



St Alkmund's

# Duffield Parish Magazine

March 2020



Two views from the church tower. Pictures: Martin Boyce

# CHURCH OFFICIALS, ADDRESSES AND TELEPHONE NUMBERS



*Vicar:* **Revd Dr James Hughes**

The Vicarage, Vicarage Lane, Duffield. Telephone 841867

*Trainee Minister:* **James Rollin**

Telephone: 07485 027171

*Reader:*

**Richard Lindop**

98 Eaton Bank, Duffield  
Telephone 840282

*Churchwarden:*

**Paul Linford**

152 Over Lane, Belper  
Telephone 01773 821853

CHURCH SECRETARY / CHURCH HALL BOOKINGS: <i>Emma Rollin</i> .....	840536
HON. SECRETARY P.C.C.: <i>Marion Taulbut</i> .....	840677
HON. TREASURER P.C.C.: <i>Nick Peacock</i> .....	840935
HON. PARISH MAGAZINE EDITOR: <i>Jeffrey Taplin</i> .....	842665
YOUTH & CHILDREN'S WORKER: <i>Helen Hawley</i> .....	840536
MUSIC & WORSHIP GROUP LEADER: <i>Fiona Lindop</i> .....	840282
TOWER SECRETARY: <i>Luke Heaton</i> .....	841054
PARISH SAFEGUARDING OFFICERS: <i>Paul and Gill Linford</i> .....	07486 560657

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St Alkmund's Church Office, Church Drive, Duffield, Belper DE56 4BA. Tel: 840536

e: [office@stalkmundsduffield.co.uk](mailto:office@stalkmundsduffield.co.uk)    [www.stalkmundsduffield.co.uk](http://www.stalkmundsduffield.co.uk)

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Duffield Parish Magazine    e: [duffieldparishmag@gmail.com](mailto:duffieldparishmag@gmail.com)

# The Vicar's Letter

JAMES HUGHES



*Dear Friends,*

As we come into Spring (whether you think it begins on the 1st or 21st March), we come into a time of hope and expectation. The evenings are getting lighter, and hopefully the weather is getting warmer. We see daffodils and tulips as our gardens and roadsides spring into life. We might even fancy a little bit of spring cleaning—or a new wardrobe. So, what are our hopes and expectations for Spring?

Perhaps we might start with the weather. As I write this, we have narrowly avoided flooding in the church hall again. So, a bit less weather would be appreciated, and of course our thoughts are with those who have suffered greatly from the flooding over the winter months. But asking for a bit less weather has never been very realistic in England, and it seems to be even more the case these days; it may be because we give them names, but we are more conscious of the winter storms we experience now, than we were before.

And that takes us into a much bigger debate about global warming, and the impact of humanity on our environment, and the things we need to do to be good stewards of the creation. And so, our hope for good weather looks to be a small piece of a much bigger jigsaw—that we perhaps don't feel we have all the pieces for. And

all we wanted was a little less rain!

Or maybe we have other plans for the spring. Perhaps it's spending more time with the family, or with some particular people, or that vague sense we have of needing to make the most of what's around us. It is good to make the most of what we have, and yet at the same time, we can easily feel as if life is passing us by. Social Media doesn't help of course, as we see all the wonderful things that everybody else is up to—very few people post about a normal day. We can miss out on enjoying the things we are able to do, because somehow it seems as if there should be more.

Of course, it is my job to remind you that there is more, and that in a complex world, we still have hope. As we head into Spring here at St Alkmund's we're heading into Lent, and then into Easter. Lent, not as the time when we give things up, but when we remember what Jesus Christ gave up in coming to earth and dying for us. And Easter, not just as the time when we eat lots of shaped chocolate, but as the time when we think what it means to talk about Jesus who died, was buried and rose again. But more of that next month.

As we head into Spring then, let me encourage you to take the opportunity to think about these things with us. I look forward to seeing you.

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'James'.



