

The magazine of the Barnsley Group Pastorate



AUTUMN 2014





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Dear friends

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT

Cover your back - but what with?

A final word: Be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on all of God's armour so that you will be able to stand firm against all strategies of the devil. (Ephesians 6:10-11)

I've always loved the idea of the 'armour of God'. As a kid I was always very into superheroes, (my favourite was Mike



Mercury in his Superecar!) They fought battles, good vs evil and so on. So when I first heard Paul's metaphor here I loved it, thinking of the Sword of the Spirit, the Breastplate of Righteousness and all that stuff.



We can't handle life on our own. As I write this the tragic news that Robin Williams had taken his own

life is just 'hitting the airwaves'. Sadly, you often hear about people being driven to suicide because they can't handle a particular situation. There is so much rubbish in the world, so much bad intent and selfishness that we can't possibly hope to cover our own backs from everything the world is going to throw at us. That's why we need to allow God into our lives. He will protect us, if we

allow Him, from all of the 'flaming arrows' that might be fired our way.



Clothing yourself in God's armour isn't about becoming a hero or a brave knight or even Mike Mercury however cool that may sound! It's about protecting our hearts and minds from the bad stuff in this world, and giving us the tools to

bring God into a broken world. We need to be Jesus in this place, to show people how God always intended us to live. So let's put on the armour of God and show people who Jesus truly is.



Here are some anagrams for you to have a go at. They are courtesy of Fiona Weighton-Smith. The answers are on page 21. Rearrange the following words to make a word or words which relates to it. It is fairly easy, promise!

BEST IN PRAYER

MOON STARER

THEY SEE

HE BUGS GORE

HERE COME DOTS

DIRTY ROOM CASH

LOST IN ME

IS NO AMITY

ALAS! NO MORE Zs

I'M A DOT IN PLACE

THAT QUEER SHAKE

TWELVE PLUS ONE

Items for the Winter 2014 LINK need to be with me by Sunday 9 November). Thanks.

Your friend and minister

Nick

(Cover photo: Tenerife, Canary Islands)



'Bind us together' took on a new meaning when a practical joker used superglue

WEST MELTON'S GREEN TIPS CORNER

By Helen Owen

Numbers 20 & 21 De-cluttering your car & Storing veg in water

De-cluttering your car



If you drive regularly, clear the boot of clutter. Removing unnecessary objects will reduce the overall weight of the

vehicle-cutting fuel consumption and carbon emissions by easing the load on the engine.



Storing veg in water



Some vegetables last longer in water. Stand spring onions and celery in a glass of water in the fridge and they will stay fresh for ages.



CLAYTON WEST HOLIDAY CLUB August 2014



When we arrived on Tuesday morning we sat at our tables and did this very fun morning activity. You had to colour in and cut out coat shapes, we did not know why we had to do it but our leader said it had something to do with the story we were going to learn about this week.

After everyone had arrived we went upstairs into the church to find there were 2 puppets ready to tell us a story and then the leaders acted out the story of Joseph and his wonderful dream coat. They only acted out Act 1 of the story, we were told that the next act of the story would be on the following day. After that we did a craft activity, we made Joseph in a well looking very sad. We then went outside to play with the Holiday Club's equipment, that was really fun.

At lunch we chatted to our friends about the day so far. In the afternoon we walked down to Scissett First School to have a fun sports afternoon. At the end of the day we went back to church and we sang some really fun songs. Then when everyone was tired we went home.

On the Wednesday the morning activity was to make a model of an Egyptian animal out of play dough. I made a snake and my sister made a turtle. We then had Act 2 of the Joseph story, Joseph was blamed for something he didn't do and ended up in prison. In our craft activity we made some cool little fridge magnet sandals out of card that said "God was with Joseph" I have put mine on the fridge at home. In the afternoon we walked up the road to watch a really fantastic magic show at the United Reformed Church, it was amazing. We all got balloon animals but mine burst on the walk back to Church.



