



CHRIST CHURCH PARBOLD NOVEMBER 2024 PRAYER NEWSLETTER

ENCOURAGEMENT.

From the lips of children – a Mustard Seed of faith

During an All Saints school assembly we were talking about the parable of the mustard seed (Matthew 13).

How sometimes we might feel wobbly and our faith very small, but that if we plant the little bit of faith we have then God will grow it into something amazing.



So how do we plant our mustard seed of faith? The children gave some lovely answers:

- you plant your seed of faith by saying a prayer
- if you plant your little bit of faith in a challenge you have, then it'll get bigger so you can try a bigger challenge tomorrow
- and finally, one little boy said so beautifully – 'you should plant your seed of faith by the Cross'

From the lips of children!

One little girl asked, 'but what happens if you don't have any faith at all?'

I stood a child next to me. 'Lucy has lots of faith but I'm really scared and I don't have any faith at all, what should we do?' The children were clear 'you could share, she can give you some of her faith'.

Isn't that the truth!

So let's not worry when our faith seems small, let's plant it anyway and see what God will do.

And let's share - when my faith is small, please pray for me and when your faith is small, let me pray for you.

That way we'll see the Kingdom come and God's will being done in amazing ways!

Sue

PRAYER REQUESTS

- Please continue to pray for Ron Mills and Sylvia Hunter who are both at home now but still recovering from illness.
- Please pray for Arthur and Lilian, Sue's parents who have had falls and especially Lillian who is in a lot of pain.



HARVEST THANKS

This year's Harvest Appeal was to help our local charity Stable Lives and our overseas link with Mercy Rescue Trust in Kenya.

The sum raised came to £2785 which includes the Gift Aid we can reclaim. This total will be divided between the two charities.

Great thanks to all who gave so generously for our Harvest.

God bless,

Lin

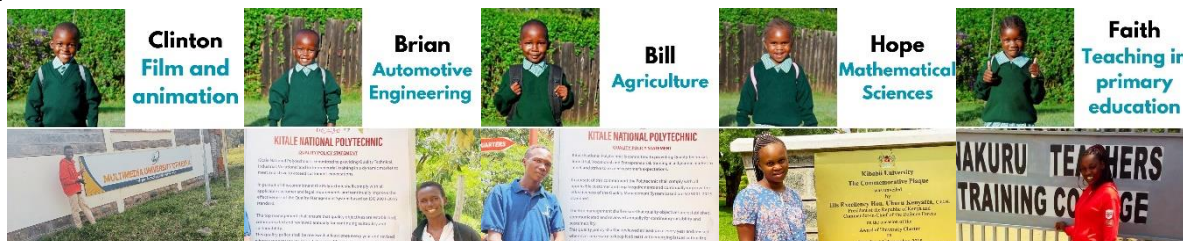
THANKS FROM SKEM FOOD BANK

We have received a letter of thanks from Skem Foodbank for 81 tonnes of food collect from Christ Church and taken to the foodbank.

MERCY RESCUE NEWS

Everyone

It has been a very busy time at Mercy Rescue settling five of the teenagers into college or university. These five children have worked very hard in school to gain the grades needed to further their education. Congratulations to all of them.



Most of you will remember praying for Peter who was born with a cleft palate. He has now had two very successful operations to correct this. Doesn't he look fantastic. He is still waiting for his hernia operation, just waiting for another appointment to arrange a date.

Please pray for Jedidah and her family following the death of her father a couple of weeks ago. It was a real blessing that she was able

to spend time with him whilst she is here. They are not yet sure of funeral arrangement as his family in Malawi would like body to be buried at the ancestor home, as is their custom.

Thank you for your continuing prayers and support.

God Bless

Barabra



Thanksgiving

Two weeks before the Harvest service Joyce said to me "What are we doing for Harvest, Michele?"

It was a sobering question for at that point there were only the two of us to do it and my thoughts about what we should do were somewhat vague. What I did feel though was that since Harvest was a thanksgiving service we should try and involve the whole church and find a way to thank God for all our blessing not just those related to Harvest.



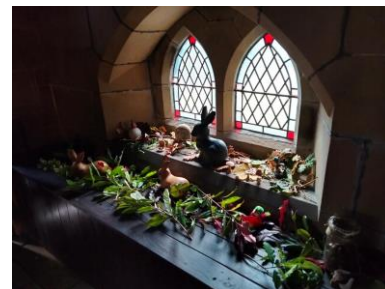
Mulling on how to go about it I had a dream and in the dream God said to me, "I hope you are not going to sit through this Harvest service with a heart of stone. I want to feel your love and thanksgiving."

