



Greetings

GREETINGS - My family are fanatical about Rugby. As the winter slowly melts into spring, they become more and more focused on the sport. Weeks of gruelling practices lead to the much-anticipated first game, then the next, and on through the season into the play-offs. During each contest the overriding purpose is to score a try. It's not enough to just have a great looking kit and be able to pass the ball back and forth between teammates.

You may or may not be an athlete, but no matter what you do in life you need to focus on a try in order to succeed. That's true in every area - whether it involves your occupation, your family, your personal health, or

your recreation. If you don't have a goal, you're headed for failure.

We need spiritual goals as well. The apostle Paul had one goal that was the foundation for all his other objectives. He wanted everything he did to be motivated by one purpose - to receive God's approval (Philippians 3: 12-14). Because of that goal, Paul hungered to know Jesus more intimately, and he was willing to endure incredible hardships to tell others about the Lord.

Do we share that same passion to grow closer to Christ and to serve Him faithfully? When people look at us or listen to us, can they tell that the purpose of our life is to know and please Jesus Christ.

Our Church stands out like a beacon in this district. The cross shines out during the hours of darkness and the congregation can shine out by our lives and witness. We earnestly desire to see an increase, we long for revival in these days and we ask God that it might begin with us.

*Go labour on, spend
and be spent
Thy joy to do the
Father's will
It is the way the Master
went-
Should not the servant
tread it still?*

LIVING FOR JESUS IS
NOT A PART TIME
JOB.

God Bless you.

Ren Percival

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Special points of interest:

- *David McDonald asks: do we see Jesus?*
- *Focus on Psalm 23*
- *The duck hunter's dog*
- *Christmas events for your diary*
- *What will people say at your funeral?*

Visiting Preachers

The preachers for our services are:

October

4th am—Mr.R.Percival

4th pm— Mr.R.Povey #

11th am— Mrs.T.Reeve

11th pm— Mr.R.Povey

18th am— Mr.D.McDonald #

18th pm— Mr.D.McDonald

25th am— Mrs.S.McDonald

25th pm— Mr.K.Irwin

November

1st am— Mr.R.Delooze

1st am— Mr.G.Lomas #

8th am— Mr.D.McDonald

8th am— Mrs.S.Gleave

15th am— Mr.R.Stone #

15th am— Mr.R.Peers

22nd am—Mr.J.Tobiasen

22nd am—Mr.K.McDermott

29th am— Mr.D.McDonald

29th am—Mr.D.McDonald

Morning services start at 10.45, evening services at 6.00

Services marked # are sacramental services

The 4th October will be the day of our Harvest Festival services.

What's On

Our regular meetings (all in the church's schoolroom unless otherwise stated) consist of:

Prayer Meeting & Bible Study—Wednesday evening 7.30 onwards with the Bible Study starting at approximately 8.15.

Boomerang (for school-age kids) & crèche (for little ones)—Runs as part of the Sunday morning service from 10.45 onwards till approximately 12 noon. This facility is provided on an as required

basis.

Men's Fellowship—The meeting is usually held on the third Tuesday of each month, 7.30pm. So the meeting this month is on Tuesday 20th October and the speaker will be James Tobiasen who will give a talk—probably on the history of Warrington Market. On November 17th the speaker will be Mike Kenwright speaking on The Cutting of the Manchester Ship Canal.

Women's Auxiliary— The

WA meet each week (Thursdays, 2.30pm). The speakers for October & November are:

1st Oct— Sonia McDonald

8th Oct— Moira Atkinson

15th Oct—Ron Percival

22nd Oct—Carol Rudge

29th Oct— Stan Wright

5th Nov—David McDonald

16th Nov—Ron Percival

23rd Nov—Open Meeting

30th Nov — The A.G.M.

Focus

A Focus with a difference this time round. The following article has been provided by Ann Wright who has taken great comfort from the words of this short re-interpretation of Psalm 23 by Chris Hill. If you are in need of comfort, it is well-worth a read:

“My beloved child, I the Lord: I am your Shepherd. You will never want for anything which I know you need.

I am making you lie down in a green pasture. I have to make you lie down because, left to yourself, you would never lie down in that

lush and quiet place which I provide for those I love. But now come and rest beside me. I have led you to quiet waters: a beautiful pool of refreshment from which you can drink deeply and safely, knowing that this water that I provide will restore your soul and will not overwhelm you.

