest in the evening. I have no energy to do anything else,' Rose says. Even when the rains do come, relief for Rose is often short lived—there is a nearby earth dam just minutes away from Rose's home. It should be a lifeline. But it's not wide enough or deep enough for everyone's needs. It runs out of water too quickly. Imagine how dispirited Rose must feel watching the rain fall for days, only to find the dam empty just a short while later.

What's more, the rains are much heavier than they should be, putting Rose's community at risk of flooding. Rose is over 60 years old and simply won't have the strength to fetch water from further afield for much longer. We need to fight this climate crisis together. I believe God gives me strength and helps me persevere. I pray that God will help people to help me.

Please donate to Christian Aid using

<https://www.christianaid.org.uk/appeals/key-appeals/christian-aid-week>

Or speak to an elder for cash donations

**David Bigmore
is looking for
volunteers to
deliver (but not
collect) CA
envelopes
0151 638 1900**



Lockdown Log

I have spent the last few days working in the garden, on hands and knees or sitting on a very low stool digging out weeds from one small corner of our garden! I've been glad of the good weather because it's meant that I could do the work, but I certainly had moments when my back, hips and knees were pleading for rain or some other reason to make me stop!

The weeds that have taken over are called Alkanet, pretty blue flower, hairy skin irritating leaves and a very deep tap route. We have battled this weed for 10 years, it reminds me of the Hydra creature of mythology, cut off one head and there's another one to take its place!

So, as I sat aching, I asked myself... "why am I the one doing this job?" the answer... "if not you then who?" The usual answer is "Jeff will have to do it". The list of things that 'Jeff will have to do' is just too long though! I can do this job, it may be uncomfortable, I may prefer not to, I may be able to think of dozens of other things that I need to do instead, I could just leave it and wait until it gets so bad Jeff has to do it along with everything else. So, I had a word with myself and though the task might seem thankless, I kept going through the pain and I can tell you now that I am delighted that I have succeeded, and I know Jeff appreciates not having to do it.

Neither Jeff nor I are keen gardeners, but this lovely house that we live in came with gardens and like it or not we need to maintain them. It may have taken me longer than it would take Jeff. If I had left the job, Jeff would have probably given the area a spray with weed



killer and cleared away the debris; this may seem to be effective, but it does not solve the problem as the roots are still there, despite what it says in the tin! (Let me assure you we have tried!)

So as I sat in the garden with time to ponder, I considered which other tasks I could take on.

As we start to think about getting back into our church building, and getting the premises ready you may be able to help in some way?

When the church buildings are open again, things may not be just as they were before, and nor should they be. There may be different jobs to do, and you may be able to do one of them, now is the time to start thinking about it, start praying to ask God what you might be able to do. Everybody is able to contribute, whether you are physically able to be in fellowship or not. Each of us is a part of the church, it is not the same place if you are not playing your full role. There is nobody too good, there is nobody too bad, there is nobody too old, there is nobody too shy, there is nobody who has done their bit and so can put their feet up now and let other's do everything. If not you then who 'should' do the work that God calls His people to do?

All of the work of God must be underpinned with prayer, so those who cannot physically 'do' anymore can be serious about prayer and can be active and specific in prayer for those who 'can do'.

Let's ask ourselves if not me, then who?

**Contact Joyce
if you are
able to
volunteer for
a duty on
Sundays
07590376633**

**Contact Chris
if you can
help to help
get our
building
ready for
reopening**

07743161971

Heather



Christian Aid Week



Christian Aid week runs from 10th-16th May, but as we can't collect 'Door to Door' or have Christian Aid lunches and coffee mornings as we've done in previous years other avenues for raising are needed.

So, I have decided that since I can't do what I would usually do for Christian Aid I will do something different.

I am hoping to walk from Leasowe Lighthouse to Fort Perch Rock (café and toilets this end). The walk is 4.5 miles, so quite a stretch for me, but thankfully it's fairly flat; still, I don't promise record breaking speed! I would be grateful if you would consider sponsoring me to do this to raise money for Christian Aid.

I will be walking on Saturday 15th May 2021 starting at 10am. (Weather permitting)

Jeff will be walking with me and if you would like to join us for some or all of the way we'd be delighted to see you, socially distanced, of course! (Covid regulations will allow groups of 6 to meet outdoors).

Please consider any contribution you wish to make prayerfully, and I'll let you know how you can sponsor me in May's magazine.

Yours, (in training,) Heather.



From the editors

Because of the death of Prince Philip in April. You will have seen many flags flying at half mast on public buildings.

This custom arises from the days of sea warfare many years ago. In the days before modern guns, wooden ships were very difficult to sink and a ship was often captured in an action which involved hand to hand fighting on deck. When the crew eventually surrendered or were all killed, the ships flag would be taken down and rehoisted with the victor's flag above it.

To commemorate a death, the dead persons flag would be taken down and rehoisted with the flag of death above it. The flag of death is invisible, so to indicate that it is there the flag is rehoisted to a position one flag width below the top of the mast. This is the correct way to fly a flag at half mast.

To the Christian, Death never has the final victory so perhaps we should rethink this custom.



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