

The Broadsheet



November 2020



To know Jesus better,
And to make Him better known

REMEMBER WHAT YOU WANT TO FORGET!



The greatest lessons are in the things we most want to forget so to learn and grow the best place to start is by remembering and forgiving what we want to forget.....

Don't forget the past so as to forgive,

but remember and learn how to live.

Remember how people live and die,

the how and why, then learn to fly.

Don't remember where you are today

and forget how you were shown the way:

Remember the saints and soldiers of our past

to build the peace that we want to last...

I've got such a bad memory that I don't have a problem with that old saying to forgive and forget. I really have forgotten what I am meant to forgive.

However, my bad memory also means that I have great difficulty in following my own advice to 'remember and forgive!' What is it I am meant to remember? Remind me so that I can forgive!

Not surprisingly, I don't remember anyone telling me to remember and forgive, but it does make sense, doesn't it? We learn from what we remember so if we forget, what are

the lessons from what has been forgiven?

We don't have to keep a record of wrongs, but if we don't remember what they were, we won't learn the lessons that will prevent us from repeating the same wrong! War after war, from one wrong to another; where is the truth in which we can rejoice?

In November we remember, our saints and soldiers who ran their races and fought the battles, but every name has a story to tell. Not every story is good for remembering, but through the bad ones we prefer to forget are lessons to learn to produce the good that will last!

This isn't a matter of faith or religion. It's a fact that if you don't forgive you can be weighed down by guilt, anger, fear, guilt or some negative emotion that can ruin your life. If you had a terrible parent remember the lessons from why they were so bad and forgive. If you were a terrible child, remember the lessons and forgive yourself. Remember what caused a relationship to breakdown, learn the lessons and forgive so you can move on.

Yes, Remembrance is important if we are to forgive and live, so don't forget to remember because if you forgive and forget you never will learn the lessons from history.

I don't always want to be someone to hear Jesus saying: "Father, forgive him for he doesn't know what he is doing!" I want to know what I am doing and to do it having learnt the lessons from the things I would rather forget!

God Bless,

Richard

Traidcraft



TRAIDCRAFT
Fighting poverty through trade

As you might expect our usual buying of cards and gifts for Christmas from Traidcraft will have to be done differently this year. I believe that it is even more important this year to support Traidcraft. A quote from their sister organisation 'Traidcraft Exchange' explains why - 'Vulnerable people are in crisis at this present time - support our sister charity at the checkout to stop people falling into slave labour during this pandemic'.

I am happy to still order goods for you and then to deliver them to your door (using my chauffeur driver). Payment can be either by transfer to my account or by cheque (I'm not set up for swipe cards!). The difference is that I will be unable to circulate catalogues so you will need to go on line to look at and select what goods you want. The web address is traidcraftshop.co.uk . There is a section that is for Christmas related items but there also other items to choose from. If you wish to order anything I will need to know - The name of the item, the catalogue number and the price and quantity. If you could then email this to me or ring me if you prefer. Email - pat.wallace@gmx.co.uk Phone number - 07709 982755. I know that some people can't email me because my laptop does not speak to theirs! If this is the case please email your order to Judith - judithgibbons10@gmail.com. I would like all orders in by Friday 6 November.

Blessings

Pat

Birthday Celebrations

13th November Frank Waller

23rd November Pat Davies

26th November Jonny Evans



New Reality, Same Mission - reasons to be cheerful

"I have come so that they may have life and have it in abundance" (John 10:10)

Why don't we adopt these words spoken by Jesus and check out what we, as a Christian community, have done recently to show love to our neighbours and each other so that people can live life as abundantly as possible ?

Stay safe and stay in touch.

We've adopted new lifestyles to keep each other physically safe from coronavirus. We've made and sent countless phone calls, emails, cards and letters to each other as we continued our friendships through lockdown. These have continued as we tentatively move into the new reality which now includes occasionally meeting up too.

Feel better and enjoy life more

Look after yourself exercise groups sessions restarted in September with Tai Chi leading the way. With "hands, space, and face" in mind we have enjoyed getting together again and around 15 people a week have been able to get out of the house and enjoyed sharing exercise together.

In November the Extend group, with its popular exercise to music, will restart too.

