

Contact

JUNE 2024



Dear Friends,

When I typed the word 'faith' into a search engine, one of the first entries was the lyrics for the debut solo by George Michael! It was released on 12th October 1987 and was the second single from his huge debut solo album of the same name. And according to Billboard magazine, it was the Number 1 single of the year in the USA in 1988!

George said of the song at the time: 'Faith to me is such a strong word. It represents the way I feel at the moment. It's kind of another word for my hope and optimism.'

Now whilst I'm sure George had heaps of faith when releasing his debut solo album, it wasn't quite the answer I was looking for!

The expression 'just have faith, it will work out' is often used by people to encourage and comfort someone facing serious problems or stressful situations. But just what is faith?

The dictionary definition of the word faith is - 'complete trust or confidence in someone or something' and therefore the biblical definition of faith is trust, belief, assurance and confidence in God.

The Bible also offers a definition of faith from the letter to the Hebrews. Faith is not just holding on to the fact that God exists, but rather it is a strong conviction that the world around us - along with everything that happens to us - is part of a greater plan, God's plan. Faith means that although at times the world looks chaotic and uncontrolled, something as simple as faith can change everything and we have examples of the great men and women throughout history who have changed the world for the better — Abraham Lincoln, Martin Luther King Jr. and Mother Teresa. Without their faith in God and their courage to act on it, where would we be today?

I once read that faith is technically a noun, but in reality, it is a verb — a call to action. As Christians, we must strive for living faith which is not just believing that God exists, but it is the trust that he exists, and

by following him and serving him, we look forward to a world beyond this one — the kingdom of God, where we will live in peace with him forever.

Faith is one of the most central parts of our relationship with God. No matter who we are, no matter what our position in life, there will be trying times for us all. These difficult moments test our faith and our trust in God. But faith makes us stronger, braver, better. Faith helps us through these times of trouble and allows us to help others going through their own problems.

But not only do we need to have faith in our individual lives, but also collectively in the life of our church. As we reach a crossroads with our ministerial vacancy, we must have faith in God's plan, direction or even re-direction for the future and the next chapter for our church, however that plan may look — be it part time ministry, shared ministry or even recruiting a minister from overseas!

We must look to God for hope and encouragement and move forward in faith, as the more we live in faith, the better we are able to make our way in the world, to trust in God and his ultimate plan for us.

'Without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him' - Hebrews 11:6

With all good wishes - Liz

OUR COMMUNITY WARDROBE OLDHAM

The group are urgently appealing for No 1 formula milk for babies and any sized nappies from newborn upwards.

If you are able to help with any of these items, it would be greatly appreciated by Sally.

Donations can be left in the vestry.

Many thanks.

DIARY – June 2024

Sunday 2nd June	10.45am	Family service at Greenacres led by Frank Wroe Communion
Monday 3rd June	7pm	Deacons Meeting
Sunday 9th June	10.30am	Family service led by David Morgan
Wednesday 12th June	12 noon	Scoffs
Sunday 16th June	10.30am	Café Church
Sunday 23rd June	10.30am	Family service led by Foday Kamara Communion
Sunday 30th June	10.30am	Family service led by Peter Butler
Monday 1st July	7pm	Deacons Meeting
Sunday 7th July	10.30am	Family Service led by Frank Wroe Barbecue

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 6pm

Offertories

5th May - £56.60

12th May - £45.71

19th May - £24.97

Standing orders - £756.00

Total £883.28

Other Income

Lunch - £23.00 (Christian Aid)

Retiring collection - £127.17

(Christian Aid)

Disco - £396.90

Flower Rota

June 2024

9th – Sylvia

16th – Judith

23rd – Mary

THANK YOU ...

To everyone who supported and helped out at the new to you and jumble sales last month.

Special thanks to Joan and Allan and Mike, Judith, Claire and Ruth who worked really hard in the café all day.

We raised £941.00 for church funds and we were also able to support Derian House Children's Hospice following the weigh in of the remaining jumble.

To everyone who supported our 'Month of May' events for Christian Aid. At the time of writing, we are still finalising the total donation but thanks to your generosity, we have played our part in helping communities around to beat extreme poverty.

SUNDAY 2ND JUNE

Please note that there will be NO service at Springhead on Sunday 2nd June.

Worship will take place at Greenacres at **10.45am** where the service will be led by Frank Wroe and will include communion. Coffee will be served afterwards and everyone is welcome to join us.

CAFÉ CHURCH

We would love you to join us on Sunday 16th June for an informal and relaxed café style service which will include light refreshments.

The café church service will be held at the usual time of 10.30am and we will meet in the church hall.

Everyone is very welcome and we look forward to seeing you there.

DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

On Sunday 7th July, we will be holding a barbecue after morning service. Please stay and join us – everyone is very welcome.

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