

MAY 2021

Contact

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

Sunday

Family Worship
10.30am

Wednesday

Congregational Café
11am – 1pm

Scoffs

12 noon

(2nd Wednesday only)

Thursday

Rainbows Baby & Toddler
Group
9.30am

Friday

Badminton
7.30pm

MINISTER

Rev Jonathan
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SECRETARY

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TREASURER

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Dear Friends,

As I write this month's newsletter, we continue to be a bit nearer to the end. We are all anxious to get back to some sort of normality and freedom and hopefully there is now some light at the end of the tunnel!

Unfortunately, the New to You and Whit Walks will not be going ahead once again but it has been lovely to see many of you returning to worship in recent weeks. We move forward in the faith that we will all be back in our church building very soon.

Ever since the Matterhorn opened at Disneyland, California in 1959, Disney has become something of a specialist at building fake mountains. Many of the most iconic and popular attractions are based around mountains and there are currently 21 mountains in place at Disney's theme parks throughout the world, with several more under construction at Shanghai Disneyland. These towering structures are largely built using steel and concrete, but you'd be hard-pressed to tell them from the real thing at first glance.

Mountains also have a huge presence in the Bible where they are mentioned over 500 times. About one-third of the mountains listed in the Bible had at least one or more major event that occurred on them. In the Old Testament, Mount Sinai (also called Mount Horeb) and Mount Zion are the most significant mountains whilst the Mount of Olives is the most prominent mountain in the New Testament.

In Old Testament times, worshipping on mountains was a logical way to get close to the heavens and so mountains became known as holy places and symbols of being closer to God and to experience His nearness.

As a result, the Old Testament is filled with places which speak of altars being built in

'high places' to worship God and God often reveals himself on a mountaintop. Many ancient cultures considered the mountain to be the 'centre of the world.' It often serves as a point of connection linking heaven and earth and providing order to the universe.

Mountains evoke a special sense of awe and power and are associated with the sun, rain and various gods of thunder and they are often a symbol of constancy, eternity, firmness and stillness. Mountains became a place to experience God, and they still are today.

It is no wonder then that many of the key sermons, significant moments, important events and great victories in the Bible took place on or near mountain tops. These include the sermon on the mount, the feeding of the 5000, Moses receiving the Ten Commandments, Jesus' temptation, the commissioning of the apostles and the crucifixion at Golgotha. Perhaps the most significant mountain scene, however, is the transfiguration of Jesus in the New Testament.

In Mark 11:22-23, Jesus talks about mountains moving prayer and having faith in God. But what was he really saying? Was he really saying that if we have enough faith and pray hard enough that we can see mountains literally moved? Or is there another meaning intended here?

Of course, there is no record of Jesus moving a mountain. No record of the disciples moving mountains. No record of Christians moving mountains. The phrase 'moving mountains' was an expression used by rabbis at that time. It was used to refer to something that was insurmountable and impossible to accomplish. So therefore, moving mountains has come to mean doing the impossible. Jesus is saying that if you understand and believe that God can, then

Cont'd

Baptisms, weddings and funerals by arrangement with the Minister

OFFERTORIES

4th April - £62.00

11th April - £141.96

18th April - £87.50

25th April - £57.05

Standing Orders - £707.00

Total £1,055.51

Donations

Gift Aid - £3,631.50

Cricket Club Grants (to be split 50/50 between church and the cricket club) -

£13,805.50 & £8,000.00

Thank you yet again for your continued financial support – it is very much appreciated.

**Faith
can move
mountains!**

NEW TO YOU

As the New to You sale will not be taking place again this year, please could we ask that no additional donations of new to you or jumble are brought up to church until further notice.

The upstairs storage room is now beyond full!

Many thanks.

 Find us on
Facebook

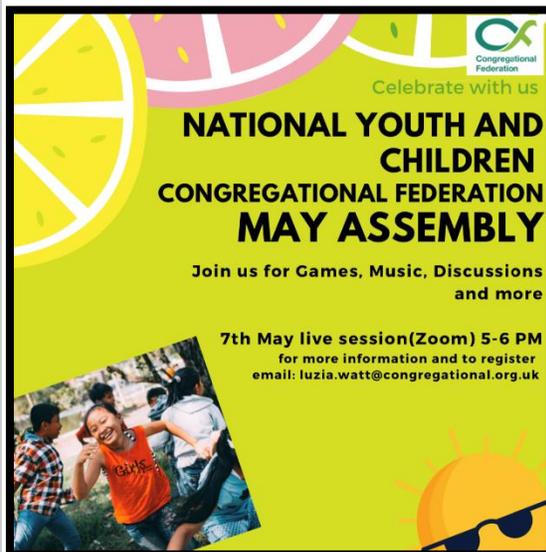
it is possible, for there is no doubt about God's ability and nothing is impossible with God.

Faith that can move mountains is not meant to imply a faith that can literally move literal mountains. The point Jesus was making is that even a little bit of faith - faith the size of a tiny mustard seed - can overcome any obstacle in our lives. We all have mountains to climb in life but Jesus teaches us that when facing a given situation, if we call out to God to give us faith – no matter how small – then He works on our behalf and will move mountains that are obstacles to our faith. 'For with God nothing will be impossible.'

When I was a teenager, one of the Congregational Federation Youth Camps I attended was held in North Wales and we had a day trip to Snowdonia to climb Mount Snowdon.

Snowdon was the first mountain I attempted to climb (I say attempted as I have absolutely no recollection whatsoever of whether or not I reached the summit – I suspect not, to be perfectly honest!) and I dare say it will be my last! I'll be sticking with Disney and the fake mountains in future!

With all good wishes – Liz



Christian Aid Week

10th – 16th May 2021

Christian Aid has been supporting the world's poorest people for 75 years, working with people of all faiths and none, and its belief that poverty can be ended is based on the understanding of scripture and the work of a creative, loving God.

Christian Aid's groundbreaking work began in 1945, when it was founded by British and Irish churches to help refugees following the Second World War. For more than 75 years, the agency has provided humanitarian relief and long-term development support for poor communities worldwide, while highlighting suffering, tackling injustice and championing people's rights.

Today, Christian Aid is preparing for its greatest challenge yet – the fight for climate justice. And the battle for climate justice will need us all to play our part. To find out more about how you can get involved and join thousands of people making a difference this Christian Aid Week, please visit:

[Christian Aid Week 2021 - Christian Aid](#)

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Congregational
Federation