

Contact

FEBRUARY 2024



Dear Friends,

Love is a topic that is at the heart of the Christian gospel. John 3:16 tells us that 'God loved the world so much that he gave his only son, so that everyone who believes in him may not die but have eternal life.' God's love for mankind is evident, and Christ's call for believers to replicate that love is also at the core of living an authentically gospel-driven life.

1 Corinthians 13 – that famous passage on love – is, without a doubt, one of the most popular and best-known verses in the Bible. The relatively short section of scripture, written by the Apostle Paul, perfectly summarises the power, characteristics and importance of love.

The passage is part of a letter Paul originally wrote to the church in Corinth, in about 55 AD and 1 Corinthians 13 is one of the main points of the entire letter. In a church that is divided and competitive, Paul reminds them of their call to love one another and does so by giving them a detailed description of what this love looks like. They can have spiritual gifts, knowledge, powerful actions and incredible generosity but unless it is motivated by love, and empowered by God's transforming love, it is nothing.

Quotations from the passage or references to it also appear in some unexpected places. Bob Dylan alluded to it in his song 'Dignity' released in 1994. Prince Charles read it at Diana's funeral service in 1997. President Obama referred to it in his first inaugural speech in 2009. Perhaps no words have been read more frequently at wedding services than these and the passage leaves no doubt that to love, to really love, is no small thing, and that essentially to love is a verb, a doing word, an action word.

The entirety of 1 Corinthians 13 is widely popular because the whole book revolves around love. The greatest gift we can ever give and receive. The gift that God gave us through his son, declaring his indescribable love for us.

Love is mentioned somewhere between 360-550 times in the Bible, depending on which translation

you read and that is a lot of love! Maybe it is mentioned so often because God himself is love and all love comes from God. He shows us what love is and nothing can separate us from God's love.

From the beginning of his creation to his countless promises, unfailing grace and mercy, God's love is proven by the attention he gives to every single detail of our lives.

God's love comes with no strings attached. It is completely unconditional. It never disappears or becomes obsolete or comes to an end. It's perfect in every sense. God's love is the core and heart of the gospel. 1 Corinthians 13 gives us a glimpse into the kind of love God has for us and asks us to share this kind of love with others.

Love is the intriguing word that never fails. Love is the powerful word that defeats all odds and gives us hope. Love is to be fully known and fully loved. Love is the heart of God's word.

With all good wishes - Liz



LENT LUNCHES

Churches Together in Lees and District will once again meet each Tuesday during Lent to join in fellowship together and share a lunch of soup and rolls.

The meetings will be held at 12 noon at Zion Methodist Church from Tuesday 20th February to Tuesday 26th March and your support would be much appreciated if possible.

DIARY – February 2024

Sunday 4th February	10.30am	Family service led by John Pollitt Lunch
Monday 5th February	6pm 7pm	Social Committee Deacons Meeting
Friday 9th February	7pm – 9pm	Junior Disco
Sunday 11th February	10.30am	Family service with Luke Wathen from The Smiles Foundation
Wednesday 14th February	12 noon	Scoffs
Sunday 18th February	10.30am	Family service led by David Morgan Cake Sale AGM
Sunday 25th February	10.30am	Family service led by Liz Dean

Regular Activities

Sunday

Toddler Sundays 10am – 11.30am

Monday

Exercise Group 2pm

Wednesday

Scoffs 12 noon (2nd Wednesday)

Thursday

Rainbows Toddler Group 9.30am

Friday

Badminton 6.30pm

Offertories

7th January - £171.91

14th January - £104.00

21st January - £99.44

28th January - £102.74

Standing orders - £745.00

Total £1,223.09

Other Income

Lunch - £56.32

Cake Sale - £33.00

SOCIAL COMMITTEE

The Social Committee currently consists of a very dedicated group of six people who aim to plan and co-ordinate the various social and fundraising events throughout the year.

Social events are a really important part of our fellowship but the success of these events depends not only on people's support, but also on help to plan, organise and carry out the various events. As well as being times of fun and fellowship, fundraising events also raise much needed funds towards the running of our church.

The Social Committee is open to anyone within our fellowship. If you could spare an hour to attend a meeting or if you have any ideas for future events, please let us know.

The next meeting is on Monday 5th February at 6pm.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Just a reminder about the AGM which will be held after morning service on Sunday 18th February.

Everyone is welcome to attend the meeting whether or not they are church members and we hope to see you there!

JUNIOR DISCO

Friday 9th February

7pm – 9pm

Any additional volunteers would be very welcome.

LUNCH

The next themed lunch is following the service on

Sunday 4th February

All welcome so please stay and join us.

CAKE SALE

The next cake sale is following the service on

Sunday 18th February

Any donations of cake would be gratefully received.

Flower Rota February 2024

4th – Jean

11th – Kay

18th – Nan

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