

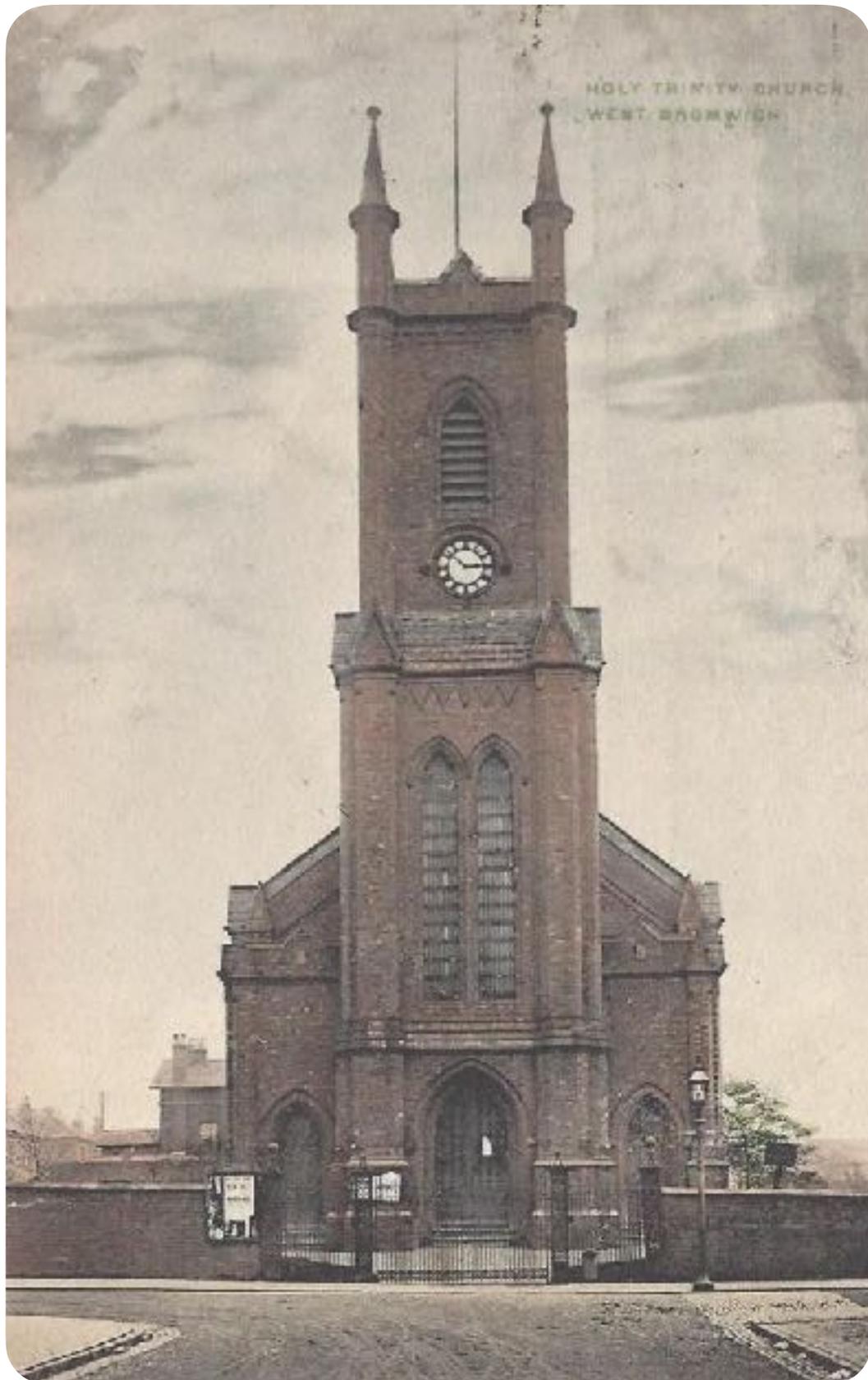
# holy trinity church

parish magazine

February 2017



30p



# Candlemas 2 February (Luke 2:22-40)

February snowdrops we welcome you!  
Candlemas Bells,  
winter's half-way markers,  
symbols of hope and light to come,  
creation's reminders of the Creator  
revealed in the child in Simeon's arms.

Jesus -  
fulfilment of God's promise  
to save and illuminate.  
Jesus -  
who overcame darkness and death  
to live for us and in us.



At the snowdrops' prompting,  
Lord Jesus, we welcome you afresh,  
Hope and Light in person.

*By Daphne Kitching*

## Prayer of thanks for God's light

Father of all creation,

Thank you for signs of life and light, even in the dark and sometimes difficult days of winter. Thank you for Jesus' victory over darkness and death – and for the assurance that, if we put our trust in Him – nothing can ever separate us from you.

Help us to hold onto the hope you have given us and to walk on with Jesus as our guiding light. And may His light attract others who don't yet know Him and whom the darkness threatens to overwhelm.

Shine on us, Lord, that we may reflect your light and receive your peace.

In Jesus's name.

Amen.

*By Daphne Kitching*

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# From the Vicarage



I am writing the day after the inauguration of Donald Trump to the office of President of the United States of America. His election to office is nothing if not controversial. He has many supporters, who like his fresh approach to politics, which comes after he broke through the glass ceiling of the American political elite. Many Christians are encouraged by Trump's use of the bible in his inaugural address. But he also has many doubters, who dislike his crass comments, divisive policies and moral failures. What should we pray for as he takes up his office?

