

# Church Without Walls

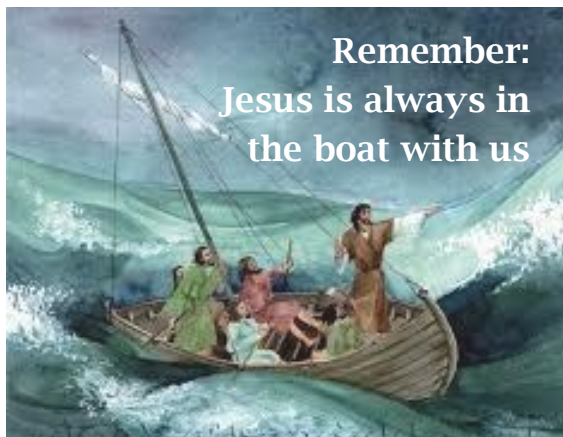
Issue 33 November 22nd 2020



Our Evening Service is now on zoom. The link is in the email sent with this newsletter

## A Prayer for this week

*Lord Jesus Christ,  
in these dark and difficult days, we turn  
our hearts to you.  
In ages past, you have delivered our nation  
from disaster.  
Do it again, we pray.  
Give wisdom beyond human wisdom to  
our leaders,  
Give strength beyond human strength to  
the NHS and all our frontline workers.  
Give comfort beyond human comfort to  
the elderly and all who grieve.  
Lord Jesus Christ,  
in these dark and difficult days,  
turn your face towards us,  
have mercy upon us,  
and heal our land, we pray.  
Amen.*



## A Child Shall Lead Them

This is the title of a series of daily devotions for Advent from the book of Isaiah, produced by Blackburn Diocese.

Ruth Hassall, Diocesan Director of Discipleship writes:

In these Advent daily readings we will be seeing the season through the eyes of Isaiah, writing to the people of Israel who for fifty years had been in forced exile from their homeland. In his prophecy, at last, Isaiah brings a word of hope to this despondent and disheartened people. It's the promise of God's servant who will come to bring justice to the world, and into the darkness of exile, light.

However, as we will discover, this servant is to take on a surprising form...

We will see that from the earliest promise of his coming, to the angelic announcement of his birth in a field outside of Bethlehem, the hope of the world is Jesus, the son of God given to rescue and redeem a broken and weary world.

Our prayer this Advent is that amidst the challenges we face, we too would know the certainty of God's promise fulfilled in Jesus, the Messiah, and respond to his call to be those hope-filled people, who will bring light and life to a hurting world – that we will be led by the Christ-child as we prepare for his coming.

We have a number of these booklets available; please [contact the office](#) if you would like one.

ADVENT 2020  
**A CHILD SHALL  
LEAD THEM**



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DIOCESE  
BLACKBURN  
THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND IN BLACKBURN

7  
VISION2026  
THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND IN BLACKBURN

## The Preston churches in Prayer

Tuesday morning Prayer Meetings  
7.30am on Zoom

Please email Andy Pratt  
for an invitation:  
[andrewpratt1@btinternet.com](mailto:andrewpratt1@btinternet.com)

 **St Stephen's**  
LEARNING TO LOVE AS JESUS DOES

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This week please  
pray for the people  
living in West Cliff &  
West Cliff Terrace

## Reasons to believe in the power of the Bible

'I had a car accident in 2015 when I was 25. In 2014, my twin girls were born. In 2015, I had twin boys. They were ten weeks old and in special care when the accident happened. The children's father was threatening me and stuff. This girlfriend of mine said, "Let's drive round the block in my car and get away." My kids' father was chasing us. My friend crashed.

'I should be dead, like. I had six broken ribs, a broken back and a head injury. My cheek bone was broken. I had two collapsed lungs and a hole in my aorta. I've got a brain injury, so my memory is really bad. I feel like God was giving me the chance to repent and live properly. I know it was.

'Jeremiah 29.11 helped me. It says, "For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope."


'When I read this, I feel like there is so much more, a bigger picture that we don't see. I feel like there is a plan for my life.

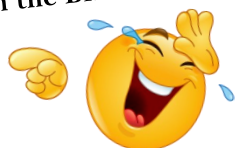
'It's easy for us to forget how much God has done for us, but I can see that God was there. When I think about that, I can't stop crying. When I reflect on it, I know he's been with me all the time. I am just really grateful to have a second life. He didn't have to save me. I was a lost person, like. But he gave me a chance.



'The girls are six now, the boys are five and the baby is nearly two. I have a life that's about the future. This verse from the Bible is just embedded in my mind. It's just there all the time.'

You can read more stories like this  
on the [Bible Society Website](#)

 **Samson was probably the best actor in the Bible**  
His last performance really brought down the house  
**What's the fastest chapter in the Bible?**  
Mark 10



## Can you help the Salvation Army?

From Monday 30th Nov - Friday 18th Dec the Salvation Army are in need of volunteers on weekday mornings between 9.30am & 1pm to help bring in donations.

Due to Covid - 19 restrictions, **we can only accept volunteers who are classed as Covid low risk.** If you can help, please contact Claire Bowerman [info.sapreston@gmail.com](mailto:info.sapreston@gmail.com).



*Remember to give this number to anyone you know who would appreciate being able to hear a message of hope at this time*



A free phone line of hymns,  
reflections and prayers

Future date for your diary:

Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> December  
Hush before the Rush  
More details next week



 **St Stephen's**  
LEARNING TO LOVE AS JESUS DOES