On Thursday morning we did another really great morning activity where you had to make a black cat out of paper. After that we went upstairs to have a puppet show and the story was about needing rules to play games properly,

we then had Act 3. While Joseph was in prison he told a baker and a cupbearer the meaning of their dreams, he also told Pharaoh what his dreams were about. The best bit of the morning was making our own bread. We chatted to the leaders



and got very messy kneading the bread. The church smelt lovely as the bread baked. After lunch we got on a coach and went Ten Pin Bowling at Barnsley! That was the best

activity of all, we all really enjoyed it and had a great time, everyone did very well.

I couldn't go on the Friday because we were going away on holiday but Margaret said they were having the last act of the story about Joseph forgiving his brothers and were having a 'party'.

I have been going to Holiday Club for 5 years and I always looked forward to the Church Holiday Club. I had a brilliant time this year at Holiday Club but I am a bit sad as I am going to be too old to go next year. However I have been told I can go as a helper, which is brilliant news. Thank you to all the helpers and organisers, it's the best week of the school Summer holidays!

By Charlotte Earnshaw



Group Pastorate Service

We meet together for worship, fellowship and food three times a year. The next service is at

CLAYTON WEST - 12th OCTOBER

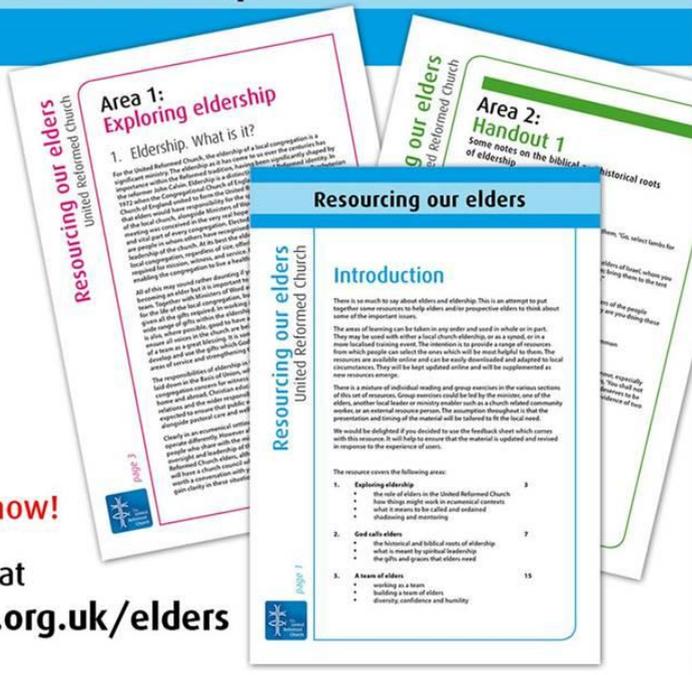
This service will start at 11.00am. and will, as usual, be followed by a time of fellowship as we eat lunch together.

YOU ARE ALL WELCOME.

The United Reformed Church have produced new resource materials for Elders which can be downloaded from their website.

I hope you will have a look at them, assuming you have access to the Internet. The material has 55 pages. If you would like to read a hard copy please ask me and I will print it for you. *Rev Nick.*

Resourcing our elders: 8 areas for development



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www.urc.org.uk/elders

Bible Word Search: Armour of God

All the words listed below are in the puzzle - left, right, up, down or diagonally.

T H G I L W I C K E D N E S S
E R E C O M F O R T P O W E R
M B G S U P P L I C A T I O N
L R N H U Y H T O M I T T E O
E E O S R E Y A R P I O H C I
H A I R N B A T T L E B S A T
T S T U S A S O A S Y E T R A
I T A L T S I P U T F D A G V
N P R E R T I S I I A I N N L
G L A R O C E R E R E E D I A
O A P S N J U R K H I N T H S
S T E I G C Y N A S P T R C D
P E R S E V E R A N C E U T R
E P P S S S Q U E N C H T A O
L O I N S R E T S A M E H W L