## Services & Events

### SUNDAY 1ST MARCH

- 8.00 am **HOLY COMMUNION** at All Saints' Chapel
- 10.00 am **MORNING SERVICE** at St Alkmund's—(*Matthew 11:1–19*)
- 4.30 pm **HOLY COMMUNION** at St Paul's (with refreshments from 4.00pm)  
(*Genesis 31*)
- 6.30 pm **FIRST SUNDAY SPECIAL** at St Alkmund's (in Church)  
MEETING THE REAL JESUS: "What does it mean to repent and believe?"
- 

### SUNDAY 8TH MARCH

- 10.00 am **MORNING SERVICE** at St Alkmund's—(*Matthew 11:20–30*)
- 4.30 pm **AFTERNOON SERVICE** at St Paul's (with refreshments from 4.00pm)  
(*Genesis 32*)
- 6.30 pm **HOLY COMMUNION** at St Alkmund's—(*1 Corinthians 15:35–58*)
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### SUNDAY 15TH MARCH

- 8.00 am **HOLY COMMUNION** at All Saints' Chapel
- 10.00 am **HOLY COMMUNION** at St Alkmund's—(*Matthew 12:1–21*)
- 4.30 pm **AFTERNOON SERVICE** at St Paul's (with refreshments from 4.00pm)  
(*Genesis 33*)
- 6.30 pm **EVENING SERVICE** at St Alkmund's—(*1 Corinthians 16:1–11*).
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### SUNDAY 22ND MARCH

- 10.00 am **MORNING SERVICE** at St Alkmund's—(*Matthew 12:22–37*)
- 4.30 pm **AFTERNOON SERVICE** at St Paul's (with refreshments from 4.00pm)  
(*Genesis 34*)
- 6.30 pm **HOLY COMMUNION** at St Alkmund's—(*1 Corinthians 16:12–24*)
- 

### SUNDAY 29TH MARCH

- 8.00 am **HOLY COMMUNION** at All Saints' Chapel
- 10.00 am **MORNING SERVICE** at St Alkmund's—(*Matthew 12:38–50*)
- 4.30 pm **AFTERNOON SERVICE** at St Paul's (with refreshments from 4.00pm)  
(*Genesis 35*)
- 6.30 pm **EVENING SERVICE** at St Alkmund's—(*Sermon: tbc*).

## Regular Events:

**SALT CAFÉ**—Sunday 1st, in church at 5.30pm. (For young people in school years 7–13).

**IMPACT** (school years 7–9)—Mondays (2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd & 30th), 7.00–8.30pm (*See leaders for venue*).

**IGNITION** (school years 10–13)—Tuesdays (3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th & 31st), 7.30–9.00pm (*See leaders for venue*).

**MORNING PRAYER**—Tuesdays (3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th & 31st) at 9.15am. Held in church for around half an hour.

**MEN'S 5-A-SIDE FOOTBALL** (at Ecclesbourne School)—Tuesdays (3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th & 31st), at 8.00pm.

**LADIES' BIBLE STUDY**—Wednesdays (11th & 25th), at 10.00am (*Changed venue*).

**EMMA'S LUNCHTIME CONCERT ("Being Neighbourly")**—Wednesday 25th, at 1.00pm in church.

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## Special Events:

**WEDDING OF CATHERINE PYNEGAR & ANDERS BLAABJERG**—Saturday 7th, at 12.30pm.

**JOINT LENT COURSE AT ST PAUL'S CHURCH HALL**—Thursdays (5th, 12th, 19th, & 26th), at 7.30pm.

**YOUTH WEEKEND AWAY**—Friday 13th–Sunday 15th.

**WEDDING OF EMMA WIGHTMAN & MARK JARVIS**—Saturday 28th, at 11.00am.

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# A report of the Parochial Church Council Meeting

held in Duffield Church Vestry,  
on Monday, 20th January 2020



This meeting of the Council took place with the Vicar, the Revd. Dr. James Hughes in the Chair, 14 other members present and one apology. The Vicar opened the meeting by reading from John's Gospel, Chapter 7: vv37–39. Jesus describes himself as the source of Living Water and the fulfilment of Old Testament prophecies: God is living with his people. Jesus is our Lord and Saviour, the foundation of all we do as individuals, as a PCC and as a Church.

**James reviewed the highs and lows of 2019:** the Mini Mission in September, change to afternoon services at Little Eaton, good response to the Gift Day, appointment of James Rollin as Trainee Minister and good attendance at the Christmas Services. The low has to be the flood in November, though perhaps one day even this will make us smile.

**We proceeded to Safeguarding.** There are currently 71 people in the church with valid DBS certificates.

**The Treasurer presented a draft review of the 2019 outcome.** We should be in a position to show a very small surplus at the ACM. In addition, we have carried forward £23,000 in cash to help pay for our Trainee Minister this year and next.

**Stewardship payments for 2019** will be higher than for 2018 due to the increase in income. We are hoping in future to transfer the focus of our support to individuals rather than organisations.