When I woke I reflected on the dream and realised that God was right. I had become cold. My faith had weakened, I had let myself become distracted by trivial things and had not spoken or prayed or listened to God for some time. I had also been feeling sad that I no longer felt the connection I once had in church and that the songs and sermons no longer seemed spiritually uplifting, connecting or enjoyable. I had wrongly concluded that it was probably my poor hearing that was to blame.

Following the dream, I apologised to God for having let him down and becoming cold and distant, for wasting time on inconsequential things and losing sight of what I ought to be doing. I recognised the need to change and do better. Afterwards I felt revitalized and very aware of God's presence. Things were also different when I next visited church for I found the music tuneful and uplifting and everything felt enjoyable and meaningful. I was so grateful to put the dark days behind me and to feel at one with God again. I was now fired up and determined that the Harvest preparations would be a way to show God not just my love and thanksgiving but also the love and thanksgiving of as many church members as possible.

To my delight I had a great response to my call for help, lots of people donated greenery and thanksgiving items and ten people came along to help put everything into place.

Some of our displays were used to capture the spirit of old when people thanked God for his provision and brought items from the newly gathered Harvest into church. Many people donated the food which was later given to the Skelmersdale Food Bank. The displays in the porch and some of the windows thanked God for the beautiful world He had created, and all the many different plants and creatures.



I found the two days we spent putting the displays together most enjoyable and I was blown away with the creativity of those who created their own specific tributes and forms of thanksgiving. Looking round afterwards I felt we had filled the church with love for God.

Many of those who took part have told me how much they too enjoyed the experience and the shared meal and fellowship.

Which now brings me to **Christmas** and the hope that some of you might be willing to help me create something meaningful and beautiful. The first step of course will be to pick people's brains and see what you feel we should do.

I am hoping to arrange a venue and meal somewhere in Parbold where we can gather to sound out ideas and put a plan into action. If you are willing to take part and help out please could you either send an email to mholl17@btinternet.com or speak to me in church. Thank you, Michele Holliday



November, 2024 - Update for Christ Church, Parbold

Greetings to everyone at Christ Church, Parbold from us all here at EducAid in Sierra Leone.



Educaid is Celebrating 30 Years of Transforming Education in Sierra Leone! sLAi tool to help remote, untrained qualified teachers have access to resources and guidance via WhatsApp.

There is quite a great deal going on in Educaid, as usual !! I can only provide a few examples of the on-going work to improve the life chances of individuals to the ultimate benefit of Sierra Leone as a country.. In educAid we are :

- working with thirty new Primary Schools using a new AI tool to assist the work of untrained teachers working in remote settings to to have access to guidance, resources and materials, through WhatsApp.
- continuing our work with 65 primary schools supporting 13,000+ children in a big school improvement programme that is seeing some great changes in literacy and numeracy learning.



- continuing our work with 10 senior secondary schools, helping teachers focus on both Respectful relationships and Teaching for real, effective learning
- continuing our work with 118 schools in Freetown to support school leaders in providing for the different needs of girls and boys leading to a gender responsive school leadership programme.
- working with a growing number of primary schools on foundational literacy and numeracy, using tablets (the IT sort not medical tablets !) and every child has a 30 minute session each day on the tablet with a headset and a personalised lesson.
- using the idea of a generational firebreak for all of our work leading to
- Antagonistic relationships replaced by respectful relationships.
 - Teaching by using rote learning, chorusing and copying being replaced by teaching for effective learning that is skills focused, activity-based.



We continue to develop our own schools

- we have got ICT labs going again in Lumley with Rolal and Maronka coming soon
- sports days happened for all schools
- Rolal has a new student-led “Ministry for the Future” that will be engaging students and pupils in exciting activities about the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead including, among others :
 - a Directorate for food security
 - a Directorate for AI & Technology
 - a Directorate for Education
 - a Directorate for Employability.



Miriam, the Country Director for EducAid Sierra Leone has sent the following message -
We are excited about all the opportunities ahead and greatly appreciate Christ Church Parbold-in-Douglas for your steadfast support.

Miriam Mason-Sesay, PhD
 Country Director, EducAid Sierra Leone

www.educaid.org.uk

Further details of the work of EducAid in Sierra Leone are available from Pat Horn - patval@sky.com or 07941 577 436



A TIME OF REMEMBRANCE

At this time of year, we remember with gratitude those who gave their lives in the World Wars.