First, we must remember whose president Donald Trump is and whose authority he has. It is the living God who has raised up Donald Trump. God has his purposes and plans for his choice and it will advance the plans he has for his people and the world. We should praise God with Daniel, who knew that God's promises and plans cannot fail::

Praise be to the name of God for ever and ever;  
wisdom and power are his.  
He changes times and seasons;  
he deposes kings and raises up others.

Second, we should pray for Donald Trump's eternity. He was brought up, by his Scottish Presbyterian mum and a German Lutheran dad, in the Presbyterian Church in America. His family moved to Marble Collegiate Church and Trump formed a close relationship with the pastor, Norman Vincent Peale, who wrote "The Power of Positive Thinking." Trump's faith is reported to be cultural and nominal but not personal. We can pray that he may know Jesus as his loving Saviour and mighty Lord.

Third, we should pray for there to be no difference between his morality in public office and in his private life. Donald Trump has boasted about having affairs with married women, whilst he himself was married. There have been many politicians who have had affairs, and they are mostly sorry for what they have done and many even resign from their office.

But Donald Trump is different. He has spoken in ways which show that he is proud of what he has done. He has spoken openly about the way he has mistreated women and rather than say he was sorry, and has brushed it off as “locker-room talk.” If he can lie to his family and boast about his moral failure then how can we trust him as president? Let us pray for him to have the same moral standards in public and in private.

Fourth, leadership is not just about setting a direction or having a vision which others will follow. Leadership is about being a loving, faithful and trustworthy and a role model.

3 Let love and faithfulness never leave you;  
bind them around your neck,  
write them on the tablet of your heart.

4 Then you will win favour and a good name  
in the sight of God and man.

5 Trust in the Lord with all your heart  
and lean not on your own understanding;

6 in all your ways submit to him,  
and he will make your paths straight.

Proverbs 3:3-6

It has been hard to predict what Donald Trump will do or say. We must pray that he will trust in the Lord with all his heart and submit to the Lord in all his ways, with great love and faithfulness. When he does, then whatever circumstance or decision he faces, we can trust that he'll make those decisions with the Lord's wisdom and to the best of his ability. It has become much more difficult in Western culture to know how anyone will behave in different situations and this uncertainty destroys trust. When everyone turns to the Lord for wisdom, then trust is built, as we can trust that God's wisdom, his values, law and principles will make our paths straight.

May God do more than we can ask or imagine through Donald Trump.

**With love, Neil**

# Prayer Focus (from Thy Kingdom Come initiative)



## Prayers for Young People

*The majority of Christians come to know Jesus as young people; this is something to be celebrated and excited about. However, there are less young people in the Church than ever before. Young people living in the UK today need our prayer.*



Here are five ways to pray for young people:

### **1. PRAY FOR JESUS TO BE KNOWN**

Pray for the message of the Bible to reach young people across the UK; for Churches working with young people and organisations who support young people. Pray that Jesus would be known and for God's love to be understood by young people across our nation; who He is and who He has made them to be. Pray specifically for young people you know in your community.

### **2. PRAY THAT THE BIBLE WILL BE SHARED**

Engaging with young people is a challenge that many Churches struggle with. Pray that whole churches will be equipped and passionate to reach young people; that God would bless the work of vicars, youth and school workers. Pray that each church in your area will see sharing the message of the Bible to the next generation as an essential part of their work.

### **3. PRAY GOD WOULD CALL YOUNG LEADERS:**

Jesus' disciples were probably teenagers or in their early twenties when they were called by Him. Pray that God would raise up young leaders who can reach their peers; that they will build and grow the future church in our nation.

### **4. PRAY FOR THE PRESSURES YOUNG PEOPLE FACE**

Today, young people are crippled by the pressures of our increasingly digital culture, where pornography, cyber-bulling and online relationships are increasing. Huge numbers of young people come from broken families; there has been a rise in anxiety, depression and eating disorders among young people. Pray against these pressures, and for spiritual guidance from older Christians who can communicate God's love to them.

### **5. PRAY FOR ONE YOUNG PERSON YOU KNOW**

Committing to pray for one person by name can bring transformation. Take a moment to ask God to bring one young person to mind. Commit to praying for them for the next three months.

# February Prayer Reflection

*During 2017 we will be including a monthly prayer reflection taken with permission from the book *Prayer for the Day V1* printed by Watkins Publishers. The book is available for download on Kindle at around £8.00 or in hardback at around £12.00. Also broadcast on Radio 4.*

*This month's reflection by Noel Batttye broadcast Thursday 7th February 2013.*

How do you know when you're growing old ?

Is it when you go to a cupboard to find something, only to ask yourself, "Why have I come here?"

Is it when youngsters whizz past you in technology, whereas you've only got as far as texting or email?

Is it when the young fellow at check-out tells you that very soon he's having a week off work prepare for his wedding in June? "And have you got your house yet?" I ask. "Of course!" he beams, "And we've got a couple of kids as well!" He was so pleased with things, one could only rejoice with him.

The world is changing all around us and I suppose the question raised is, when do you hold on to old standards and when do you let them go?

When a radio presenter, for example, announces that 'he is sat' or 'he is stood', do you write in on behalf of the English language? Well, maybe so if you're feeling grumpy!

But when a family member forms a partnership about which you have strong reservations, do you speak up? Or do you remain silent because you know it's now too late for that?