Exploring faith

The Nomads Community Bus is garaged for the time being so our Pilgrimage Trips aren't possible. We created Armchair Pilgrimages that have enabled over 50 people to have the sense of travelling together to sacred places every month in our own homes. Still travelling together though apart. By popular request we will continue Armchair Pilgrimages even when the Nomads Community Bus is back on the road.

New friends together

Our church activity groups have brought new people together and, now as friends, carers who met at Today's our day and participants at Look after yourself are meeting up regularly in homes and staying in touch with each.

Regenerating the Planet and the life upon it

Prince William and David Attenborough recently took positive action to encourage us to be positive about regenerating the planet. Through our Eco Church initiative, we have seen that there are some wonderful examples of this being done including tree planting initiatives that enrich the air we breathe, soil, and encourage life as well as removing harmful pollution.

Jesus advised us to live each day as well as we can and not allow worrying about what might, or might not, happen in the future spoil our today.
(Matthew 6:34)

At the same time, if we plant seeds of hope today, we will have made a positive contribution to the New Reality of tomorrow for ourselves and our neighbours.

We know we can do it. We just need to trust God. And try.

God bless

Mark

We will be holding a Church Meeting on **Sunday November 15th** — unless Covid guidelines change — in the flesh in Church and also by Zoom. We will send the Zoom link nearer the date and for members who do not have a computer or are not comfortable with Zoom we will also send details of how you can join the meeting by telephone.

Planning in the present circumstances is not easy but there will be an Act of Remembrance on **Sunday November 8th** which we hope will bring the community together. There will be a gathering at the War Memorial led by Shellie, but what will happen depends on any changes in Covid guidelines. If things stay as they are there will be a short service of poems, reflections and prayers starting at 10.45 and finishing by 11.15.

If there is a lockdown Shellie will lead a two minute silence with the laying of two wreaths. At the United Reformed Church we will have a service as usual but will go outside at about 10.50 having invited people up and down the High Street to 'Remember on their doorsteps.' We hope that people on other streets will join together to remember as we did when we clapped for the NHS workers on a Thursday night.

You are invited to join the

Signpost Broadway AGM

via

Zoom

on

Monday, 16th November, 2020

at

7.30 p.m.

If you would like to join, please contact: helenr@signpost.info so that she can add your name to the Zoom invitation list

Eco Church update

The Initial Action Plan has been reviewed. We have heard of some of the good work by church groups and by individuals in their homes, gardens and daily lives.

We'd love to hear from you about what you have done to help address the Waste Emergency so it can be shared and encourage further progress.

Chris Walters has now become coordinator of the Eco Church Steering Group . Our thanks go to Noel Kershaw for all of his effort in helping to start the group and guide it through its first year. Noel will continue as a team member.

Ecochurch Steering Group

Commitment for Life—Prayer Partners

November Prayer for COP26

God of Life. Our planet is dying.

We are responsible for the destruction of species and eco-systems.

Save us for our death-dealing systems

that rely on fossil fuels

that strip-mine the commons

that convert Your natural world into cold, hard cash.

Give us wisdom and courage to find

new ways of living.

Empower our children who are striking for the climate.

Shield all who work for a healthy environment, particularly indigenous earth-protectors.

Gift COP26 with robust and workable solutions to mitigate the very worst effects of climate disruption.

In Christ, we pray. Amen

FLOWERS IN CHURCH

For many years Christine Waller has been the key person in organising a rota of those who would wish to provide flowers in Church on a Sunday special to them. They are then given out to folk who may be having a difficult time or taken to friends in the neighbourhood to show we are thinking of them.



It is unlikely that Christine will continue with this task, as she is thinking of moving nearer the family. I have agreed to prepare a 2021 rota in the hope that we may be able to resume our Ministry of Flowers.

You can help by letting me know of any particular date (or dates) that you would like to provide flowers and if possible arrange them. No special skills are needed - just a vase or potted plant are fine.

Our harvest arrangement on the seat outside was very successful - not only in its appearance but that a group of us all arrived to help. Please do let me know if you are able to offer to arrange flowers for anyone who is unable to do them themselves.

If we could have offers from a number of folk it would ensure that this Ministry could continue each week.