## OTHER SUBJECTS

### Carnival Garden Party 2020

This will be a more compact event than in 2019. It will be held on Sunday 14th June, with a service at 4pm incorporating crowning the Carnival Prince/Princess, and followed by a barbeque.

### William Gilbert Governors

It was agreed that Elizabeth Henson and Ruth Slade Walker would be recommended to the Diocese for a further term of office.

**New Bank Account Signatories** and Correspondent were agreed for the PCC Hall Reserve account and the PCC William Gilbert account.

The next PCC will be held on Monday March 16th 2020, and the Annual Church Meeting is set for Wednesday April 29th.

Any matters for discussion by the PCC should be with the Chairman 14 days beforehand.

### MARION TAULBUT

*Hon PCC Secretary*     dmtaulbut@btinternet.com



St Alkmund's  
Duffield Parish Church

## First Sunday Specials

Spring 2020

## Meeting the Real Jesus

1st March - What does it mean to repent and  
believe?

5th April - What kind of king?

IN CHURCH

REFRESHMENTS PROVIDED

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# All Are Welcome

I was musing the other day on the importance of being made to feel welcome. In pretty much any and every sphere of life one might think of—be it at school, in our workplace, at our sports or other social clubs, at shops, restaurants or other retail/leisure environments—the welcome we receive in all these places is vitally important.

Before starting to work for St Alkmund's, I worked for a couple of very different organisations. Between them, these two companies provide 'textbook examples' of how making people feel welcome in the workplace can either be done extremely well ... or frankly, appallingly badly!

I start with the bad example. My appointment had been known about for at least a month or more, yet when I arrived, it was almost as if no one was expecting me! And, fairly vital stuff to do my job—such as a company laptop, not to mention a login to the corporate network!—took quite some time to materialise. As for a formal induction, to gain understanding of the complex and large organisation I was supposed to be communicating and marketing ... you're on your own there, mate!

In complete contrast, the other company I worked for put huge time and effort into their 'onboarding'

processes. HR and IT worked very closely to ensure all new staff had their company login, company mobile and computer equipment ready for their arrival. All new recruits followed a very rigorous induction, spending time over their first few weeks learning about the company's various different specialist departments—what each one did, who was who, etc—and the firm had a very welcoming ethos generally. This welcoming culture was very much driven by the senior management, right from the MD downwards.

Here at St Alkmund's, we too strive to be a very welcoming church, and—without stretching the business metaphors too far!—our 'corporate culture' is likewise driven by our 'managing director'. While He lived on earth, the Lord Jesus always welcomed anyone—from all manner of backgrounds and walks of life—into His presence, or to wherever He was preaching or ministering at the time.

For example, we read in chapter 9 of Luke's Gospel that "... *When the crowds learned it, they followed Him, and He welcomed them and spoke to them of the kingdom of God and cured those who needed healing...*". Or in chapter 15 of the book of Romans, we're reminded to "... *welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God...*". →

→ And we want to follow the example of the Lord Jesus in welcoming everyone, because we believe passionately that Jesus offers very 'good news' which everybody should have an opportunity to hear. We want to welcome one and all to hear the 'good news' of the Gospel—what God's done for us through Jesus and His death and resurrection, in order that we can be reconciled with God to have a restored relationship with Him and what that then means for our lives.

Everyone is very welcome to any and all of our church services and midweek activities at any time. But if you're possibly new to all things Christian, or maybe have particular questions about the Christian faith, then our 'First Sunday Special' services might perhaps be a particularly good service for you to start with. Do come along and join us. You will indeed be very welcome!

***James Rollin***



# Where's the Bear?



Well done to all of you who figured out where Alkmund was last month! He was by this pretty wall opposite the Duffield Library, trying to decide which brilliant book he wanted to take out next! His favourites, of course, are stories about his friends, Paddington, Winnie and Baloo. But there's one he always gets too scared to read: Goldilocks and the three bears—he just can't cope with the thought of having his porridge eaten by someone else!



Poor Alkmund got a bit of a soggy bottom after posing for this photo. Where do you think he is?

#wheresthebear?