Is your desire to protect a purely selfish thing based on a rule-book of your own? Or maybe on other people's perceptions of the family? Would your greatest witness be to go on listening while surrounding them with an endless stream of love and silent prayers? As one who has been a pastor for over 40 years, experience tells me that the last of these works best.

*Lord, we thank You for the hope and vision of each rising generation.*

*And we ask You to bless and guide those whom we remember now before You.*

*And bind us all together in the circle of Your love. In Jesus' name. Amen*

# A Priceless Find – by accident!

70 years ago this month a couple of shepherds in the hills above Qumran near the Dead Sea idly threw a stone into what they thought was an empty cave. When they heard the sound of smashing pottery they searched inside, and found the most important biblical discovery of the century.



Their stone had led them to what became known as the Dead Sea Scrolls, manuscripts of the entire Hebrew Bible except for the book of Esther, stored in clay vessels. The scrolls were the work of a religious community called the Essenes, who lived near that site before and during the life of Jesus.

As scholars slowly unraveled them – and that task took decades – they discovered that they were handling manuscripts of the Bible which were hundreds of years older than any we had previously possessed. Most of the biblical manuscripts on which our translations had previously been based were copies of copies, carefully crafted in monasteries over the centuries by people dedicated to preserving the sacred text. But inevitably, in the process, there were occasional slips in the copying, and at times it's obvious that those who were doing it didn't understand the words they were copying.

So, in February 1947, the world had access to a much older and therefore more accurate record of the Jewish Scriptures – the Bible of Jesus and the first Christians. The most remarkable thing is actually how few 'mistakes' there were, seeing the centuries of copying – and not one that seriously affects our fundamental understanding of the Bible.

Those two shepherds 70 years ago ensured that we today have a Bible text which is as close to the original as one could ever hope to get. I'm glad they threw the stone into the right cave!

*Tim Lenton looks back with fondness on a certain well-known album...you could make this local by inviting your readers to say if they ever bought a copy of it...how about suggesting a social evening to enjoy some of the songs?*

## Fleetwood Mac's masterpiece

Fleetwood Mac, the reinvented rock band that survived a self-destructive, druggy lifestyle, released the album that was arguably their masterpiece 40 years ago, on 4th Feb 1977.

Rumours, recorded in California, became one of the best-selling albums of all time, selling more than 45 million copies worldwide. It contained, incidentally, The Chain – the song that is now best known as the introduction to TV coverage of Formula One.

Yet this was far from the Fleetwood Mac founded by brilliant blues guitarist Peter Green (originally Greenbaum) in the UK in the late 1960s. With fellow guitarist Jeremy Spencer, Green was reported in 1969 to be working on an album telling the life story of Jesus, but this never materialised. Green consistently rejected the materialistic lifestyle, but was eventually diagnosed with schizophrenia.

Meanwhile, Mick Fleetwood and John McVie, drummer and bass guitarist respectively, were looking for a lead guitarist who would stick with them, and eventually Fleetwood heard one, by chance, when he was visiting a sound studio in California. This was Lindsey Buckingham, who agreed to join them on condition that his girlfriend could come too.

This has to rank as one of the happiest “accidents” in rock music, because the girlfriend was Stevie Nicks, who became the charismatic lead singer for the band and writer of some of their most memorable songs. Her friendship with the other female star in the band, Christine McVie (who rejoined Fleetwood Mac in 2014 after a 16-year absence), was also key to the band's survival.

As to the album, Mick Fleetwood is reported as saying: “Rumours became the church that saved us from the hell of our own lives.”

## Breath deep

Now here's a trick that you probably haven't tried before: next time you forget something, try taking some deep breaths.

It seems that inhaling stimulates our brain, creating electrical activity where emotions, memory and smells are processed. In a recent American study, individuals were able to identify a face two seconds more quickly if they were breathing in through the nose, rather than breathing out.

The study was carried out at Northwestern University in Chicago, and may also explain why we breath rapidly when afraid. "If you are in a panic state, you spend proportionally more time inhaling. .... Faster breathing could have a positive impact on brain function and result in faster response times."

## Some observations on our Christian pilgrimage

God knows us altogether and cares for us in spite of that knowledge. *J Charles Stern*

## Social media is making our children unhappy

Social media can have a devastating effect on our children, leaving them "deeply unhappy", a major charity has warned, as new figures show a rise in self-harm.

The NSPCC found that 18,778 children aged 11-18 were admitted to hospital for self-harm in 2015-16. This was 14 per cent up on the data for 2013-14. Teenagers aged 13 to 17 are the most likely to self-harm.

Meanwhile, Childline, the charity's support network, delivered 18,471 counselling sessions dealing with self-harm.

The charity finds that the children's unhappiness "is partly due to the constant pressure they feel, particularly from social media, to have the perfect life, or attain a certain image which is often unrealistic. They tell us that the need to keep up with friends, and the 24/7 nature of technology means they feel they can never escape or switch off."

## Some miscellaneous observations on life

I hold it to be a fact, that if all persons knew what each said of the other, there would not be four friends in the world. *Blaise Pascal*

Nothing is so opened more by mistake than the mouth. *Anon*

# THE VERY FIRST VALENTINE CARD - A LEGEND

The Roman Emperor Claudius II needed soldiers. He suspected that marriage made men want to stay at home with their wives, instead of fighting wars, so he outlawed marriage.

