

THE MAGAZINE

Nº 271



TINSHILL FREE CHURCH

JUNE 2009

Pastoral Letter — June 2009

Expenses revealed

The expenses of MPs have been the ‘big thing’ this month. Some of the most respected people in Parliament have been seen to break the spirit of the rules, and some may have broken the rules themselves. Who knows, some might end up in gaol for ‘bending’ the expenses rules. No wonder that the Speaker of the House of Commons wanted to keep the details of expenses away from the public eye, but the Daily Telegraph revealed all.

It is said that with a ‘nod and a wink’, the allowances were inflated, with the agreement of the Fees Office, to make up for MPs’ wage claims which had not gone through. The culture was “everybody does it”, but unfortunately the electorate and taxpayers knew nothing about it. It was hidden.

The local and European elections which take place this week, the results of which will be known by the time this magazine is published, will probably reveal, not just a swing from the major parties, but also a low turn-out; a so-called “detachment from politics” – the attitude that my vote cannot change the corruption of politics, so let’s not vote and just get on with life.

But hold on a minute. Don’t many people do a similar thing with regard to their work life? Don’t they take a “sickie” to get over an over-indulgent weekend, or to attend a big event? Don’t they often go to the very limit in claiming their own expenses? Would they not be embarrassed if the truth were told and the whole nation knew about it? And some people who are not in employment still manage to rake in money and not declare tax. In any case, are we not all guilty of things which are hidden from everyone else’s sight, but not from God’s sight? What have we done (or thought) that we would not want anyone to know? We might say, like the MPs or the tax dodger, “everybody does it”, and they may well do, but it is still not right in God’s sight.

There are many MPs right now who have a guilty conscience. Some might even feel somewhat better that their expenses have come to light. Confession is a balm to the soul. A tender conscience is a great gift from God. While

offences are hidden, the conscience just accepts the faults. But God knows all things, and He says to each one of us

“All have sinned, and fall short of the glory of God” – Romans 3: 23

“Be sure your sin will find you out” – Numbers 32: 23

Better to sort it out sooner than later, when God will judge all things through His Son the Lord Jesus Christ, at the final day.

We can't do much personally about MPs' offences, but we can do something about our own offences against God. We can have the relief of confessing our sins to God and being forgiven. We can know the experience of feeling clean, having all our sins “washed away”. All this is possible because Christ made a way for it by dying on the cross for sinners – by even becoming sin for us, so that whoever trusts in Him will not be condemned after all. This is the good news open to each one of us – a truly happy ending and eternal life in Heaven to follow. And it is the only way of finding peace with God. Let's do it!

With best wishes

Glyn Williams

A Lovely Day at Tinshill

Sunday May 10th was a busy and happy day at Tinshill, and a day we had really been looking forward to. In the morning Tim and Colette Hickman brought their little son, Joseph David, to be dedicated during the morning service. It was lovely to see grandparents and other family members join with us for this occasion. Joseph took the occasion very seriously and was perfectly behaved. It is a precious moment when family and church family gather to give thanks for the safe arrival of a child, but the heart of the matter is to



witness Tim and Colette dedicate themselves to bringing Joseph up in a Christian home where he has the best possible opportunity of knowing the wonderful gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ, and making plain their desire that when he reaches an age of understanding he will trust the Saviour for himself. The church also promises to pray for this.

In the evening we had the great joy of witnessing three of our young ladies in the church go through the waters of believers' baptism



– Natalie Walker, Lucy Naylor and Katy Sellens. Natalie, having been to a youth meeting of the church when she was younger, came fully to us last September when we had an evangelistic 'reunion' meeting linked with the 40th Anniversary. She was thrilled to have her mother, father and little brother present in the baptismal service. Lucy has grown up in Tinsill going through Good News Club, Followers, Followers Prayer Group and now Young People's Afterchurch. She gave a good clear testimony of her conversion and was really thrilled that her mum and brother and sister were present to support her warmly. Katy has grown up in the church, born into a Christian family (her dad is a deacon) and again it was lovely to hear Katy give a clear, honest testimony of her faith in the Lord Jesus as Saviour. Katy too came through all the youth meetings of the church, supporting with great enthusiasm and bringing friends often. Many of Katy's school friends were present to support her at her baptism, as well as boyfriend Bruce and all his family.

The church was full for the occasion with lots of young people present, the service was buoyant, the 'listening' to the clear word of God was excellent and we felt the great nearness and blessing of God upon it all. Each of the three girls chose a hymn which we sang with much joy and enthusiasm.