My dear one, I am guiding you in the right path. It is one of the paths of my righteousness. It is just the right path for you to walk in. My choice is an expression of my holiness and my love for you. It is the perfect path for you. If there were a better one, I would take you along that one instead.

My path for you is the path that is bringing you into fullness of blessing. It is the unique path I have planned for you; none other has ever walked it or ever will. Rest in the sure knowledge that you are on the right path. I will see to it for the sake of my own name. Trust me and rest.

Beloved and special child, even though you find yourself walking through the Valley of the Shadow of Deep Darkness, and even Death itself, do not be afraid for I am with you in that dark and threatening place.

Do you think that I would lead you into some terrible, deathly gully if it were not essential for your blessing? There is only one reason for a Good Shepherd to take his precious lamb into such a place, and that is in order to take it through into a new and richer pasture.

Do not be anxious or afraid. You are my precious one and I undertake to protect you with my rod from all that would harm you, and to guide you with the tapping of my staff when you feel lost and alone and cannot discern the path. I give my Spirit to comfort and encourage you.

This dark experience is one you are walking through with me alongside you. Your trust in me is growing immeasurably because of it. Going through dark places with me binds us together as nothing else can. You can actually em-

brace your suffering, dear one, and praise me both in it and for it.

I prepare a table before you even in the presence of your enemies. There are no circumstances that can prevent me from spreading my table of provision for you. I am pouring the oil of my Spirit and my healing love upon your head. Stand still and let me do it. In spite of everything, I will see to it that your cup is constantly overflowing.

Dearest child, there is nothing more certain than this: my goodness, my love and my covenant grace will pursue you and cling to you all the days that remain for you here, and when it is all over, this is my solemn promise: You, my dear one, will dwell with me in my house forever, because I love you," says the Lord.

Special Events

Harvest Festival —our Harvest services will be on Sunday 4th October. The speakers will be Ron Percival (morning) and Ron Povey (evening). Gifts of fruit, vegetables and flowers can be brought to the church from 11 o'clock on Saturday 3rd October. Non-perishable foods (tinned and dried) will also be welcome and will be passed to the Warrington Food Bank. The choir will sing at both services and refreshments will be served after the evening service.

Meal & A Message— For three weeks, starting on Wednesday 14th October, the weekly Bible Study will be running its annual

'Meal & A Message' series of Bible Studies accompanied by an evening meal. The speaker at this year's series will be Ron Povey and his subject will be Jeremiah. We would love to see you at these events but if you do intend to come along, please let us know beforehand so that we know the numbers for catering.

Male Voice Choir—On Saturday 21st November the Irlam Male Voice Choir will be visiting us for their traditional annual Concert which will start at 7.00pm. Tickets will be available nearer the time from David. They will be £5 each, and the ticket price includes refresh-

ments.

Christmas Shop —our annual Christmas shop will be held on Saturday 7th November. There will be stalls selling cakes and gifts as well as their being an afternoon café service. Doors are open from 2pm til 4pm. Your donations of wrapped 'surprise' Christmas gifts (to the value of £2) to sell on the stalls would be gratefully accepted. Please advertise this event amongst friends, neighbours and family.

Mens' Fellowship Dinner — This year, the Christmas supper will be on Tuesday 15th December.

Prayer Requests

Your prayers are requested for the various members of our congregation and wider community who are ill and infirm,

suffering loss and bereavement, or struggling with hardship at the moment.

A reminder too that the chari-

ties and groups that we support – Warrington Food Bank, Barnabus, NorthEast HelpLink, Warrington Youth For Christ

David's Dialogue—But We Do See Jesus

There is a place where someone has testified:

What is mankind that you are mindful of them, a son of man that you care for him? You made them a little lower than the angels; you crowned them with glory and honour and put everything under their feet. In putting everything under them, God left nothing that is not subject to them. Yet at present we do not see everything subject to them. But we do see Jesus, who was made lower than the angels for a little while, now crowned with glory and honour because he suffered death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.

Hebrews 2 verses 6-9.

It sounds great but doesn't ring true. The apparent upshot of *Psalm 8* – that men and women are crowned with glory and honour, that we are given dominion over creation – simply doesn't match our experience. At the same time as the Psalm calls us to have a high enough view of

ourselves, it also provokes us to have a realistic view of ourselves.