A kind-hearted young priest named Valentine felt sorry for all the couples who wanted to marry, but couldn't. So secretly he married as many couples as he could - until the Emperor found out and condemned him to death. While he was in prison awaiting execution, Valentine showed love and compassion to everyone around him, including his jailer. The jailer had a young daughter who was blind, but through Valentine's prayers, she was healed. Just before his death in Rome on 14 February, he wrote her a farewell message signed 'From your Valentine.'

So the very first Valentine card was not between lovers, but between a priest about to die, and a little girl, healed through his prayers.

## RESIDENTS PETITION LOCAL COUNCIL

Residents of Trinity Road and the neighbourhood are petitioning the council asking them to reduce the incline of Trinity Road. The road is used by parents/grandparents taking their children to the local primary school and residents visiting the high street shops and local metro stop. Their complaint is that with an ageing population the incline is too steep and difficult for old and infirm people to climb easily.

The petition now has several hundred signatures and will be presented to the council in the coming weeks.

## WHY YOU MAY SOON BE BUYING BLUE CHEESE AND SQUID

This year, you will probably buy more blue cheese and less cheddar cheese. (Sales of cheddar fell by £60m last year). On the other hand, blue cheese is now even found in fast casual eating outlets, according to the supplier Eurilait. And soon you may not be eating fish and chips, but squid and chips. As the Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (Cefas) explains: "In 2025 and beyond, we may need to replace cod and other old favourites with warm-water species such as squid, mackerel, sardine and red mullet." Already squid is being found in more and more British fishing areas.



Neil and the PCC have recently introduced an electronic communication system into the church admin/communication system. The system called ChurchApp allows everyone on the church rota system to be notified electronically the dates they are on duty. For those who do not have a computer a hard copy will be available.

The introduction of the electronic ChurchApp into the church admin/communication system is progressing well and next month should be available to all who appear on the rota system.

Neil, Teri and Christine have been working hard to instal the ChurchApp system which will rely on those involved in any duty to ensure their contact details have been inputted onto the data base.

The system will also still rely on duty members letting admin know if they are unable to make it on the day.

The ChurchApp will from next month produce all church rotas including:-

- \* Service leaders
- \* Prayer leaders
- \* Bible readers
- \* Chalice bearers
- \* Sermon leaders
- \* Creche
- \* Junior Church
- \* Refreshments
- \* Welcome Team



Download ChurchApp for iPhone or iPad or laptop to be included on the electronic rotas.

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## Church Is a Team Sport

Most sports teams have a star player. Get the ball to him and he'll score. Get him up at bat with two men on base and he'll hit them home. The sports commentators keep extensive statistics on each player that they'll pull out during a lull in the play. It's all about the numbers — each person playing to advance his own career, to increase his averages — at least that's the way it seems sometimes.



But once in a while you see a team that plays together with a kind of magic. It's not about one person scoring big, but it's every team member doing his utmost to move the team forward to win the game — to get the ball across the line, to score.

Each player on the field or in the court has a role to play. And when each plays that role well and aggressively — keeping his eye on the ball — the whole team benefits. When one player just goes through the motions, the team is crippled. And if a key member of the team is injured — or just doesn't show up for the game — the whole team suffers. The team fails to score.



A healthy church has a lot in common with a finely oiled sports team. Church shouldn't be just a spectator sport with a few players entertaining the crowd. Church — especially a small church — relies on each person actively doing what he or she does best. Church is a team sport.

Let me ask you: what's your role in your congregation? What are you doing to move the ball forward? What have you been *asked* to do that might further your effectiveness as a willing servant of the Head of the Church.

Some of you are wonderful, indispensable team members that help your church do Christ's work! Thank you! But your pastor longs for the day that others will submit to the discipline of being faithful members of a team, a team that has the goal of glorifying God and bringing people to Christ. Dear friends, it's time to suit up together! Game on!



# Influence of the Holy Spirit



It is because of love that God carried out His plan to save the world: “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life” (John 3:16). It is only by love that we can keep the greatest commandments: “Love the Lord your God” and “love your neighbour as yourself” (Mark 12:30-31).

Love is the greatest gift God can give. First Corinthians 13 says that agape is patient. Agape is kind. Agape never fails. God desires to show His perfect, selfless love to a world that is routinely confused about what true love is. God’s children are the conduits of His love, as they are empowered by the Holy Spirit.

The fruit of the Spirit is what God desires our lives to exhibit and, with the Holy Spirit's help, it is possible!

Possessing joy is a choice. We choose whether to value God's presence, promises, and work in our lives. When we yield to the Spirit, He opens our eyes to God's grace around us and fills us with joy (Romans 15:13). Joy is not to be found in a fallen world; it is only fellowship with God that can make our joy complete (1 John 1:4).

One of the primary purposes of the Holy Spirit coming into a Christian's life is to change that life.

The Spirit-filled Christian has a peace that is abundant, available in every situation, and unlike anything that the world has to offer (John 14:27). The alternative to being filled with the Spirit and His peace is to be filled with alarm, filled with doubt, filled with foreboding, or filled with dread. How much better to let the Spirit have control and perform His work of growing fruit to the glory of God!

It is the Holy Spirit's job to conform us to the image of Christ, making us more like Him.

The opposite of patience is agitation, discouragement, and a desire for revenge. God does not want His children to live in agitation but in peace (John 14:27). He wants to dispel discouragement and replace it with hope and praise (Psalms 42:5). We are not to avenge ourselves; rather, we are to love others (Romans 12:19; Leviticus 19:18).

