

Christian Life & Witness Course

For two weeks in May, St Andrew's hosted the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association's 'Christian Life and Witness' course. A large number of folk from St Andrew's, together with people from many other churches came to hear Rod Barnett teach ahead of the Lancashire Festival of Hope coming up in September. The course was framed around 1 Peter 3:15: "But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have."

The first week sought to unpack the first part of the verse: what does it mean to set apart Christ as Lord? We were challenged about how we grow as Christians not only by hearing and reading God's word, but by studying, memorising and meditating on God's word too.

We thought about how God is at work in us through His sovereign power and through His Holy Spirit giving us the boldness to share our faith with others. We heard about how the Christian life is one of daily turning back to the promises of God, knowing that we are all prodigal children who need to come back to our loving Father again and again.

The second week helped us think through the second half of the verse: how can we be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks...? There were many helpful pointers here: reminding us that we're not seeking to put forward a formula but a person - Jesus Christ; reminding us that we don't have to have all the answers; and giving some great suggestions of tools that we might like to use as we seek to share Jesus with those we love. One of these was the 'Steps to peace with God' tract that the BGEA produce. We've got a number of copies of this at the back of church. Do help yourself to further copies if you'd like one.

The success of something like the Festival of Hope in September will depend on each of us seeking to share the good news of Jesus Christ with our friends. And I hope that the Christian Life and Witness course will have given each of us a little more confidence as we seek to set apart Christ as Lord and prepared us to give an answer for the hope that we profess.

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Duncan".

Dr Rev Duncan Bell
Associate Vicar



The **Lancashire Festival of Hope** will culminate with a free multi-day evangelistic outreach event at the **Winter Gardens Blackpool, 21-23 September 2018**. The Festival will feature musicians, dynamic video testimonies, and Gospel presentations by Franklin Graham. *"My message will be the simple Gospel message: a timeless message of God's hope, love and redemption for all people. If anyone is searching for answers, wondering if their life has meaning and questioning if they are loved, I will have good news to share"* Franklin Graham

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A Note From BOTT (our Buildings and Operations Task Team)

This is busy season for our Buildings and Operations Task Team. Increasing use of the Church and the Parish Hall means there are more maintenance tasks to do. These run into dozens each week. But, if we are keeping on top of things, you won't notice them - which is as it should be. Also, mowing and tidying the Graveyard is keeping half a dozen volunteers out of mischief, as well as our wonderful Community Payback Team.

We have been preparing for our five-yearly professional inspection of the Church and the Parish Hall - known as our Quinquennial Inspection and as some of you will have noticed, we have recently changed the locking system on the Church Vestry doors:

- to improve egress in case of emergency
- to improve security
- and to make it easier to cope with the increasing number of people needing to lock and unlock the Church for services and events. So now; instead of having to arrange access to a set of keys and then remember which keys work which locks, all those who regularly need to lock or unlock the building just have a small electronic fob which can be tracked.

Should you have any questions about the works BOTT then please speak to Paul Moran (Church Warden) or David Jones (Treasurer)

Remember Answered Prayers

We often pray for the Lord to intervene in world needs – and we probably forget we have asked...but He doesn't! I was interested to see recently that:

- Every day those in extreme poverty fall by 217,000
- Every day 300,000 gain access to a supply of fresh water
- Every day 325,000 people gain access to electricity (and the potential for radio ministry)
- Natural disasters caused about 370,000 deaths each year (50 years ago), about 72,000 deaths (10 years ago) and 10,000 deaths in 2017

Still lots wrong with our world, but praise God for answered prayer. David Gibb (Vicar)

Source: Max Roser and Esteban Ortiz-Ospina (2018) - "Global Extreme Poverty".

CALLING ALL SECRET AGENTS!



St Andrew's Parish Hall,
Worden Lane, Leyland
PR25 3EL



Monday 6th - Thursday 9th
August, 2018
9.30am - 12noon

Our Top Secret Holiday Bible Club, for children aged 4-11 years, starts on Monday 6th August for fun, friends and a chance to solve the mystery of "Who is this man?" There is a free cafe each morning for parents and carers. The club will finish with a free family fun event on the Thursday evening. The cost for Holiday Club is £10 per child, but hurry as places are sure to self destruct in no time! For more information and a registration form please contact the Church Office on 01772 622964 or email janet.sutherland@standrewsleyland.org.uk.