Natalie chose "Oh what riches and what virtue" (502 in Christian Hymns)

repeated below; Lucy chose “In Christ alone my hope is found (647) and Katy chose “When I survey the wondrous cross” (263) to the new tune.

We pray that the Lord will keep them close to Himself and guide them in the years to come.

Margaret Williams

O what riches and what virtue,
Far beyond the thought of man,
Are invested in our Saviour,
In the wonder of God’s plan.
See in Jesus boundless treasure,
More than we can ever measure.

From the heights of glory moving
To this world of sin and night
Came this gift of grace and mercy:
Christ the Word and Christ the Light.
See in Jesus hope and gladness,
Banishing our grief and sadness.

On the cross He bore our judgement
Pouring out His precious blood;
Making a complete atonement,
Reconciling us to God.
See in Jesus, bruised and broken,
God’s great word of pardon spoken.

Into death He took His people,
Raising them when He arose;
Freeing them from death’s dominion,
Overcoming all their foes.
See in Jesus, God’s new Man,
Firstfruits of His glorious plan.

Many search for earthly riches
Thinking they will satisfy,

While the pearl of greatest beauty
In the gospel record lies.
See in Jesus God's abundance,
Blessing of eternal substance.

From the fulness of His riches
We may draw all needed grace;
King and Priest, He reigns forever,
Mercy shining from His face.
See this Jesus, throned in glory,
Live to tell salvation's story.

(Colin P Goldsworthy, born 1927)

Second Tuesday – 12th May 2009

Facing Fear

These are brief notes as a basis for the Second Tuesday seminar.

1 Introduction

Fear is common to all of us; some is good; some is bad. If you step off the kerb without seeing a car and it suddenly comes upon you, fear is the protective mechanism which draws you back. That is good. If you fear going to the dentist, and you fear the pain of the drill, it is natural enough – but it is bad. We need to bring God into all our experiences of fear. After all, the Bible speaks a lot about it – from the fear of failure, to the fear of judgement. On many occasions the comfort of the Lord is to say “Do not fear”. For example, when the Apostle Paul was on ship to Rome via Malta to appeal to Caesar concerning his arrest, an angel said to him “*Do not be afraid, Paul. You must be brought before Caesar; and indeed God has granted you all those who sail with you*” (Acts 27: 24).

There is primarily one word for ‘fear’ in the Greek and that is the word from which we get ‘phobia’. Whereas claustrophobia, for example, implies an irrational fear of enclosed spaces, the Greek word covers any sort of fear. Interestingly, the same word covers both the fear of God and fear of man, or death, or pain, whereas as Christians we would prefer to use the word

‘reverence’ in connection with God. *“Fear God. Honour the king”* – 1 Peter 2: 17; and that’s for a Christian.

Amongst the exceptional cases of other Greek words used for fear, we have a word meaning ‘timidity’, which is a lack of confidence in one’s own gifts from God – especially to speak out for Him, and this is considered as a bad feature. *“For God has not given us a spirit of fear (timidity) but of power and of love and of a sound mind”* (2 Timothy 1: 7).

2 Origin of Fear

The beginning of fear is the fall of Man from Adam. The innocence of Adam and Eve and safety in the Garden of Eden meant that there was no need for ‘bad fear’, which cripples people and takes away their energy for the day completely unnecessarily. You could argue, however, that it was lack of the fear of God which allowed Eve, and then Adam, to take of the forbidden fruit. All other types of fear came after the fall – fear of illness, death, pain, judgement, accidents, wild animals etc.

God had given a commandment to keep from the beginning – don’t eat from that tree, but with sin came many more commandments concerning the sin of murder, then the ten commandments, and finally the fine-tuned commandments from our Lord Jesus Christ, including the ‘new’ one for Christians to love each other. Any sort of law brings fear of the consequences of breaking it. That must be regarded as generally good, as the conscience holds us back from disciplinary action from God, who corrects us as a loving parent.

Some fears are rational, and other fears are irrational and persistent, caused by the malfunctioning of our mind. There should be loving understanding by all for those who suffer from such irrational fears – they cannot be argued out of such fears, although there may be therapy to help somewhat.

The fear of flying (in an aircraft!) is an interesting case. Medical authorities would consider this as irrational, but as a reasonably seasoned traveller, I can say that for many it is a perfectly rational fear that your plane might be just the one to crash. The same ‘rational’ fear might appear for someone who has been in a very near miss on our roads. It is perfectly understandable.

