

Good Morning & Welcome

to Whyteleafe Free Church

Our Sunday services

Morning 10:30am in the church	Evening Celebration 07:00pm in the church
Peter Ronayne speaking during this morning's service (see below). After all-age worship as part of the main service, youngsters go to the hall for fun and teaching with Hilary and there is a crèche room available for families to use.	Praise & Prayer.

Information

There are printed songbooks available for those who have difficulty reading the overhead projector and there is also an induction loop for those with hearing aids. Ladies' toilets are located in the back hall on the left and gentleman's toilets are through the doorway in the church on the right as you enter. Please ask if you need any help. After the morning service, tea, coffee and other refreshments are available in the back hall, please join us.

Sunday services (messages from Paul)

This week Peter Ronayne is speaking. Peter is a youthful retired clergyman, who now works as a volunteer with "Release International". He'll both be bringing an up-date as to his work in that capacity, and picking up where Paul left off on the Ten Commandments. (Paul and Jenny are taking a pre-Easter break this week).

Message from Joan Hadlow

The next Kakamega meal is on Saturday June 17, cost is £8. Please bring your friends and contact Joan Hadlow for tickets.

Also in aid of RUSH, there is an all day breakfast on 23 April, please see Jan Warner for details.

Lastly Joan writes: I am visiting soon, so if people would like to give me vitamins to take I'll gladly take them as there has been a famine so resistance will be low. I am working on getting extra luggage allowance ... so I should be able to take some. Thanks.

Ming Au

Gill says that Ming is now safely back home in Cambodia, but that Oisín has dysentery again. Please pray for him and the rest of the family (Brenda and Róisín).

C. S. Lewis article from Paul

At Christmas my sister-in-law Barbara gave me a book of meditations and reflections from C.S. Lewis, compiled from the whole range of his writings. I've never read a lot of his material, but rather I admired him from a distance. I've really enjoyed these reflections, however, mainly for the reason that Lewis is able to express Christian truths in a way they've never been expressed before, and is able to get his points across with genuine originality.

At this Lenten season, our thoughts are on the "trials and temptations" that I wrote about three weeks ago, and I want to reproduce here one of the Lewis' pieces entitled "The Christian View of Suffering". He writes:

"Christ said it was difficult for "the rich" to enter the Kingdom of Heaven, referring, no doubt, to

“riches” in the ordinary sense. But I think it really covers riches in every sense - good fortune, health, popularity and all the things one wants to have. All these things tend - just as money tends - to make you feel independent of God, because if you have them you are happy already and contented in this life. You don't want to turn away to anything more, and so you try to rest in a shadowy happiness as if it could last forever.

But God wants to give you a real and eternal happiness. Consequently, He may have to take all these “riches” away from you: if He doesn't, you will go on relying on them. It sounds cruel, doesn't it? But I am beginning to find out that what people call the cruel doctrines are really the kindest ones in the long run. I used to think it was a “cruel” doctrine to say that troubles and sorrows were “punishments”. But I find in practice that when you are in trouble, the moment you regard it as a “punishment”, it becomes easier to bear. If you think of this world as a place intended simply for our happiness, you find it quite intolerable: think of it as a place of training and correction and it's not so bad.

Imagine a set of people all living in the same building. Half of them think it's a hotel, the other half think of it as a prison. Those who think it a hotel might regard it as quite intolerable, and those who thought it was a prison might decide it was really surprisingly comfortable. So what seems the ugly doctrine is one that comforts and strengthens you in the end. The people who try to hold an optimistic view of this world would become pessimists: the people who hold a pretty stern view of it become optimistic”.

Taken from “Answers to Questions on Christianity” in “Timeless at Heart”.

If you want a bit of scriptural back-up for what Lewis is saying here, I commend Hebrews 12:1-11 to you. This is just what the Lord is saying to us, is it not? “Let us fix our eyes on Jesus”...you read the rest! It'll soon be Easter, Christ is risen, risen indeed, Hallelujah!

This week's events

Monday		
08:00am	Early prayer with Paul at Church.	Prayer
07:45pm	Meeting at the Church, speak to Paul for details.	Men's Cell
Wednesday		
07:45pm	No house group at Richard & Gill's this week.	Home group
Thursday		
02:45pm	Mr. Geoffrey Simmons is speaking. Please ask Betty or Julie for details.	Women's Fellowship
08:00pm	Church Council meeting (please pray for the council).	Council
Friday		
6-7:15pm	Not Bread Alone: Reading Deuteronomy, ask Joan H-D for details.	Lent group
08:00pm	Worship workshop, all welcome in the church.	Music & Prayer
Saturday		
08:00am	All men are welcome to enjoy fully cooked breakfast and talk at the church. Talk to Richard for more details.	Men's Breakfast
Next Sunday (Palm Sunday)		
10:30am	Paul is preaching.	Sunday Service
07:00pm	Praise and Prayer.	Sunday Evening

Whyteleafe Free Church, Godstone Road, Whyteleafe, CR3 0EH, telephone: 020 8668 3150

Pastor Paul & Jenny Riseley telephone: 01883 330 805 (their day off is Tuesday)

Please send any bulletin news of information to 01883 625 929