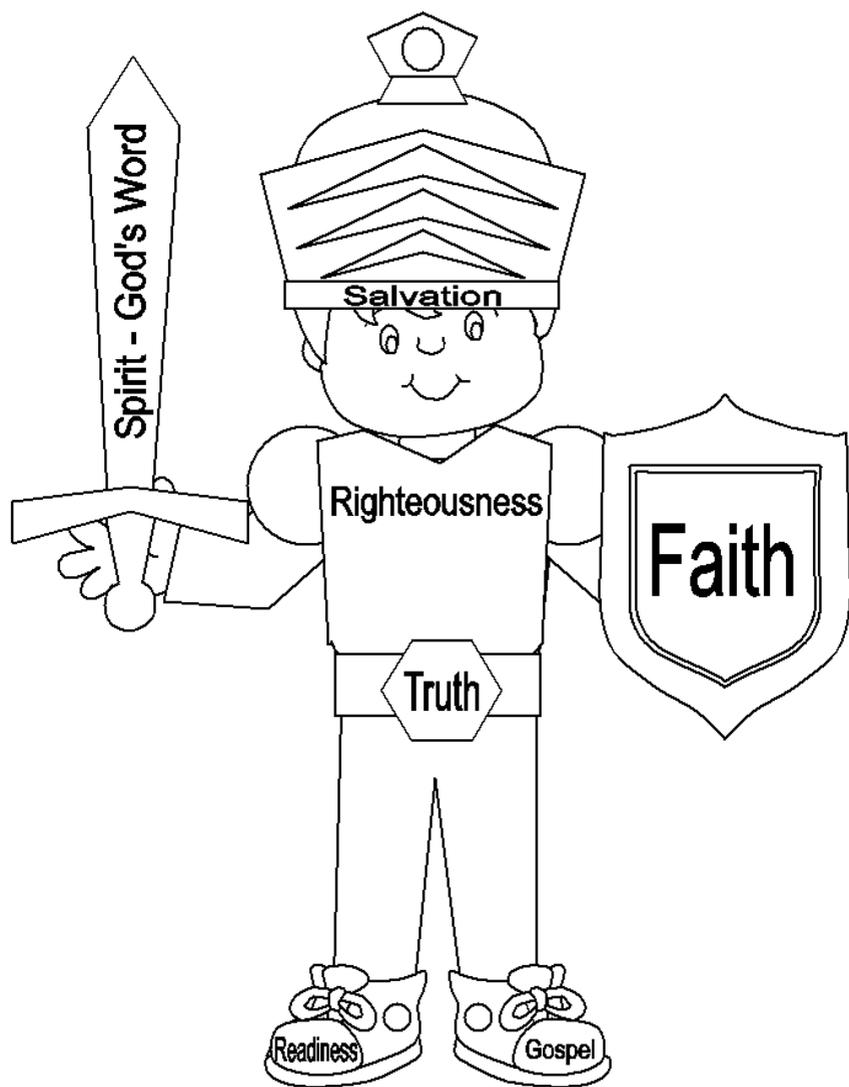
Battle, Breastplate, Comfort, Darkness, Ephesians, Fiery,
Gospel, Grace, Helmet, Jesus, Light, Loins, Lord, Masters,
Obedient, Perseverance, Power, Prayer, Preparation,
Principalities, Quench, Rulers, Salvation, Security, Spiritual,
Strong, Supplication, Timothy, Truth, Utterance, Watching,
Wickedness, Withstand

Thanks to:

<http://www.christianbiblereference.org/wordsearch.htm>



Put on the whole armour of God. A picture for you to colour.





From the General Assembly in Cardiff 3 - 6 July

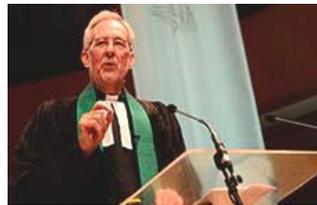
New URC media app!

The URC has launched a free media app which makes keeping up with all URC news and data easier than ever. The app keeps its users up-to-date with all URC news stories and also links to the denomination's facebook and twitter pages, Reform magazine and our online Yearbook and church directory.

The app is for use on all android mobile devices – with an iPhone specific version coming later in the year. Download the official URC media app for from Amazon (search for urc media app) and Google Play (search for urcmedia).

Moderator inducted

In the opening session of General Assembly 2014, the Revd David Grosch-Miller was inducted as moderator of the General Assembly, to serve from 2014-2016.