Irrational fear occurs where there is simply no danger of hurt, eg. the normal British spiders, or proximity to birds. Surely God wants to help us in all our fears, if we belong to him. Psalm 23 has the classic antidote “*Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for You are with me...*” (v 4). Note that that covers any ‘evil’, and has the promise of God in Christ being with His people.

Some allowance should be made for personality. Some people are naturally buoyant, optimistic, and outward-looking. Others are more introverted and pessimistic – always thinking the worst.

3 Love and Fear

One of the most helpful verses must be 1 John 4: 18 which reads “*There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love*”. The immediate application of this is that the more Christians understand the love of God for them and the forgiveness granted through Christ, the less they will be fearful of death, and perhaps even the process of dying.

The Bible’s argument is that “*through death, He (Jesus) might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, and release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage*” (Hebrews 2: 14&15). Should we not really believe that Jesus has done this? We must claim the reality of this promise from our gracious God. But should it stop there? There is an on-going process here. As we realise God’s love in freeing us from the punishment of breaking His laws, our love for Him increases. This verse is as much speaking of our love to God, as it is His love for us. “*There is no fear in love*” is talking about our love for God. It means that His love in us grows and that must push out fear. Indeed, the next verse speaks clearly of our love for Him “*We love Him because He first loved us*” (ie. through the cross of Christ). This growing relationship of a Christian to the Lord Jesus Christ should help to drive out many fears. Indeed, on the basis that God is in charge of even the details of our life and experience, we should cease to be fearful of what He will allow in our lives today. No situation can be as bad as the severity of the Day of Judgement from which we have been saved.

4 The Bible's comfort

Too often it is true that we do not soak ourselves in the comfort of the Scriptures, or let it soak into us! As well as facing fear by realising the love of God, we must face fear by meditating on particular parts of the Scripture. Some we have referred to already, but there are plenty of others. When our Lord was speaking to His disciples, He said -

“Do not fear, little flock, for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the Kingdom” (Luke 12: 32). When we feel vulnerable and weak, or when a group of Christians feel insignificant, our Lord reminds them that it is God’s good will and pleasure to grant us the Kingdom of Heaven, owing to Christ’s work on the cross – we are bought with a price. The Kingdom of Heaven is the best gift we could ever have – we must be certain God’s promise is sure.

But even at a material level, and personal level, we are told not to fear for our security or survival. Earlier in the same chapter our Lord emphasises our value to Him *“But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Do not fear, therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows.”* (Luke 12: 7).

In the battles we have to face, God is with us as He was with Joshua, even after a previous failure. Having lost one battle at Ai owing to the theft of spoils by Achan, the recovery is swift. Before the second battle of Ai, the Lord said to Joshua *“Do not be afraid, nor be dismayed; take all the people of war with you and arise, go to Ai. See, I have given into your hand the King of Ai, his people, his city, and his land.”* (Joshua 8: 1).

It takes faith to believe God’s promises, especially when we have to wait for their fulfilment, but the experience of God keeping His promises also strengthens your faith. On this question of faith and faithfulness, a verse in Revelation is realistic but reassuring – *“Do not fear any of those things which you are about to suffer... Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life”* (Revelation 2: 10). In the light of the fact that we will not be tried beyond our endurance, it does make one wonder whether God helps the suffering with the numbing of the senses sometimes – perhaps during the most difficult torture or martyrdom.

At any time we can call upon our Heavenly Father to help against our fears, whatever they are. *“For you did not receive the Spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out ‘Abba, Father’ ”* (Romans 8: 5).

I mention these verses as a reminder that we are to refer to the Scriptures and take comfort from them, when we are fearful within ourselves or for the future, or in the light of evil people. Nothing truly can separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus.

There are other fears we have, in connection with our nearest and dearest. Our children need special care and security in a world where family values are broken, and children cannot be left on their own indoors or outdoors. We have fears for our loved adult relatives in connection with their salvation. We don’t always see our prayers answered, yet our mind must be in a continuous attitude of prayer. In these situations, we must yield them up to God in prayer and take such security precautions as we can.

5 The fear of God and the fear of man

Some things are said to “put the fear of God into us” – that is a frightening sort of fear. I have said that the Greek word for fear is the same whether referring to the fear of God or the fear of man. However, there is a difference. As a Christian by grace, the fear of God involves worship, reverence, respect; the fear of man involves mental or physical fear which has little aspect of respect, unless it is the proper fear of authority.

