

IN touch

MAY
2017

the monthly newsletter for Rushden High Street Independent Wesleyan Church

...what's that crackling?

...THOUGHT
FOR THE
MONTH

No, not what I was asked when we had roast pork for dinner, but what people say every time I speak to them on the telephone! There is terrible interference on the line, so much so that in some cases it is impossible to understand what is being said! As I sit writing this, the BT engineer is busy working outside, hopefully about to put things right.

It may be though that there is something which is causing interference in our relationship with God. If we consider the early church as we find in Acts chapter 2 v 42, we discover that they devoted themselves to four things. If we do not also cultivate these things, then it will follow that our relationship with God will not be as it ought to be.

The Apostles' teaching – they didn't have the Bible as we do, but they did have the Old Testament and the Apostles actually with them. We now have their written accounts in the New Testament – if we don't take time to learn from the whole of the Bible, studying it, meditating on it and obeying it, then we will not hear God speaking to us.

The fellowship – this seems to mean a special meal they shared, but it can mean so much more to us – they were devoted to each other. They looked out for each other, cared, shared, supported and so much more. Again, if we aren't devoted to each other, our relationship with God will falter.

The breaking of bread – this appears to refer to the Lord's Supper. It is a means of grace, a means by which God draws close and communicates – if we don't share it regularly, we miss so much.

Prayer – we sometimes sing with the children, 'Prayer is like a telephone' and it goes without saying that if we aren't praying, or if our prayer life is not what it could be, then there will be crackling on the line – and although God always knows what we are praying, we may not be able to hear what he is saying to us.

So, let's do all we can to remove the crackling and interference so that our relationship with God will prosper and grow, so that as He speaks, we'll hear clearly. Now – let's see if the line's fixed...!

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the word for today

'The hair of his head began to grow again.'

Judges 16:22 NKJV

Source:

The Word for Today
United Christian
Broadcasters,
Westport Road,
Stoke-on-Trent, ST6 4JF

Free issues of the daily
devotional are available for
the UK & Republic of Ireland.

hold on - help is on the way...

When we think of Samson we usually think about his failures - the steamy story of him and Delilah. It's true that Samson lost everything: his hair, his strength, his sight, his position, his family, and his reputation. The mightiest man Israel had ever seen was now in a Philistine dungeon: blinded, humiliated, grinding corn like an ox - a laughing stock. But it's not over until God says it's over! At his lowest point, Samson cried out to God for mercy, and got it. 'The hair of his head began to grow again.' His hair, which was the secret of his strength, was restored. And as a result, his greatest moments in ministry were his last ones! Today he is mentioned with honour in Hebrews chapter eleven, alongside the other heroes of faith (see Hebrews 11:32).

God's promise is: Those who wait on the LORD shall renew their strength' (Isaiah 40:31 NKJV). You may be hurting right now, but be patient, help is on the way. You prayed, 'Lord, I've fallen and I can't get up.' Hold on, God is coming to your aid. He's coming to deliver you and set you free. He's going to bring you out, set you free from captivity, and restore you. In the Old Testament when Job the patriarch was battling boils, bankruptcy, and bereavement, he said, 'All the days of my hard service I will wait, till my change comes' (Job 14:14 NKJV).

God restored Job and gave him back twice as much as he lost. And He wants to do the same for you. So, hold on - help is on the way!



church offerings

SUNDAY 26th	MARCH	£266.50
SUNDAY 2nd	APRIL	£568.45
SUNDAY 9th	APRIL	£349.50
SUNDAY 16th	APRIL	£227.42
SUNDAY 23rd	APRIL	£297.20

In addition, the sum of £1000 was paid direct to the bank in March. The Easter Offering to date is £1814.50. Many thanks.

easy fund raising!

Do you purchase anything online? Did you know that you could help raise funds for the church at no cost to yourself? All you need to do is to open an account at easyfundraising.org.uk, tell them you want to raise funds for the church and that's all there is to it!

You don't have to give any card or bank details. There are over 3,000 shops and sites who will make a donation to the church when you buy something from them. Up to now the church have received nearly £300 in this way.

If you would like to know more then please speak to Richard Weekley.



missionary report

Kevin Deighton
Missionary Secretary

Hello everyone! Well, as forecast in the March 'IN TOUCH', I did receive an appeal for the famine in the African regions. A cheque for £150 was duly sent to World Vision for their various relief projects in that continent.

Regarding the used stamps which various people give me, I have sent these together with a cheque for £50 to Operation Mobilisation for their 2017 Mercy Appeal. This fund is held by OM UK and is allocated to their teams worldwide whenever the need arises. It sounds very clinical how I have worded it, but they actually describe it as responding to 'urgent cries' - which gives it a lot more perspective!

More gifts of £50 have also been sent to the following: Novimost - as they prepare for their Summer Camps in Bosnia and also to Eastern European Outreach for their ongoing witness.

Don't forget May 14-20th is Christian Aid Week and as usual I will be sending a donation from the fund but if anyone wants to add a contribution to this I will be only too delighted to include it.

And finally, we still have the postcard box in the kitchen, it's taking a long time to fill - who sends postcards anymore? However, if you do receive any please place them in the box.

That's all folks!

2
ND
SUNDAY

Come and join us on

Sunday 14th May, 4.00pm

Crafts, chat, sketch, refreshments, short talk and more! This is suitable for all ages

– if you've not been before, why not give it a try?

Invite family and friends – it's church in a different, more informal way.