As moderator of the General Assembly David will join Mr John Ellis, elder moderator of the URC General Assembly 2013-2016; the role of the moderators is to be the national figureheads for the denomination, representing the URC both internally and within the wider world; they chair major meetings, visit churches at home and abroad, and seek to provide worship, teaching and pastoral care.

Same-sex marriage

On 6 July 2014, the General Assembly of the United Reformed Church, moved forward with its discussions on the marriage of same-sex couples.

The issue was considered throughout the Assembly, including a facilitation group report which was written after Assembly had heard from a wide range of speakers with varying views. On the final day, a resolution was passed which reflects the range of views expressed on the floor of General Assembly.

It honours the sense of urgency expressed by those who had hoped that this Assembly would allow same-sex marriages in their churches; it honours the wish of a majority that the celebration of same-sex marriages should be a matter for local church decision; and it honours the deeply-held convictions of those members who remain deeply opposed to the marriage of same-sex couples in church.

The resolution gives local churches a nine-month period of consultation to reflect, gather and report on the views of their members.

Election of Moderators of the General Assembly

Assembly elected its two moderators for 2016-18. The **Revd Kevin Watson**, currently **moderator of the Yorkshire Synod** will be ministerial moderator and Mr Alan Yates, an accredited lay preacher, elder and former member of the Thames North synod executive committee, will be the lay moderator.

New general secretary

The Revd John Proctor was formally appointed as general secretary of the United Reformed Church during Assembly.

If you would like to read more from General Assembly please visit:
www.urc.org.uk/general-assembly/1158-general-assembly-archive.html

Have you got a favourite hymn? This new feature in the **LINK** magazine aims to give a photographic representation of any hymn you choose. If you are able to take the photos yourself to accompany your chosen hymn that would be very useful, if not then if you can suggest what photos you would like I will do my best to source something suitable. The first in this series has been chosen by Margaret Swallow. Margaret took the photos in her garden.



For the beauty of the earth, for the beauty
of the skies,
for the love which from our birth over and
around us lies;
Father, unto You we raise this our sacrifice
of praise.

For the
beauty of
each hour of
the day and

of the night, hill and vale, and tree and
flower, sun and moon, and stars of light;
Father, unto You we raise this our
sacrifice of praise.



For the joy of love from God, that we share on
earth below; for our friends and family, and the
love that they can show;

Father, unto You we raise this our sacrifice of
praise.

For each perfect gift divine to our race so
freely given, thank you Lord that they are mine,
here on earth as gifts from heaven; Father,
unto You we raise this our sacrifice of praise.



A meditation from *On Autopilot?* by Rev Nick
based on 'For the beauty of the earth'.

Gracious God
We raise our sacrifice
Of praise to you...
Sometimes –
When we remember.
We see the beauty
Of the skies
But don't always
Appreciate it.

We listen to the beauty
Of your creation
But don't always
Hear it.

We experience the joys
Of human love
But are often rather bad
At relationships.

We know you have given us
Your creation as a gift,
But we don't always
Acknowledge it.

Help us
To appreciate,
To hear,
To restore relationships,
To acknowledge your gifts to us,
So that we can truly
Raise to you,
Gracious God, our
Sacrifice of praise.



A Recipe for Autumn - Plum and Almond Crumble Slice

Ingredients

- 250g pack butter (this must be very cold)
- 225g caster sugar
- 300g ground almonds
- 140g plain flour, plus 25g/1oz
- 2 eggs
- 1 tsp cinnamon
- 1 tsp baking powder
- approx 6 plums, stoned and cut into sixths
- 50g flaked almonds

Method

Heat oven to 180C/fan 160C/gas 4. Butter and line a 20 x 30cm baking tin with baking paper. Put the butter, sugar and ground almonds into a food processor, then pulse until the mixture resembles very rough breadcrumbs. Spoon out half the mix into a bowl and set aside.

Add 140g flour into the mix in the processor and whizz until it just forms a dough. Tip into the tin and press down with the back of a spoon. Bake for 15-20 mins until golden. Leave to cool for 10 mins.

To make the filling, put the remaining butter and the sugar and almond mix back into the processor, saving a few tbsp for the topping. Add the eggs, the 25g flour, cinnamon and baking powder and whizz to a soft batter. Spread over the base.

