



Dear Friends,

I am sure that we were all very disturbed by the loss of lives, especially young lives, in the recent spate of apparently senseless killings in the London area.

As I sat down to prepare this something rather strange, but equally wonderful happened to me. A

few months ago, a Jewish friend of mine, visited the headquarters of the Salvation Army: she is also a Senior Magistrate, and this was an awareness visit, so that she could better understand some of the work the S A did. As she left she was given two signed Christian prayer books and she kindly forwarded them to me! As I opened one of the books, it fell open on this page, this is what I found:- a reading from Zechariah 13: 1, 4-9

“On that day a fountain shall be opened for the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem, to cleanse them from sin and impurity. On that day the prophets will be ashamed, everyone, of their visions when they prophesy; they will not put on a hairy mantle to deceive, but each of them will say, I am no prophet, I am a tiller of the soil; for the land has been in my possession since my youth. And if anyone asks them, what are these wounds on your chest? The answer will be ‘The wounds I received in the house of my friends.’. “Awake, O sword, against my shepherd, against the man who is my associate” says the Lord of Hosts. Strike the shepherd, that the sheep may be scattered; I will turn my hand against the little ones. In the whole land, says the Lord, two thirds shall be cut off and perish, and one third shall be left alive. And I will put this third into the fire, refine them as one refines silver, and test them as gold is tested. They will call on my name, and I will answer them. I will say, “They are my people “; and they will say “The Lord is our God”. Come, thou fount of every blessing. “

This passage enabled a hymn writer Robert Robinson to fill his song with emotional energy, for it tells of a soul—a person— seemingly hanging on to God for dear life. The first verse went:

“Come, thou fount of every blessing, tune my heart to sing thy grace; streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise.”

Yes, it might have archaic words, but once we get past this we become acutely aware of how powerful it was.

During his teen years, in the mid-18th century, Robert lived in London and mixed with a terrible gang. A gang responsible for the deaths of several young men. At the age of 17 he attended a meeting where the noted evangelist, George Whitefield, was preaching. Robert had intended to heckle and scoff at the preacher and be disruptive. But the reality was that he listened and found himself believing the message that was being preached.

Another verse went like this;

“Jesus sought me when a stranger wandering from the fold of God; he, to rescue me from danger, interposed his precious blood.” (v3)

Robinson went on to become a great preacher and scholar. He changed from scepticism to faith; from doubting to knowing Christ. This is the answer to all needs. And isn't it our story as well? We know Jesus has saved us, still blesses us, and that the promise of heaven waits for us!

The final verse reads;

“Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love; here's my heart, Lord, take and seal it, seal it for thy courts above. Glory, glory, Jesus saves me, glory, glory to the Lamb.”



Western Road

Sunday 8th

Rev. Dorothee Bührma

Saturday 12th

Line Dance Evening

Sunday 13th Gill and Fiona

Evening Communion

Friday 18th Christian Aid

Coffee morning and collection

Saturday 19th Bingo Evening

Sunday 20th FIG and JFC

Sunday 27th Trevor Cotterell

Heaton Way



Christian Aid week is from 14th May to 19th. Again, we will be collecting outside Wilkos, it really is an interesting experience with lots of friendly responses. Please offer to collect. On the Friday of that week there will be a coffee morning before we go over the road to collect from 10 - 11. On Saturday evening there will be a Raffle and Bingo evening. It should be great fun. If you would like to try your hand at calling, see Gill.

Line Dancing evening on May 12th is back due to popular demand. Jean, the Line Dance expert, will lead us in our dancing easy to follow dances. Some of her group will be there so plenty of people to copy. Fiona is planning your supper, so you won't go hungry but bring your own drinks!

How miraculous would it be if in London today, some of the gang members causing so much hurt, sadness and wanton destruction could be similarly affected by a love for Christ.

Lord, teach us to pray with love and understanding; to try to enter into the real needs that are around us; to believe that through our prayers, You can heal and bless.

Through Jesus Christ our saviour and Lord Amen

Blessings

Ann

Have you seen our new leaflet for visitors to our church? The old version still had Lythan in the photo, so Fiona has produced a newer version. We have printed off several copies which are in the vestibule. One of the joys of our new photocopier is that we can easily produce more copies while up-dating information when we need to. So be ready to give them to visitors.

Whitechapel Mission Spring Clothing Collection



A big thank you to all who brought items for our Spring Clothing Collection for the Whitechapel Mission and all who helped in any way. The response was wonderful and exceeded all expectations! Tony's van was full to the roof, which was really gratifying as the need for the homeless is greater than ever. So please start collecting for our autumn collection- date to be announced. Thank you, *Betty*

Quiz evening

An evening of brain bending was enjoyed by about 50 people at this year's 'Quiz Evening'. The questions varied from history and geography to films, sport and television etc. and caused much discussion in the teams. An excellent ploughman's buffet was provided during the interval and all who attended had a fun evening. Thank you to all who attended and who helped raise £240 for this year's charity Strongbones.

Are you looking forward to coming on our *Church Outing to Broadstairs*, on Saturday June 30th. There will soon be a sign-up sheet in the vestibule. There are 40 places on the coach at a cost of £20 so don't delay signing up as once the coach is full that will be that..... Once we are there the time will be yours to choose, just a day on the beach or a wander in the town. Bring your own picnic or find a restaurant for your lunch. Many prayers will be said for good weather and a safe and easy journey!

Annual General Church Meeting There were 31 people at this meeting to share the reports the groups had written, to reflect on all the people who help keep the church running so smoothly and to learn more about the Good Data Protection scheme, your Elder will be giving you a form to complete to confirm your willingness to keep your name address, date of birth and the date of your membership on our Church Information list. Please make sure your return your form as soon as possible so we can be organised.

Betty has asked that we say the Lord's Prayer a little slower so there is time to reflect on its meaning, she also asks that we sing it occasionally and use the modern form from the back of the hymn book. What do you think?

We thank the retired Gentlemen's Club and Trinovante for leading our worship recently, we hope that it won't be the last time as it was a real time of worship. So, watch this space. Gill still has 4 spaces so if you would like to find a friend to share leading worship with let Gill know.

Minister

Rev'd Dorothee Búúrma

01708 228489

RevdDorothee@t-online.de

Secretary Western Road

Gill Shepherd

Gillianshepherd2003@yahoo.co.uk

Secretary Heaton Way

Louise Manning

01708 344832

e.manning@ntlworld.com

Kindle

robinmorrison21@outlook.com