# 'Saying Yes to Good Neighbour Week'



"If we're lucky, life is defined, not by what we let go, but by what we let in." These were the words offered by the narrator at the conclusion of the BBC programme *Call the Midwife* (series nine, episode two). To have a choice is a precious gift indeed and one that not everyone has access to. At a time of Lent

people have the opportunity to consider choices: who or what they let into their lives and what to change or alter. This might involve self-reflection, decision-making and personal application. The Good Neighbour week from March 23rd to 29th provides opportunities to explore these objectives through socialising, meeting new people, seeking information, increased self-confidence and engaging with the local community. Whether your interest is attending coffee mornings, enjoying meals, talks, walks or a united church service, these are some of the many activities provided at various Duffield venues during the week. Please do view the complete programme. Perhaps among your choices for March you will say yes to the second Good Neighbour Week and, in doing so, become Good Neighbours and Good Stewards.

**Paul Wiggins**



# Good Neighbour Week

## March 23<sup>rd</sup>-29<sup>th</sup> 2020



Monday 23<sup>rd</sup>

12-2pm: Weston Centre lunch with music by Les Ball.  
(Booking essential. Contact Richard 07859 235081.  
There will be a charge of £4.00 per person)

2.30-4 p.m. Readings, songs and refreshments at Duffield Library with Carole-Ann, Paul Wiggins and pupils from Duffield Meadows school.

Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup>

9.45am: Walk for Health with Chris Thorp (contact 07977 140415); walks are 45mins and 75mins long starting from the Weston Centre.

10-12noon: DCC Local Area Coordinator Nicky Mount drop in session (for information and advice or a cuppa and a chat) at the Weston Centre.

2-3:30pm: C.H.A.T. at Baptist Church with a talk from Age UK by Christine Wilson.

Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup>

11-12noon: Sharing Childhood Memories with Di Hancock at the Weston Centre.

1.30-2.30pm: Talk from Arthritis Action by Ruth Smith at St Margaret's Catholic Church.

3-4.30pm: Bingo at the White Hart with refreshments.

Thursday 26<sup>th</sup>

10.30: Join Robert Reid in the grounds of Duffield Castle for a short walk exploring Duffield's rich heritage - from Norman to Contemporary. There are a number of steps. Anyone who may have difficulty please call Robert on 842639 to make other arrangements.

12noon-1.30pm: Community Lunch at Emmanuel Community Church (please book a place with Lynda 01332 840821).

1:30-2:30pm: Midweek praise Emmanuel Community Church.

Friday 27<sup>th</sup>

10.00-11.00am: Chairiobics at The Weston Centre (There will be a charge of £3.00).

11:30am-12:30pm: Weston Centre - Help us get Access for All in Duffield - Steve Evanson, from Accessibility Duffield.

2-3pm: Songs for Easter at William Gilbert Primary School with refreshments

Saturday 28<sup>th</sup>

9:30-11am: Village Spring Clean - Meet by White Hart. Wear strong gloves. Litter pickers and bags provided.

10-12noon: Coffee Mornings at Baptist and Trinity Methodist churches.

2.30-4pm: Tea Party at Emmanuel Community Church.

Sunday 29<sup>th</sup>

6:30pm: 'Good Neighbours, Good Stewards' joint service for all 5 Duffield churches at St Alkmunds.

**Coffee available at the Weston Centre every Monday - Friday 10am -12noon**

(Price for 'bottomless' cup of tea/coffee - £1)

**Donations are most welcome at all free events**

Supported by Duffield Parish Council, The Weston Centre, Appletree Medical Practice and Duffield Community Association



## *Wedding Choir available*

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## **Men's 5-a-Side Football**

**Tuesdays at Ecclesbourne  
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**This month:  
3, 10, 17, 24 & 31 March**



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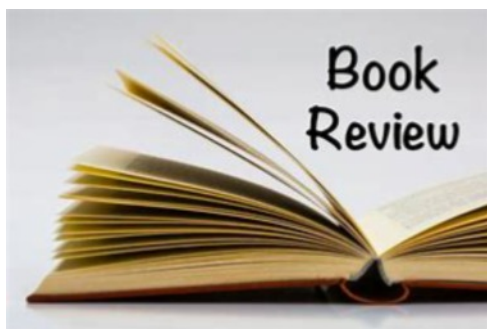
*What is the longest word in the English language which has no vowels and can be used in the game of SCRABBLE?*

If you are a fan of Victoria Coren Mitchell's TV quiz game, **ONLY CONNECT**, you will be familiar with the missing vowels round, where competing teams have to decipher a phrase from which the vowels have been removed and the remaining consonants re-spaced.

So it's your turn now! Can you identify the popular hymns below? For example **RCK FGSC LFT FRM** with the vowels replaced would read **ROCK OF AGES CLEFT FOR ME**. Off you go then! The answers will appear in next month's issue of St Alkmund's Duffield Parish Magazine.