God is patient, and His Spirit produces the fruit of patience in us. When we are patient, we leave room for God to work in our hearts and in our relationships. We lay down our schedule and trust in God's. We thank the Lord for what and whom He's brought into our lives. We let God be God.

Our sinful flesh produces certain types of fruit that reflect our nature, and the Holy Spirit produces types of fruit that reflect His nature.

When we exhibit the kindness of God, we are tender, benevolent, and useful to others. Every action, every word will have the flavour of grace in it. To maintain this attitude toward those we love is hard enough. To express kindness toward those who are against us requires the work of God (2 Corinthians 6:4-6). That is why kindness is a fruit of the Spirit.

It is one of the main purposes of the Christian life, though, to progressively allow the Holy Spirit to produce more and more of His fruit in our lives—and to allow the Holy Spirit to conquer the opposing sinful desires.

Goodness is not a quality we can manufacture on our own. James 1:17 says, "Every good thing given and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights." This certainly includes a life characterized by goodness. In letting the Holy Spirit control us, we are blessed with the fruit of goodness. As others see our good works, they will praise our Father in heaven (Matthew 5:16). The fruit of the Spirit is what God desires our lives to exhibit and, with the Holy Spirit's help, it is possible!

Faithfulness is believing that God is Who He says He is and continuing in that belief despite the vagaries of life. Functionally, that means we trust what God says in the Bible, and not necessarily what the world or our own eyes tell us. We trust He will work out everything for good. We trust He will work His will in us. And we trust that our situation on earth is nothing compared to our future reward in heaven. The only way we can have such faith is by the Holy Spirit's influence. He testifies to the truth and impels us to seek God. The Spirit makes us faithful.

Enoch understood that God rewards those who seek Him and trust Him with all their hearts. We trust what God does because we trust Him, not the other way around. In other words, we trust God even if when He is silent and we see no miracles.

That is part of faithfulness. We know God is reliable, steadfast, and true.

To live in a spirit of gentleness toward God is to accept His judgment on people and issues. We tend to think it is gentle to go easy on people and try to justify actions that God has called sin. Or to let someone continue in sin without speaking the truth. But Paul says, "If anyone is caught in a trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness" ([Galatians 6:1](#)).

This doesn't mean to be so soft that the sinner doesn't realize he's sinned. It means to confront the brother in a manner that is in line with Scripture—to be mild, loving, encouraging, and clear about the holiness that God calls us to.

Jesus gave us the perfect picture of gentleness: "See, your king comes to you, gentle and riding on a donkey" ([Matthew 21:5](#)), and now He offers us His gentleness as a gift. If we allow the Holy Spirit to lead us, we will be filled with fruit of gentleness.

God wants us to give Him control of our lives. Relying on our own logic, we have no impetus to submit to God's leadership. With the wisdom given to us by the Holy Spirit, however, we begin to see why we should completely submit to God as Lord of our lives.

Believers need self-control because the outside world and internal forces still attack ([Romans 7:21-25](#)). Like a vulnerable city, we must have defences. A wall around an ancient city was designed to keep out the enemy. Judges at the gates determined who should be allowed in and who should remain outside. Soldiers and gates enforced those decisions. In our lives, these defences might include avoiding close relationships with sinners, meeting with other believers, and meditating on the life giving Word of God. We don't exhibit self-control if we continually dally with that which would enslave us.

Self-control naturally leads to perseverance (2 Peter 1:6) as we value the long-term good instead of the instant gratification of the world. Self-control is a gift that frees us. It frees us to enjoy the benefits of a healthy body. It frees us to rest in the security of good stewardship. It frees us from a guilty conscience. Self-control restricts the indulgence of our foolish desires, and we find the liberty to love and live as we were meant to.

The fruit of the Spirit is the change in our character that comes about because of the Holy Spirit's work in us. We do not become a Christian on our own, and we cannot grow on our own. Philippians 2:13 says that "it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure." Every good thing we do is the fruit of the Spirit's work in our lives.

*Dr. Michael W. Cochran, D. Th., Michael Cochran Ministries, Christian Writer/Teacher  
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## Grace

A mechanic who worked out of his home had a dog named Mace.

Mace had a bad habit of eating all the grass in the mechanics lawn, so the mechanic had to keep Mace inside. The grass eventually became overgrown.

One day the mechanic was working on a car in his backyard and dropped his wrench, losing it in the tall grass. He couldn't find it for the life of him so he decided to call it a day.

That night Mace escaped from the house and ate all the grass in the backyard. The next morning the mechanic went outside and saw his wrench glinting in the sunlight.

Realising what had happened, he looked up to the heavens and proclaimed, *"A grazing Mace, how sweet the hound that saved a wrench for me!"*

# Society

On Thursday, 8th March 2001, Darrell Scott, the father of Rachel Scott, a victim of the Columbine High School shootings in Littleton, Colorado, was invited to address the House Judiciary Committee's subcommittee. This is part of what he said.

“Since the dawn of creation there has been both good and evil in the hearts of men and women. We all contain the seeds of kindness or the seeds of violence. The death of my wonderful daughter, Rachel Joy Scott, and the death of that heroic teacher, and the other eleven children who died must not be in vain. Their blood cries out for answers.