2
ND
SUNDAY

inTouch articles

If you have anything you'd like to put in future editions of inTouch then please pass it to Phil or Colin.



may 2017

weekday diary dates

MON	1st	10.30am	Family Fun Day – meet at Irchester Park
TUES	2nd	10.00am	Prayer Meeting
		2.00pm	Short Mat Bowls
WEDS	3rd	9.15am	Jellybabes Toddler Group
		7.30pm	Home Group – 7 Lodge Road
SAT	6th	10.00am	Coffee Morning

TUES	9th	10.00am	Prayer Meeting
		2.00pm	Short Mat Bowls
WEDS	10th	9.15am	Jellybabes Toddler Group
		2.00pm	Kilburn Place Service
		7.30pm	Home Group – 7 Lodge Road
THURS	11th	2.00pm	Women of Action – Maureen Trusler
		6.00pm	Allsorts Children's Club
		7.30pm	Council of Churches Meeting – Highfield Community Baptist Church
SAT	13th	10.00am	Coffee Morning

TUES	16th	10.00am	Prayer Meeting
		2.00pm	Short Mat Bowls
WEDS	17th	9.15am	Jellybabes Toddler Group
		7.30pm	Home Group – 7 Lodge Road
THURS	18th	6.00pm	Allsorts Children's Club
SAT	20th	10.00am	Coffee Morning

TUES	23rd	10.00am	Prayer Meeting
		2.00pm	Short Mat Bowls
		7.00pm	Officers & Trustees Meeting in the vestry
WEDS	24th	9.15am	Jellybabes Toddler Group
		7.30pm	Home Group – 7 Lodge Road
SAT	27th	10.00am	Coffee Morning

TUES	30th	10.00am	Prayer Meeting
		2.00pm	Short Mat Bowls
WEDS	31st	7.30pm	Home Group – 7 Lodge Road



may 2017

sundays at high street

SUNDAY **7th** 10.45am Rev. Phil Hearson
(incl. Communion)
6.00pm Home Meeting - All welcome!

SUNDAY **14th** 10.45am Rev. Phil Hearson
4.00pm **2nd Sunday!**

SUNDAY **21st** 10.45am Mrs. Marie Armitage
6.00pm Communion Service

SUNDAY **28th** 10.45am Rev. Phil Hearson
6.00pm Service at Wymington
– Rev. Ian Fall

a reminder...

Should you ever find it difficult to join us for any service you wish to attend please don't hesitate to speak to either the minister or a church leader about arranging a lift, we are always happy to sort something out
- don't miss out!



**a psalm
for the
month
– PSALM 1**

Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked,
nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers;
But his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law
he meditates day and night.

He is like a tree planted by streams of water
that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither.

In all that he does, he prospers.

The wicked are not so, but are like chaff that the wind
drives away.

Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment,
nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous;

For the LORD knows the way of the righteous,
but the way of the wicked will perish.



acts for everyone...

At the end of May comes Ascension Day (25th), a bit of a neglected festival in the Church. As Luke reminds us in Acts 1:1-11, it was the opportunity for Jesus to commission His disciples as His witnesses in the world:

'But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.'

(Acts 1:8).

WHAT IS A WITNESS?

**A WITNESS
KNOWS
JESUS**

A credible witness speaks of what they know personally. The disciples had spent 40 days with Jesus and now they were called to share that experience and relationship with others. What is my story of how Jesus is alive in my life?

**A WITNESS
GROWS IN
JESUS**

Jesus told them to wait for the gift of the Spirit to empower them as witnesses. 'Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about.' (v4). The Spirit equips us to display Jesus' character (fruit) and enables us to witness (gifts). How does our life demonstrate the difference Jesus makes?

**A WITNESS
GOES FOR
JESUS**

They were called to witness for Jesus in ever-increasing circles of influence. For us, this means family and friends, workplace and community, and the wider world. Where is God calling us to serve Him?

The story is told of Jesus arriving in heaven after the Ascension, being welcomed by the angels. Gabriel asked Jesus, 'what is your plan for everyone to know your love?' Jesus replied, 'I have given my disciples the task of carrying the message into all the world.' Gabriel's face dropped, 'These are unpredictable men, what if they fail? After a pause Jesus answered, 'There is no other plan!'

By Rev. Paul Hardingham Source – www.parishpump.co.uk



puzzle page

This month it's a word-search. Can you find 15 words and their connection. Hand your answers in before 28th May to the minister and you may win a small prize.

C	X	E	R	J	N	A	V	Q	P	S	C	D	N	A
B	H	W	L	L	P	Q	L	Q	A	O	E	R	M	G
P	S	A	X	L	B	H	N	B	R	D	M	A	Q	V
T	D	O	M	G	E	W	U	M	T	C	A	P	W	V
R	E	E	D	E	O	Z	O	A	R	G	G	O	M	R
I	Y	X	J	U	L	R	A	J	I	L	N	E	M	E
Z	R	U	W	Q	A	E	F	G	D	W	F	L	R	D
N	E	O	F	N	E	T	O	F	G	H	Z	U	N	M
A	G	M	T	K	L	U	K	N	E	C	T	E	O	J
R	P	E	R	U	U	K	C	G	O	L	H	E	I	O
E	P	O	L	E	T	N	A	A	U	C	H	A	L	G
A	R	J	A	Z	N	A	U	V	M	O	N	G	Q	U
K	G	V	B	D	S	R	A	A	R	E	D	L	O	I
N	I	Y	G	O	Y	E	U	S	R	R	L	E	A	H
L	R	A	B	B	I	T	E	C	Z	C	F	K	M	S

Answers to last time:

1. Greece;
2. Iceland;
3. Sierra Leone;
4. Senegal;
5. Turkey;
6. Uganda;
7. Nepal;
8. Jamaica;
9. Morocco;
10. Ecuador;
11. Canada;
12. Andorra;
13. Haiti;
14. Lebanon;
15. Qatar;
16. Austria;
17. Bulgaria;
18. Estonia;
19. Sudan;
20. Mexico

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High Street Independent Wesleyan Church



www.weschurchrushden.org.uk