1. **TTHN MFJS SVRY KNSH LLBW**
2. **G DSW RKNG HSP RPST**
3. **DRLR DNDF THRFM NKND**
4. **PRSM YSLT HKN GFH VN**
5. **W HNS RVYT HW NDRSC RS S**
6. **T HLR DSM YSHPH RD**
7. **CML TSSN GFWN DRFL LV**
8. **N D C NT B**
9. **LNN GNT HVRLS TNG RMS**
10. **LLH LTHP WRFJ S SN M**

*Mike Severn*



## Making Sense of God by Timothy Keller

Hodder and Stoughton 2016

Recently, a group at St. Alkmund's has been studying this powerful book by the well-known American preacher and writer Tim Keller, a Christian Minister in New York, who in 30 years has grown a church of 50 people to three congregations totalling 5,000, a ministry primarily amongst young professionals.

In his introduction, Keller challenges the reader:

**“If you think Christianity doesn’t hold much promise of making sense to a thinking person, then this book is written for you.”**

I hope you will take a challenge and read on to the end of this review!

Keller splits his book into three sections: “Why does anyone need religion?”, “Religion is more than you think it is,” and “Christianity makes sense.”

### **“Why does anyone need religion?”**

I particularly enjoyed the first section, especially the challenge to those without belief to recognise that secularism is a belief system. Here the author strongly challenges the assumptions that the world is getting more secular, and that the belief that secular, non-religious people are basing their view of life mainly on reason. The first challenge comes directly from statistical evidence – a 2015 study suggests that the percentage of people of no faith will decrease from 16% to 13% by 2050. The great majority of people in the world have a faith: modern secular belief is very much in the minority.

Perhaps the most challenging discussion in the whole book is Keller’s challenge to the assumption that religion is based on faith whereas secularism is based on evidence alone. In practice you quickly get tied in philosophical knots—who states the ground rules: e.g. “We should not believe in something unless we can prove it empirically.” But where is the empirical evidence for that statement?

You can’t engage with this book without touching on Philosophy. But the point is that although a case for no faith is often made, so can such a belief system be challenged.

### **“Religion is more than you think it is”**

This section forms the majority of the text, and covers a wide range of topics: suffering and satisfaction, self and individual freedom, hope, morals and justice. Keller addresses in great detail some key

MAKING SENSE OF GOD TIMOTHY KELLER





objections often raised in challenge to faith in general and Christianity in particular.

- You don't need to believe in God to have a full life of meaning, hope and satisfaction
- You should be free to live as you see fit, as long as you don't harm others
- You become yourself when you are true to your deepest desires and fears
- You don't need to believe in God to have a basis for moral values and human rights
- There's little or no evidence for the existence of God or the truth of Christianity

A strength of Keller's approach is his willingness to draw arguments from many sources, ancient and modern, faith and philosophy, as he challenges our casual thinking. I think that both those with Christian and other faiths, and those who profess no faith will find that they have to work hard to appreciate the force of the arguments.

### **"Christianity makes sense"**

In the concluding section Keller approaches Christianity as a well-founded belief. He first raises the question: "Is It Reasonable to Believe in God", leading to the more specific, "Is It Reasonable to Believe in Christianity?" in which he presents the strong historical evidence for the life, work and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Finally, in a moving epilogue, "Only in God!" he takes an example from the memoirs of Langdon Gilkey, *Shantung Compound*, describing the harsh realities of life in an internment camp in World War

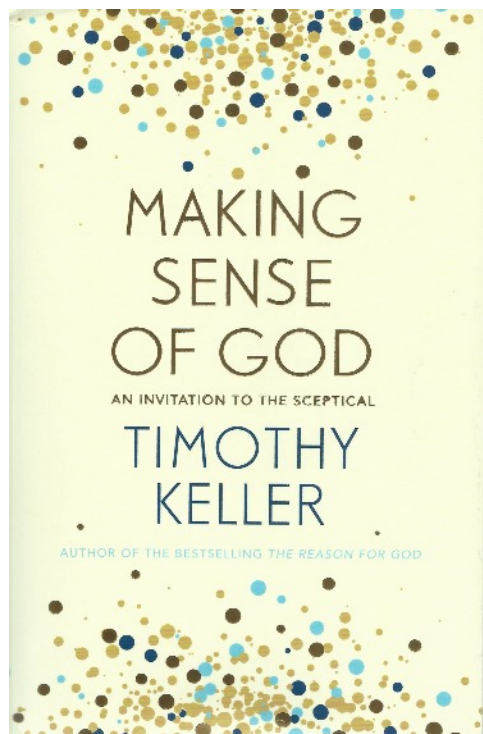
Two, and the contrast between individual desires and selfless service, as exemplified in the camp by the life and death of the missionary pastor Eric Liddell (of *Chariots of Fire* fame).