“I am here today to declare that Columbine was not just a tragedy - it was a spiritual event should be forcing us to look at where the real blame lies here in this room

“I wrote a poem just four nights ago that expresses my feelings best. This was written before I knew I was speaking here today:

*Your laws ignore our deepest needs,  
Your words are empty air.  
You've stripped away our heritage,  
You've outlawed simple prayer.  
Now gunshots fill our classrooms,  
And precious children die.  
You seek for answers everywhere,  
And ask the question "Why?"  
You regulate restrictive laws,  
Through legislative creed.  
And yet you fail to understand,  
That God is what we need!*

“Men and women are three-part beings. We all consist of body, soul and spirit. When we refuse to acknowledge a third of our makeup, we create a void that allows evil, prejudice, and hatred to rush in and wreak havoc.

“Eric and Dylan would not have been stopped by metal detectors. No amount of Gun laws can stop someone who spends months planning this type of massacre. The real villain lies within our own hearts. Political posturing and restrictive legislation are not the answers. The young people of our nation hold the key.

“As my son Craig lay under that table in the school library and saw his two friends murdered before his very eyes - he did not hesitate to pray in school. I defy any law or politician to deny him that right. I challenge every young person in America, and around the world, to realise that on April 20, at Columbine High School prayer was brought back to our schools. Do not let the many prayers offered by those students be in vain. My daughter’s death will not be in vain! The young people of this country will not allow that to happen!”

*Debt destroys families. Children’s Society wants to do something to help. This article will be of interest if your church supports Children’s Society.*

## Give families in debt some space to breathe

The Children’s Society’s Debt Trap campaign aims to address the devastating impact that debt can have on children, which too often goes unseen. Many families try desperately to build normal lives for their children, but it only takes one setback or unexpected life event to become locked in a perpetual cycle of unmanageable debt.

Our latest research has found that children living in families struggling with debt are five times more likely to be unhappy than children in families without debt troubles, putting them at risk of developing mental health issues. With an estimated 2.4 million children in England and Wales living in families with problem debt, the potential for harm is staggeringly real.

We believe that children shouldn’t have to pay the price of debt with their mental health. Every child deserves to flourish, and be all that God created them to be. The Children’s Society is calling on the Government to create a ‘breathing space’ scheme for families, giving them time and space to repay their debts without the impossible burden of rising interest and charges, or visits from intimidating debt collectors. This would protect families and ensure that young people are not affected by unnecessary stress and anxiety. It would allow young people the Sabbath rest that God promises to His people throughout Scripture.

As Christians we are called to make a difference to the lives of these vulnerable young people. At a time when some families are being forced to cut back on essentials like food and heating, your support could make a real difference to children’s lives.

[www.childrenssociety.org.uk/breathingspace](http://www.childrenssociety.org.uk/breathingspace)

# Desert Island Discs



## Ian Goodson's Desert Island Discs.

As the magazine cannot play the music I have chosen, for those who are interested I have created a Spotify Playlist. This is called, "Ian's Desert Island Discs Unlimited". It includes everything mentioned here and much, much more! Reducing my choices to eight tracks is impossible without leaving out many deserving contenders.



1) The song that woke me up to the blues and made me realise that "pop" music could be exciting, interesting and meaningful, was the incomparable **"House of the Rising Sun" by The Animals**. The music also works for "There is a Green Hill" which makes for an interesting and instructive contrast. It was 1964 and it still sounds fresh.

2) There are many hymns that speak to my heart, but, for me, **"When I survey the wondrous Cross"** has to be at the top of the list. I have used **Iona's** version from their album "Journey into the Morn" with Joanne Hogg's beautifully clear diction. They are fusion band musically and I will put some more of their tracks on Spotify. It's a pity that they do not use the full five verse version.

3) **"Be Thou my Vision"**. What always amazes me is that such a beautiful melody is written on the pentatonic scale. You could play this tune just using the black notes of the piano. I've used a very traditional choral version (King's College Choir, Cambridge) but I may throw in some other versions later. You'll find the best English language version in Songs of Fellowship, amongst others. It scans properly and fits the tune precisely.

All that apart, the words express the heartfelt longing of the Christian's spirit to see the Lord. There's also that sense of connection with the Celtic Church which was the Christian Church in the British Isles before Rome's missionaries came.

4) From the opening piano chords, this is a gem of a song. It has to be **Harry Nilsson's** version of "Without You". It's one of those rare songs that makes you want everyone to shut-up and listen while it plays; beautiful, plaintive and heart-rending. One does live without her/him, but at the time it doesn't feel that way. 1970.

5) 1974, I was at St. Martin's College Lancaster – as it was then. I had been through Bible College and was now training as a teacher. **Renaissance** were due to play at the University and I had tickets. I was really looking forward to hearing them and then they all got colds and cancelled. From their album, **"Turn of the Cards"**, I have chosen "Cold is Being" which, in turn, is a version of Albinoni/Giazotto's Adagio in G minor. Both are on the playlist. It's just a beautiful adagio.

6) Over to New Jersey for the next one. "Hearts of Stone" from the album of the same name by **"Southside Johnny and the Asbury Jukes"**. They are from the same stable as Bruce Springsteen and the E Street Band. Apparently, over 100 musicians can claim to be members of the band including most of the E Street Band, Jon Bon Jovi and Bruce Springsteen as a guest. I still think that Southside has a soulfulness that Springsteen lacks. This one is late night music.