Though formed in the image of God, our representation of his rule and authority in the world is distorted. To be sure, threads of beauty, compassion, and productivity are woven into the fabric of our existence, but so are threads of darkness, disease and disorder. In our more honest moments we don't need to go further than ourselves to be confronted with the twists and turns of the human heart. We walk tall, but fall short.

Plus on top of everything else, death so clearly thwarts human dominion in the world, and no one has found a way through that barrier.

Except as the writer to the *Hebrews* tells us, there is one human being who has fulfilled the destiny for which we were made. Jesus, himself made lower than the angels, who because of his suffering and death on behalf of others, has now been crowned with glory and honour, and reigns over all things, breaking even the power

of the devil and death itself. (*Hebrews 2 verses 14-15*) we don't yet see God's final plan for humanity and creation completed. **"But we do see Jesus"** The rule of *Psalm 8*, which so easily eludes us, has become a reality in him.

It is sometimes suggested that Jesus has completed the command to rule first given to our first parents, and so it no longer applies to us today. But if anything, his dominion over all things makes the creation mandate even more significant. As Christians, we are being remade in the image of Christ, restored under Christ's lordship to what was lost in Adam and Eve so as to bring glory to God in all we do!

Precisely because we see Jesus crowned with glory and honour, whatever realm the lord has placed us in – whatever family, job, school, course, church, and hobby – we can bear fruit in it, as men and women made and then remade in God's image to represent and reflect the glory of his grace in all the earth.

Additional Notices

Monthly Collection—our collection this month is for Barnabus, tinned food, clothing and toilet-

ries will be gratefully accepted. But please check the weekly notices for information on specific items which may be required. Donated

items can be left in the boxes provided at the back of the chapel.

Newsletter—please send contri-

butions for the Newsletter to James. We are always short of suitable articles—whatever they are, we can use them. Your con-

tribution will help make this Newsletter a happier and fuller place. Items sent by e-mail are best as they are easiest to copy

into the Newsletter, but handwritten articles are just as welcome. Please help out!

The Final Word

Many thanks to Ron & Lorna for these first two items:

The Prayerful Driver

A man and his wife were discussing prayer. He said "I do my best praying when I'm driving.

His wife agreed saying, "I, too do my best praying while you are driving!"

The Vicar's Dilemma

An East End villain had a brother, also a villain, who died. The surviving brother went to the local Vicar and asked him if he would hold a funeral for his brother, and offered him £50,000 if he would say his brother was a saint.

The vicar thought for a moment and then accepted the offer, but once he was back in his study and had time to reflect on his decision he was full of regret. How could he fulfil his word and yet hold on to his integrity as well as the money.

On the day of the funeral, the vicar spoke of the deceased, "He was a rogue, a thief, a thug, a cheat and a liar, but compared to his brother he was a saint."

The Crash

Three friends were discussing what would happen if they each died. One of them asked, "If you could hear what people were saying about you at your funeral, what would you like to hear them say?"

The first fiends said, "I would like

to hear them say that I was a great doctor of my time, and a great and loving family man."

The second said, "I would like to hear that I was a wonderful husband and school teacher which made a huge difference in the lives of the children I taught."

The two who had already offered their views turned to the friend who had asked the question— "Well, what about *you*, what would you like to hear people say at *your* funeral?"

He replied "I would like to hear them say, "Look! He's moving!"

The Duck Hunter

A duck hunter took his new hunting retriever out on its first shoot. Soon he shot a duck that fell into the lake. The dog walked over the water picked up the duck and brought it back to his master. The hunter was flabbergasted!

He shot another duck. Once again, while he rubbed his eyes in disbelief, the dog walked over the water and retrieved the duck.

Hardly daring to believe what he had seen he asked his neighbour to go hunting with him the next day. Once again each time he or his neighbour shot a duck, the dog would walk out and bring the bird in.

The man said nothing and neither did his neighbour. Finally

the dog's owner could contain himself no longer and he blurted out, "Did you notice anything strange about that dog?"

The neighbour scratched his head and finally said, "Come to think of it, yes. Yes, I did, That new dog of yours can't swim."

The Last Sermon

A pastor fell out with his church. After bitter arguments, he decided to leave to take up a job as a prison chaplain. He preached his last sermon at the church on John 14:1: "I go to prepare a place for you."

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