### **Conclusion**

To quote Keller: "If you think Christianity doesn't hold much promise of making sense to a thinking person, then this book is written for you."

*Making Sense of God* is not a light read. But for someone who is doubting their unbelief, for someone seeking to broaden their knowledge of faith, or for any Christian seeking to strengthen the philosophical strength of their faith, I would recommend this book.

**Andrew Jackson**





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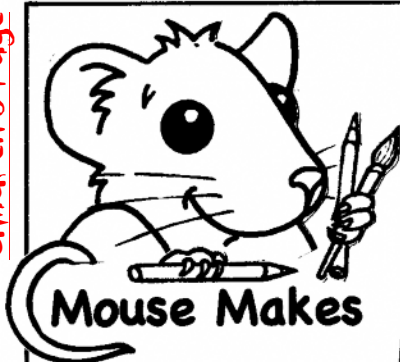
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# A Bible bookmark to make for LENT

Before Jesus began to preach and heal and tell people about God, he spent 40 days alone in the desert praying and talking to God, preparing himself for what God had sent him to do.

Remembering those days Jesus spent in the desert, the Christian Church has set aside the 40 days before Easter as a time to think and pray and learn more about God.

This time is called  
**LENT**

Use your  
bookmark each day  
during LENT to help  
you as you pray.

Dear LORD,



THANK YOU for



SORRY for



I PRAY for



**The Lord's Prayer**

Our Father in  
heaven  
may your holy  
name be  
honoured,  
may your kingdom  
come, may your  
will be done on  
earth as it  
is in heaven.

Give us today the  
food we need.

Forgive us the  
wrongs we have  
done, as we  
forgive the wrongs  
others have  
done to us.

Do not bring us to  
hard testing, but  
keep us safe from  
the Evil One.

**AMEN**



Matthew 6:9-13

## To make your bookmark:

Carefully cut around the outside, fold in half along the dotted line and glue together. Add a tassel to the bottom with a length of wool or ribbon. You can make it stronger by gluing onto card before folding.



# 2 Minute New Testament—Colossians



I wonder where you were when you first saw the opening titles of *Star Wars*—or Episode IV as it is now known. When you first read those words about a far away conflict between Good and Evil, or what you thought when the Imperial Star Destroyer overran the rebel ship. A big opening to a big conflict between good and evil.

But is the conflict between good and evil purely fictional? A nice story but divorced from reality? In Colossians, the apostle Paul tells us that we do live in a world of cosmic conflict. He writes to the Christians in the Roman city of Colossae and tells them:

*For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves* (Colossians chapter one, verse 13, NIV)

Good and evil, darkness and light. This is the world that Paul describes. Now we may not think of the world that way; when Luke Skywalker bought R2D2 and C3PO from the Sandmen, he wasn't conscious of the struggle between the empire and the rebels—but the struggle was still real.

And so, Paul wants people to know about the conflict—but more especially that God has won the victory, through Jesus Christ. After he has prayed for the Colossians in chapter 1, Paul goes on to say:

*Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behaviour. But now he has reconciled you by Christ's physical body through death to present you holy in his sight,*

*without blemish and free from accusation* (Colossians chapter 1, verses 21 and 22, NIV)

Now the thing that might surprise us here is to think that once we were enemies of God. Once we were on the side of evil. But all those who know Jesus Christ as saviour and Lord are now on God's side. How? Because Jesus Christ died on our behalf. He took the punishment we deserve for the things that we do wrong—ignoring God, and ignoring his commands. And so now, instead of being enemies of God, instead of living in the kingdom of darkness, those who know Christ are holy—because Christ is Holy.

This is the situation of those who have faith in Christ, and Paul wants them to know all about it. He wants to strengthen their faith. He wants them not to rely on human regulations—what they eat or drink, what festivals they keep—to get them to heaven (chapter 2)—but to trust in Christ who:

*Having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.* (Colossians chapter 2, verse 15, NIV)

He wants them to trust in Christ, to focus on heavenly things, to live as Holy people, putting to death sinful things (Chapter 3); and he wants them to pray, and he sends greetings from his fellow Christians (Chapter 4).