Let’s look at the relevant verses: *“And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. But rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell”* (Matthew 10: 28). Now for a non-believer, the proper fear of God and hell might well, by the power of the Spirit, lead one to conversion. But in the context of the Christian, it is a matter of reverencing Him who has had the power to save our soul for eternity. Our God is all-powerful, all-knowing, and ever present. In the light of this, the passage tells us not to fear – we are of more value than many sparrows.

Conclusion

Facing fear has three main elements:

Understanding God's love for us so much that our love for Him is increased. This love in our hearts is promised to reduce our fears.

The straightforward reading of relevant passages of Scripture is designed to comfort us and ban our fears, particularly persecution, pain, the process of dying, death and the after-life.

The exercise of faith weakens our fears. God has saved us by faith in Jesus by His grace. If Christ has borne our sins, He certainly also bears our fears and infirmities, and is with us through them.

Glyn Williams

Scripture Texts — Scottish Parliament



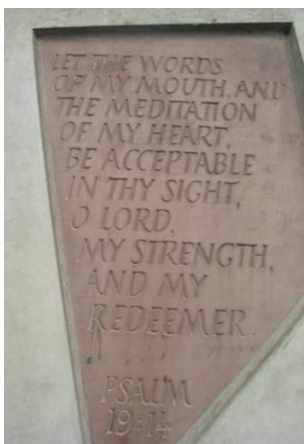
On a recent weekend to visit the Archer family in Edinburgh we were able to visit the Scottish Parliament building at Holyrood, standing as it does close to Holyrood Palace and Arthurs Seat. The complex of buildings is very impressive occupying an 8 acre site and has won 9 major architectural awards, including the prestigious Stirling Prize in October 2005.

Following the referendum in September 1997 when the people of Scotland voted 3 to 1 for the creation of a Scottish Parliament, the present site was selected in January 1998 and a design competition launched. Eventually Enric Miralles, a Spanish architect, was chosen and the design was worked up in detail. Constructed from a mixture of steel, oak and granite the complex building has been hailed as one of the most innovative designs in Britain today. Drawing inspiration from the surrounding landscape, the flower paintings of Charles Rennie Macintosh and the upturned boats on the shore the architect developed a design that he said was a building

“growing out of the land”. Work began on site in 1999 and the building was officially opened in October 2004. Enric Miralles was the lead designer but died from a brain tumour aged 45 in July 2000 – he never saw the finished product. There were difficulties during the construction and costs spiralled from an original estimate of £40 million – the final cost was £414.4 million! There is no doubting the quality though. The interior of the main chamber is particularly striking with individual desks for the MSPs, crafted from oak and sycamore and made by a local craftsman from Musselburgh in East Lothian (where Nick & Jean Archer live).



I was particularly interested in the Canongate Wall where a number of quotations are inscribed, including words from Charles Rennie Macintosh, Sir Walter Scott, Robert Burns and Gerard Manley Hopkins. Along with 3 Proverbs in the middle of the wall I found Psalm 19: 14 “*Let the words of*



my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in Thy sight, O Lord, my strength, and my redeemer.” I was thrilled by that. How apt! At a time when the focus in our parliamentary democracy has been so much on expenses and the behaviour of our representatives, these remain wise words – oh that our politicians would heed them and live by them and look to God for their strength and salvation as well as to be guided by Him in what they say and think.

Martin Sellens

PREACHING PLAN

		Morning	Evening
June	7	Martin Sellens	Glyn Williams
	14	Glyn Williams	Glyn Williams
	21	Ani Ekpo	Douglas Young
	28	Glyn Williams	Glyn Williams
July	5	Nigel Westhead	Jonathan Chell
	12	Malcolm Peters	Malcolm Peters
	19	Glyn Williams	Glyn Williams

OUTSIDE APPOINTMENTS

Do pray for our men as they minister outside the church in the coming month as follows:-

Glyn Williams

Mon 8th June 7.15pm Leeds City Mission Committee

Sun 12th July 4pm Nidderdale Evangelical Church

Mon 13th July 7.15pm Leeds City Mission Committee

Martin Sellens

Sun 14th June pm Bethel Free Church, Armley

Sun 21st June 4pm Nidderdale Evangelical Church

Jonathan Chell

Wed 10th June pm Bethel, Armley Bible study

DIARY

June

Tue 9 7.30pm Ladies' Prayer Group at 14 Bedford Drive

Fri 12 7.45pm Elder/Deacons' meeting at 68 Moseley Wood Walk

Sat 13 7.30pm Leeds City Mission Summer Praise at Scott Hall
Christian Fellowship Speaker: Wes Johnston (LRBC)