Do get in touch please

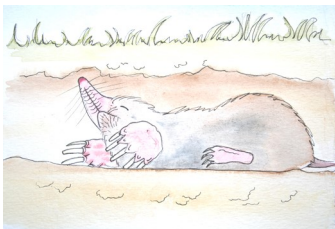
Sue 01451 830269 or robinandsue@aol.com

Aunt Agatha comes to visit.

Story 7

One morning, just as Wilfred and Wendy were getting ready for bed they heard quite a commotion in the tunnel leading to their house. Much to their surprise a very hot and flustered Aunt Agatha appeared. "What's the matter", asked Wilfred. "Oh, I think something is chasing me", she said. "It can't be, nothing else can get into our tunnels", said Wendy. "A mole can, it can make the tunnel bigger to get through", said Aunt Agatha, "I heard the

other day that some had come under the hedge from the field at the bottom of the garden and were eating worms near the stinging nettle patch. Not only that, Sydney the Grass Snake was trying to catch the small moles if they came above ground. He can sort of sense them



in the ground”, said Aunt Agatha. It was a strange thought, a snake chasing a mole it could not see, that was chasing a worm it could not see. “We had better go to bed”, said Wendy, “Aunt Agatha can sleep in the bedroom, I will use the living room and you, Wilfred, can stretch out in the tunnel”.

Aunt Agatha was up early as though nothing had happened yesterday morning and was busy getting breakfast. “Right”, she said, “let’s get to work. Wilfred, you can start building another bedroom, in case you have visitors, Wendy can start on making the pantry bigger, and I noticed you have not got a deep tunnel for when it gets cold and you need to go somewhere warmer, or for when it gets hotter and you need to go somewhere cooler. When your children eventually get here they can help as well”. “Err, where are we going to put all the soil?” asked Wilfred. Aunt Agatha thought for a moment then came up with a plan. “When our tummies are full we can wiggle along the highway tunnels and squirt it up the air holes.” “How are we going to breathe” asked Wilfred. “Oh, there will be plenty of air” said Aunt Agatha as though it was not important. They finished breakfast and as worms do not have plates there was no washing up to do, so they got to work. “Aunt Agatha”, said Wilfred nervously, “Oi You who works in the garden does not like us putting little piles of soil up onto his lawn, he calls them ‘worm casts’ and levels them all out”. “Then he’s not a very good gardener,” snapped Aunt Agatha, “the tunnels we make help get air into the ground and helps water drain away and the soil we put up there is nice and fine and contains plant food”. She was right so Wilfred said nothing; that was the best way with Aunt Agatha. Some of the children arrived and Aunt Agatha made an unhelpful comment about them not getting up until all the work was done, but they all got to work and did a lot of the difficult digging. She decided when to have a rest break and a snack of leaves, who did what and when. She didn’t seem to do any work herself, just told everyone else what to do.

After three nights of digging a lot of the work had been done. Wendy called Wilfred to a quiet place, she was almost in tears. “Wilfred”, she said, “this was supposed to be our new home, but the way things are it’s going to be

Aunt Agatha's, if she doesn't soon go I will say something I shouldn't, can't you say thank you to her and ask her to go home". Wilfred had also had the same thought, but was rather frightened of her and needed to pluck up courage to say something, but he knew he had to do it. Just then something miraculous happened, a worm who lived near Aunt Agatha arrived. He told her that part of her house had collapsed because Oi You had been working nearby and the vibrations had caused the problem. No one dare do anything in case they got it wrong, hence the request for her to go home. Aunt Agatha was most apologetic that she could not stay and finish the work and hoped they could manage without her. Everyone said it was most sad she could not stay but fully understood why she had to go home. "You know", said Wilfred, "Aunt Agatha is very good at getting things done, but why does she have to be so bossy. She has to have everything done her way. If we had a meeting and discussed what we were going to do it would be so much easier, she could keep an eye on everything and ask us to do something, not tell us, there is a difference". They all agreed and went to sleep. A few days later a message arrived from Aunt Agatha saying how much she enjoyed staying with them and hoping their new home was finished. Hers was now repaired and it would be lovely if they came to stay. She had already worked out where they could go and visit and what to do. Wilfred and Wendy looked at each other and just gave each other a smile.



Michael Eden

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Articles for the next Broadsheet can be sent to broadsheet.editor@hotmail.co.uk
or can be placed in the folder at the back of the Church
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