7) **Peter Green**, originally of **Peter Green's Fleetwood Mac**. Back in the day such classics as "Albatross, Green Manalishi, Oh Well and Black Magic Woman" were hits and then Peter Green left. The nature of the group changed so much that it was different band. Peter Green has gone on to do other things and I have chosen a track from **"In the Skies"**. This was produced on translucent green vinyl (I have a copy) and is thoroughly Christian. "Apostle" is an instrumental from the album.

8) My final choice is a classical piece. It is the wonderful "Concierto Di Aranjuez" by **Joaquin Rodrigo**. There are many stories about it; the Spanish Court, a celebration of love, the sadness of a miscarriage and so on. It may all be true – after a fashion.

There are so many other pieces that I would love to share with you. From Leonard Cohen to Larry Coryell, Joan Armatrading to Randy Crawford, Robert Cray to Roy Harper, Larry Norman to Acts Chapter 2 and After The Fire. The last three are all Christian. Johann Sebastian Bach hasn't had a look in but he is the Maestro. Emerson Lake and Palmer playing Mussorgsky, Rick Wakeman, another Christian along with Cockney Rebel's Steve Harley. The list is endless and that is why the Spotify playlist in "Unlimited". If I can find them, bands like Wire and Isotope will rub shoulders with Messaien, John Stanley and Thomas Tallis.

**Book Choice** – difficult. I think hardback editions of the novels of Charles Williams along with "Till we have faces" by his friend C.S. Lewis. These books have been with me nearly all my Christian life and they always have something to challenge and inspire me.

**Luxury** – even more difficult. Most luxuries can aid survival by enhancing life or being more useful than first realised. The nearest I can get to utter uselessness, but amusing, would be the complete works of Dornford Yates. Exactly. Hardly known and very much an acquired taste, they are very much a luxury, almost as good as larks' tongues in aspic – me neither.

The other real luxury in life, apart from a crate of fine malt whisky, is family, friends and fellowship and the BBC or HTWB cannot afford the price.

Enjoy.

Every Blessing in Jesus,

Love and Peace,

Ian.

*Kevin Greally will be next up in March magazine, followed by Chris Pegler in April and David Turner in May. That still leaves 7 more months and 7 more volunteers please.*

## Smile - lines - With Valentines Day in mind

### Romance, marriage and all that stuff - *the way children see it....*

#### **How do you decide whom to marry?**

You got to find somebody who likes the same stuff. Like, if you like sports, she should like it that you like sports, and she should keep the crisps and dip coming. - Alan, age 10

No person really decides before they grow up who they're going to marry. God decides it all way before, and you get to find out later who you're stuck with. - Kirsten, age 10

#### **What is the right age to get married?**

23 is the best age because you know the person FOREVER by then. - Camille, age 10

No age is good to get married at. You got to be a fool to get married. - Freddie, age 6

#### **How can a stranger tell if two people are married?**

You might have to guess, based on whether they seem to be yelling at the same kids.

- Derrick, age 8

#### **What do you think your mum and dad have in common?**

Both don't want any more kids. - Lori, age 8

#### **What do most people do on a date?**

Dates are for having fun, and people should use them to get to know each other. Even boys have something to say, if you listen long enough. - Lynnette, age 8 (isn't she a treasure)

On the first date, they just tell each other lies and that usually gets them interested enough to go for a second date. - Martin, age 10

#### **What would you do on a first date that was turning sour?**

I'd run home and play dead. The next day I would call all the newspapers and make sure they wrote about me in all the dead columns. - Craig, age 9

*We continue our column that looks at memorable dates in the month (this time, January) down the years. Here is a range from which to pick and choose, as your space allows.*

## All in the month of FEBRUARY

400 years ago, on 6th Feb 1617 that Prospero Alpini, Italian physician and botanist, died. He is credited with the introduction of coffee and bananas to Europe.

150 years ago, on 15th Feb 1867 that Johann Strauss's waltz The Blue Danube was performed for the first time, in Vienna, Austria.

125 years ago, on 22nd Feb 1892 that Oscar Wilde's comedy play, Lady Windermere's Fan, was performed for the first time, in London.

100 years ago, on 13th Feb 1917 that the WW1 Dutch exotic dancer and courtesan Mata Hari was arrested in France and charged with spying for Germany (she was executed later that year).

75 years ago, on 8-15th Feb that the WW2 Battle of Singapore took place. This Japanese victory led to their occupation of Singapore until Sep 1945.

70 years ago, on 7th Feb 1947 that the first of the Dead Sea Scrolls were found in caves in Khirbat Qumran (now in the West Bank, Palestine).

70 years ago, on 12th Feb 1947 that Lord Louis Mountbatten, 1st Earl Mountbatten of Burma, became the last Viceroy of India.

65 years ago, on 6th Feb 1952 that King George VI died, and was succeeded by his daughter, Elizabeth II.

Also 65 years ago, on 17th Feb 1952 that Winston Churchill announced that Britain had developed its own atomic bomb.

40 years ago, on 4th Feb 1977 that Fleetwood Mac released its album, Rumours. It became one of the best-selling albums of all time, selling more than 45 million copies worldwide.

25 years ago, on 7th Feb 1992 that the Maastricht Treaty was signed, establishing the European Union (with effect from 1st Nov 1993).

15 years ago, on 4th Feb 2002, that Cancer Research UK was founded. It is now the world's largest independent cancer research and awareness charity.

Also 15 years ago, on 13th Feb 2002 that the former mayor of New York City, Rudolph Giuliani, received an honorary knighthood from the Queen, in recognition of his work following the 9/11 terrorist attacks.