Paul knows that the conflict between good and evil is real—but that *Christ has won the victory*. He writes to encourage the Colossians, and us, to trust in the Christ who has won the victory, defeating death on the cross.

*James Hughes*

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# Youth and Children

As the youth workers here at St Alkmund's and St Paul's, Carys and I occasionally get to attend special training events to help us in our work, and earlier this year we spent four days on a residential for youth and children's workers called Growing Young Disciples.



The overarching theme of this year's conference was "authenticity"—something that so many young people both need and crave in a world where you can "be anything you want to be", especially online.

During the conference we had some fantastic teaching from Adrian Reynolds from 2 Corinthians on how important authenticity is in our youth and children's work, both in our Bible study times and in the way that we as a group relate to each other.

We were also massively encouraged and refreshed in hearing Sam Gibb preach to us on the Beatitudes—Jesus' countercultural list of virtues that bring real and deep happiness to those who practice them, whatever their situation may be.



**Sam Gibb preaching on the Beatitudes.**

But one of the great challenges of the week was our time spent learning about Generation Z with Mel Lacy (the Executive director of GYD and the Director of the Children's and Youth Ministry Course at Oak Hill College), considering how we can best serve a generation that is now more connected than any generation gone before, yet at the same time, suffering from a "loneliness epidemic". I was personally struck by how much we need to invest in genuine time with the young people that we know. By this I mean that we need to be having more real conversations about things that matter, be spending more time together, and be willing to be honest and open about our own struggles, aspirations, faith and lives. So much of our young people's lives are experienced digitally now, and

they compartmentalise their lives—they have a variety of versions of themselves that they can present for different situations and people that they interact with. On speaking with some of our young people back at home after the conference, I was surprised to hear them say that they don't believe that the real "them"



**Mel Lacy talking about Generation Z and the “loneliness epidemic”.**

is portrayed accurately in any of their online forums.

With so much confusion over identity and who they're meant to be, we have a huge task ahead of us as we, their church family, seek to help our young people see that they are *already*, just as they are, of great value and significance as they are image bearers of God himself. This living God, who created them, cares for them, and wants a relationship with them. In fact, the message of the Bible is so radically different to what we are telling our young people everywhere else—to be your most authentic self, is not to actually look within *yourself* at all, but to look to the cross. Christ was the most authentic human ever to live. But he does not only offer himself as a role model, he offers *himself*. When you become a Christian you “put off” your old self and put on Christ. To be an authentic human is to be so much more than we could dream up for ourselves to be. Jesus Christ calls us to look to him for our sense of self and identity and he offers deep peace, assurance and joy in him. As Christ is God, he is the only one who truly knows us, and all that we need. With this laying down of self comes a great freedom, to not have to keep recreating, inventing or determining who we are on our own, but to look to the one who loves us more than anything in the world, who dreamed us up in the first place, and gave himself so that we can be our true selves in him.

What a joy it is to be able to open up the Bible and talk about the extent to which our God has gone to in order to show us that we don't need to impress him or win him over in order for him to love us.

*Helen Hawley*



# Wonder Week—

## Warwick University's Christian Union Mission Week

**W**onder Week: 20 events over five days, a massive marquee in central campus, enough flyers to cover the humanities building, and enough free food to survive on for a week. In other words, a straightforward undertaking.

From watching the marquee from 2 – 5am, to carrying chairs, tables and a stage across campus at midnight, events week contained experiences I never expected to have. But perhaps the most rewarding of these was to perform 'The Mark Drama', which ran through the entire gospel of Mark in 90 minutes; something that shouldn't be possible, but ended up being a great success. To see something of the impact of Jesus' life, the experience of the disciples, and the pain Jesus suffered was unexpectedly powerful, and a highlight of the week.

Events week does interesting things to your social awareness, to your perspective. People can and will come to Christ all year, of course, but there's something about events week that tells you this is the chance. So you brave flyering, get used to being ignored or glared at, sustained by the people who ask for one, or double back because you missed them in the sea of people; you leave leaflets everywhere, hopeful that someone might pick it up, terrified and excited by the possibilities it represents. You even stand at the front of a lecture theatre and advertise, even if it makes you shake for the duration of the lecture. Why? Because you have to.

Because running evangelical events reminds you of the faith you have and how we long for others to be able to truly see Jesus too; who he really is and everything he's done for us.