Tue 16 7.45pm Men's Fellowship Speaker: Richard Brown

- Wed 17 7.45pm Prayer Meeting & Bible Study
Speaker: Jonathan Chell
- Thu 18 2pm Thursday at Two Speaker: Eric Holder
7.30pm Followers' Prayer Group at 68 Moseley Wood Walk
- Fri 19 7.45pm Missionary Prayer Group at 1 Tinshill Mount
- Mon 22 – am/pm Bible Exhibition for local schools
Thu 25
- Tue 23 7.30pm Ladies' Prayer Group
- Wed 24 7.45pm Prayer Meeting & Bible Study
Speaker: Douglas Young

July

- Thu 2 2pm Thursday at Two Speaker: Graham Leng
- Fri 3 4-6pm Asda Chaplaincy
- Tue 14 10.15am Second Tuesday
7.30pm Ladies' Prayer Group
7.45pm Men's Fellowship Speaker: Paul Crossley
- Wed 15 7.45pm Deputation Meeting Ben Griffin (UFM)
- Thu 16 2pm Thursday at Two Speaker: Paddy Flynn
- Fri 17 7.45pm Missionary Prayer Group
7.45pm Elder/Deacons Meeting at 383 Otley Old Road

Please Note

There will be no Followers on Mondays 29th June and 6th July due to staff holidays.

Tots Club will break up for the summer on Wednesday 8th July with a fruit picnic and Bible presentation and will return on Wednesday 16th September.

Magazine Deadline

The next magazine will be produced for Sunday 19th July to cover the rest of July and August – deadline for items to Martin Sellens by Thursday 9th July please.

ROTAS

Week ending

Cleaning

June	6	Margaret Williams	Colette Hickman	Katy Sellens
	13	Anne Sellens	Carole Brearley	Ruth Barugh
	20	Ruth Holder	Ann Mountain	Yvonne Chell
	27	Carol Getzels	Kathryn Hibbard	Deborah Williams
July	4	Jenny Leng	Eva Ng	Rosemary Hilton
	11	Mavis Mathers	Angela Mathers	Christine Crossley
	18	Margaret Williams	Colette Hickman	Katy Sellens

For Sunday

Flowers

June	7	Margaret Williams	14	Carole Brearley
	21	Rae Benson	28	Carol Getzels
July	5	Eva Ng	12	Christine Crossley
	19	Lai San Hamilton		

Library

Morning

Evening

June	7	Yvonne Chell	Nigel/Kathryn Hibbard
	14	Christine Crossley	Paul Crossley
	21	Rosemary Hilton	Jack/Ruth Rozday
	28	Phil Leng	Christine Crossley
July	5	Angela Mathers	Mavis Mathers
	12	Nigel/Kathryn Hibbard	Rosemary Hilton
	19	Paul Crossley	Jack/Ruth Rozday

Ladies

You are warmly invited by the ladies of Nidderdale Evangelical Church to their Ladies Day at Brow Chapel, Thornthwaite on Saturday 27th June from 10.30am to 3pm. The speaker is Sue Gilmore and her subject – Love.

Diary of Services and Activities

Sunday	Prayer Meeting	8.00am
	Morning Worship*	10.30am
	Key Club (Children aged 4-11)	10.30am
	Evening Worship	6.30pm
<p>Holy Communion follows the first morning and the third evening service each month *A fully supervised crèche for young children is run in the church side room during the sermon.</p>		
Monday	Followers (Young people of secondary school age)	7.30PM
Tuesday	Second Tuesday (monthly)	10.15AM
	Ladies' Prayer Group (2nd & 4th Tuesdays) venue as announced	7.30PM
	Men's Fellowship (3rd Tuesday monthly)	7.45PM
Wednesday	Tots' Club (term-time)	1.30 - 3.00PM
	Prayer Meeting and Bible Study	7.45PM
Thursday	Thursday at Two (senior citizens – fortnightly)	2.00PM
	Followers' Prayer Group (fortnightly) at 68 Moseley Wood Walk	7.30PM
Friday	Good News Club (Children aged 5-11)	6.00PM
	Missionary Prayer Group (monthly) at 1 Tinshill Mount	7.45PM

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