Some of those who lived during the Second World War are now in their nineties. In 2017, We published in the newsletter the memories of those who were just children and young people at that time. Here is a reprint of a couple of those memories.

Sadly my mother Muriel, is no longer with us but I am so glad that I managed to get the idea of what it was like growing up in those six years of conflict.

Please if your parents have lived through times of conflict, get their stories and cherish them as part of your history.

To me they are all heroes.

Lin

SYLVIA HUNTER

When WW2 started I was a schoolgirl living in a small village 10 miles from Sheffield. Being out in the country, it was considered a safe place to live so our village was required to accept evacuees from the south of England. One evening, during the middle of December An air raid took place over Sheffield. We could hear bombs exploding in the distance and see the night sky as a red glow. Suddenly, there was a very loud bang sounding very close by. We were frightened and all four of us dived under the kitchen table. Mother suggested we all sing, So we sang – under the kitchen table! Next morning we heard that a high explosive bomb had landed in a field not far from our home. It was assumed that the pilot had missed the target – a munitions factory a few miles away. Food was in short supply but we were issued with ration books to provide us with basic nourishing food, Advice from government encouraged to “Dig for Victory”. Lawns and flower beds were dug up to make room for growing fruit and vegetables.

MURIEL HUYTON

I was 11 years old when the war started and lived in Tuebrook Liverpool with my younger brother and sister. My mum did not want us to be evacuated and my dad worked in Cammell Laird shipyard during the day and at night would often bike down to the Pier Head to do Fire Watch duties around the docks. I remember the Liverpool Blitz of 1940 onwards. We had a cage in the house to shelter in and there was an Air Raid shelter down in Shiel Road. When the bombs dropped we would go to the shelter and often the next day would walk back along the streets which had a few less houses only piles of bricks and broken glass. But everyone helped each other and stayed cheerful.

I started working in T J Hughes and towards the end of the war met a Scottish sailor known as Jock. He was on the HMS Wild Goose, one of Captain Walker’s fleet sailing out of Liverpool. We married in 1947 after he was demobbed. His mother came down from Aberdeen with a large tin of Corned Beef and some strawberries especially for the wedding breakfast.

FRANK AND JEAN BRUNTON

When the war broke out we were both 13 and living with our families in a suburb of Nottingham. Frank had 3 sisters and 1 brother, Jean had 2 sisters. We lived at home and when the Air raid sounded, had to go down to the Anderson Shelter at the bottom of the garden. The first job was to make sure tea was provided and food provisions available (limited because of rations). To make tea we had to use Condensed milk. People thought it was tea leaves floating in the cups but it was ants.....! Because of rations there was NO fruit - Didn't know what a banana looked like. We can remember when bombs in the area hit a golf course so there were some extra bunkers from then on. The Ice rink was also hit. If you were out on your bikes and the Warning sounded then the roads were closed and we had to go into anybody’s shelter for safety. Our parents never worried nor did we... the best time was when schools had to closed. We did not feel scared



MAY HILTON (DOT FIRTH'S MUM)

May was born in 1920 and when at school met a boy called Stanley Williams. When the second World War broke out he joined the navy. They got engaged and married in 1940, both aged 20. They married on Saturday and Stanley joined his ship on the Sunday. A few days later she received a telegram saying he was lost at sea.

She lived with her mother and during the May Blitz in Liverpool they went to the air raid shelters. One day, May left the shelter as her mum wanted a cup of tea. She went to her aunt's and made the tea but was told not to go out again as the bombing was too bad. Next thing there was a whoosh, and a window blasted onto May. She was buried in the rubble for 3 days and nights and everyone thought she was dead. But a sailor who was on leave saw her hand sticking out and managed to dig her out.

She was the first civilian to have plastic surgery, but they were not able to get all the glass out and it worked out bit by bit the whole of her life.

May met and married my dad. And he said, He didn't see the scars she had, he just loved her. She died at the end of 1991



A QUOTE FROM CORRIE TEN BOOM

(who survived imprisonment in a concentration camp in the second world war. Reas her book "The Hiding Place.")

Forgiveness is the key that unlocks the door of resentment and the handcuffs of hatred. It is a power that breaks the chains of bitterness and the shackles of selfishness.

Corrie Ten Boom

A QUOTE FROM JEAN VANIER ABOUT COMMUNITY

(Founder of L'Arche community in France)

So many people join groups in order to develop a certain form of spirituality or to acquire knowledge of God and humanity. BUT that is not a community, it is a school.

It becomes community only when people start truly caring for each other and each other's growth.