Of course, being human, there will always be a temptation to consider the success of an event. To see a long line of people stretching out of the tent and see it as a success; to have six flatmates at one event and to consider that your own personal victory. But I've been shown the impact of God's work through one of my flatmates.

Six flatmates came to the Mark Drama on Monday; only one of them showed real interest, taking a copy of Mark's Gospel and a book entitled *Can Science*


*Explain Everything?* of his own accord. A few days later, I came back to the flat to see him reading the latter in the kitchen, pacing up and down; on Friday, I saw him again only to realise he'd spent the last three hours in the Wonder tent, listening to two lunchtime talks.

All I did was invite him to the Mark Drama; I wasn't even expecting him to turn up. Everything else happened because God has his hand on him—which, of course, was why I invited him in the first place. God doesn't use what we do for his purposes; we are used by him.


The week wasn't about how many of our friends we'd invited, or how many people had come through the tent, which events had been most 'successful'. On the Thursday night, someone at Warwick University became a Christian.

Even if God didn't stir anyone else's hearts, all the work everyone had put in was worth it, for that one testimony. But there were so many more people I heard about or saw, who came into that tent and heard the gospel, who began to see something of God; lives began to be changed, and it was incredible.

*Sarah Hughes*

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# Duffield Churches Homelessness Group

I write to introduce you to the Duffield Churches Homelessness Group which operates as a sub-committee of the Duffield Christian Council and has representation from the village's five churches.

Its primary object is to enable and encourage the local community to assist the work of 'Riverside' (formally English Churches Housing) in giving help to Centenary House and homeless people in the locality. The group also consider broader concerns of the homeless in Derbyshire such as the Derby Night Shelter project running during the winter months.

Income comes from that gifted by the Duffield churches, from specific fund-raising efforts such as a Spring coffee morning, and from other organisations wishing to support homelessness in the area.

Over the last five years we have gifted £8,200 to various homeless causes.

Centenary House in Mount St. Derby is the focus of much of our assistance. This hostel provides accommodation for over 30 people and is now a specialist unit helping those with an alcohol dependency. It is run by 'Riverside' which is a leading provider of social housing in the UK, offering affordable housing and support to people of all ages and circumstances.



Centenary House aims to be a safe and secure hostel for homeless people in a busy residential area of Derby, with a number of the rooms specifically designed for alcohol dependent customers.

We provide funds for particular needs, such as for a cooker for a person moving from the hostel into a flat with no appliances, or sometimes the hostel arranges a day out for the residents and we pay for the travel costs.

Some of our fund raising events, such as last year's coffee morning, contribute to

specific projects like 'No second Night Out' and 'Night Shelter' which seeks to prevent long term homelessness and provision of a bed for the night.



→ A regular supply of food, toiletries, blankets and woollen hats are also provided from some of the local churches throughout the year.

At Christmas time we provide a food voucher to every Riverside resident in Derby and Belper (around 120), and this year we paid for a fish and chip supper on Christmas and New Year's Eve.

This year we will be holding two events to raise money ; the first will be a Coffee Morning on Saturday April 25th at Duffield Methodist Church Hall 10–12pm, and the second is a concert in late November to start the Christmas celebrations with 'Rocking around the Christmas Tree' at St Alkmund's Church.

We hope you can come and join us to raise funds for those less fortunate than ourselves.

*Graham Tanner*



**The Duffield Churches  
Homelessness Committee  
invite you to a**

**Coffee Morning**

**Saturday April 25th**

**10-12 noon Methodist Church Hall  
King Street , Duffield**

**Raffle, Cakes, Bric-a-Brac  
Plants and Car Washing**

**Admission Free**

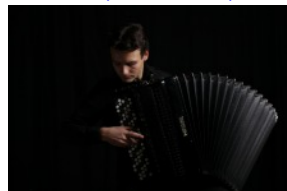


Supporting the Homeless in Derby  
by



**Music at Duffield presents**

**Sofie Rosa & Miloš Milivojević**  
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**Saturday 28 March 2020, at 7.30pm**

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**PROGRAMME**

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Individual tickets are available at the door or from Caroline Morgan (Tel: 07977 091171) and also online at [www.musicatduffield.com](http://www.musicatduffield.com)

For further details about Music at Duffield and future concerts please visit our website [www.musicatduffield.com](http://www.musicatduffield.com)



George agreed that it had been a little while since the last churchyard working party.



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