# People and News

## Birthday Celebrations - February 2017

6th Robert

*Happy Birthday to you*

*Happy Birthday to you*

18th Tanya

*May God Bless you and keep you*

*Happy Birthday to you.*

*Happy Birthday to you*

*To Jesus be true*

*May the Lord bless you richly*

*In all that you do*



## Remembrance - February 2017

5th A. E. Harris - In gratitude for God's help and blessing to our family.

12th Hunt - In loving memory of my dear husband Benjamin Hunt who died December 25th 1959 from his loving wife and family. *"At rest in the Lord"*

Happy memories of dear little Stephen Hunt who died tragically on April 9th 1959 from his loving parents, grandma, aunts & uncles.

*"Safe with Jesus"*

Also in loving memory of the beloved wife of the above, Maud Hunt who departed this life on February 8th 1979. She looketh well to the ways of her household and she cuteth not the bread of idleness.

From you loving children. God bless you Mom.

19th Mr & Mrs. Tudor Jones - In thankfulness to God for all his goodness and loving kindness.

26th Mrs Owen - In affectionate memory of Agnes Owen who died October 1st 1950, from her friends Mrs Cureton, Mrs Francis, Mrs Kemshall.

*Grant unto them eternal rest, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.*

### Prayer for the Church for 2017 1 Timothy 2:1-2

*I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people — for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness.*

# Prayer for those in church who are ill or who can no longer join us in worship

Father ,

We pray for those who are hurting in our church family today. Lord, some have minor health problems while others have some very serious ones. We pray that You will be with them and heal them, Father. You are the Great Healer and we believe in Your power to heal! Lord, please give peace to those who are in the midst of serious health issues. Father, we pray that they turn to You and know that You are right there beside them in their time of crisis. May Your will be done in their lives this day. Amen

## **Our Regular Prayer Times and Bible Studies**

*Sunday Morning Prayer* - Every morning at 10.00 am. prior to the morning service.

*Tuesday Morning Prayer* - Prayer and Bible Study run by Chris Pegler at 9.30am.

*Tuesday and Thursday Evening Prayer* - A time for open intercession or quiet prayer run by Ian and Kevin at different venues @ 7.30pm.

*Midweek Morning Prayer* - Every Monday and Wednesday mornings at 8.00am in church for a time of quiet prayer.

## **Please also pray for Holy Trinity Ministries**

TNG - youth work/Messy Church/Kids Club/Trinity Tots/Soup & Roll Lunch Club/Social Afternoon/Coffee Morning/Cake and Chat/Bible study groups

## **Please pray for our Church Leaders**

Vicar Neil and his family, *Wardens Gary & Ian* , *PCC members*, *Lay Reader Chris Pegler*, and all who serve in any way in our church.

### **CHURCH KEYS UPDATE**

Kevin Greally has been tasked by the PCC to up date the number & names of all church members who have keys to the church. Please let Kevin know if you have keys. Contact Kevin on 07496 763042 or talk to him at church. **Thank you.**

## Regular Donations

*Books and Magazines* - for the League of Friends at Sandwell Hospital. Please see Madeline Page if you would like to donate or need further information.

*West Bromwich Food Bank* - now facing an ever increasing demand. If you would like to donate any of the items below please leave them at the back of church and we will deliver them.

\* Milk (UHT or powdered) \* Sugar (500g) \* Fruit juice (carton) \* Soup \* Pasta sauces \* Sponge pudding (tinned) \* Tomatoes (tinned) \* Cereals \* Rice pudding (tinned) \* Tea Bags/instant coffee \* Instant mash potato \* Rice/pasta \* Tinned meat/fish \* Tinned fruit \* Jam \* Biscuits or snack bars \* Or cash donation

## MUSIC MINISTRY



David Partridge with help from Lauren, Amanda and Helen are endeavouring to start a music group to lead our morning services. If you are interested in joining such a group and can play an instrument or enjoy singing please talk to David, Lauren, Amanda or Helen. It would be great to see a music group again in church.

## Collection for Homelessness

The collection from Coffee Morning, Donations, Calendars and other sources has now reached over £1000. This is an incredible amount for our small church so a big thank you to everyone who donated or involved in the organisation of the various events. The PCC will be discussing the best way to use this money. Great job HT.

## Foodbank

Regular food and money donations to Foodbank centre in Victoria Street continues thanks to the loving, generous albeit small congregation we have. This month our church donated £ 30.00 to Foodbank.

# Wesley Church

High Street  
West Bromwich  
presents

## Sleeping Beauty

Monday 20th - Saturday 25th February 2017  
@ 7.30 pm



Our own Sue Hardcastle performs once again in the Wesley pantomime. This time as the Queen, with daughter Kelly in the Chorus.



### School Holiday Drop-in

Holy Trinity Church Hall

Tuesday 21st Feb - Thursday 23rd  
2.00 pm - 4.00 pm

### Church Sunday Lunches

It is proposed to hold a Sunday lunch following the 10.30 am service once a month led by Kevin Greally. Help is required to prepare the food and clear up afterwards. If you are able to help please contact Kevin on 07496 763042 or talk to him at church. Next lunch Sunday - 26th February

[www.facebook.com/pages](http://www.facebook.com/pages)

Rev. Neil Robbie  
0121 525 3595

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1 burlington road  
west bromwich