Top with the plum pieces and a little extra caster sugar and cinnamon. Bake for 20 mins, then sprinkle with the remaining crumble mix and flaked almonds. Cook for another 20 mins or until golden. Leave to cool in the tin before slicing.

These sound delicious. I wonder if anyone will make some for a Church Fair or Coffee Morning - he said, hopefully!

CARTOON PAGE



Who says advertising doesn't work?



'Hello Bill You've phoned me in Church - but its OK I seem to be leaving now.'



Everyone agreed the band played really well - until the wasp appeared!

Let's 'ave a larf! Another contribution from Rona Woodcock.

A minister was completing a temperance sermon. With great emphasis he said, "If I had all the beer in the world, I'd take it and pour it into the river." With even greater emphasis he said, "And if I had all the wine in the world, I'd take it and pour it into the river." And then finally, shaking his fist in the air, he said, "And if I had all the whiskey in the world, I'd take it and pour it into the river."

Sermon completed, he sat down...



The worship band leader stood very cautiously and announced with a smile, nearly laughing, "For our closing song, let us sing Hymn 365, Shall We Gather at the River."

ANSWERS TO THE ANAGRAMS

BEST IN PRAYER - **PRESBYTERIAN** MOON STARER - **ASTRONOMER**

THEY SEE - **THE EYES** HE BUGS GORE - **GEORGE BUSH**

HERE COME DOTS - **THE MORSE CODE** DIRTY ROOM - **DORMITORY**

CASH LOST IN ME - **SLOT MACHINES** IS NO AMITY - **ANIMOSITY**

ALAS! NO MORE ZS - **SNOOZE ALARMS**

I'M A DOT IN PLACE - **DECIMAL POINT**

THAT QUEER SHAKE - **THE EARTHQUAKES**

TWELVE PLUS ONE - **ELEVEN PLUS TWO**

REGULAR ACTIVITIES IN OUR CHURCHES

Clayton West

Sunday	Worship every week at 3.00 pm. Communion is included in the service on the 1 st first Sunday of each month
Friday	Baby and Toddler Group 1.00pm - 3.00pm (<i>in term time</i>)
Saturday	Coffee Morning on the 4 th Saturday each month 10.00am

Trinity (Barnsley)

Sunday	Worship every week at 10.30 am. Communion is included in the service on the 3 rd third Sunday of each month
Tuesday	Bible Study at 7.30 pm
Wednesday	Age-Well (<i>over 50s club</i>) every week 10.30am-1.00pm Trinity Players every week at 7.30pm

West Melton

Sunday	Worship on the 1 st (<i>inc. WHIZZ KIDS</i>) and 4 th Sundays at 10.30am and on the 2 nd & 3 rd Sundays at 3.00pm. Communion is included in the service on the 3 rd Sunday of each month
Tuesday	Fellowship evening (<i>varied programme</i>) 7.30pm on the 4 th Tuesday of each month
Wednesday	Little Stars 9.30am every week (<i>in term time</i>)
Saturday	Men's Breakfast at 8.00am on the 3rd Saturday each month



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Group Minister:

Rev. Nick Percival BA
19 Longdale Croft
Barnsley, S71 2QT
Tel: 01226 771277
Mobile: 07986668032
Email: revnickp@yahoo.co.uk

Group Treasurer:

Mr. John Paskell
1 Giles Avenue
Wath on Dearne
Rotherham, S63 6SG
Tel: 01709 879224
Email: john@paskellplumbing.co.uk



Trinity
Farrar Street
Barnsley
S70 6BS



Clayton West
Church Lane
Clayton West
Huddersfield HD8 9LY



West Melton,
Melton High Street
Wath on Dearne
Rotherham S63 6RG

Church Secretaries:

TRINITY:

Mrs. Fiona Weighton-Smith, 18 Normans Way,
Sandal, Wakefield, WF2 6SS Tel: 01924 253010
Email: isabelsmith655@talktalk.net

CLAYTON WEST:

Mrs. Betty James, Winter Hill Farm, Bank End
Lane, High Hoyland, Barnsley, S75 4BB
Tel: 01226 382820

WEST MELTON:

Mr. John Paskell. *(As above)*

www.urcbarnsleygroup.org.uk