



Life Church



Doncaster October 2019

What's On This Month

Thursday 3rd October 7.30-8.30 pm – Prayer at the Community Centre, Edenthorpe

Wednesday 9th October 7:30-8.30 pm - Prayer at someone's home.

Sunday 13th October 6.00-8.00 pm - City Celebration. Hallgate United Reformed Church, Hall Gate, Doncaster, DN1 3NG

Wednesday 16th October 7: 30 pm - Home Groups recommence. Listen out for details.

Sunday 20th October 10.00 am - Dedication of Sophia Budhi. Come and join Daniel and Louise for this special occasion as they dedicate Sophia with family and friends

Advance Notice

Annual Gift Day - Sunday 3rd November

Over the past few years we have held an annual Gift Day – giving everyone in Life Church an opportunity to bless the Church and help fund ministries that require money over and above its usual running costs and over and above our normal giving. Giving to the Lord on an annual basis in this way is written about often in the Bible and commanded by The Lord. We want you to prayerfully consider what God would want you to give. This offering is voluntary and one which we will take up with a joyful spirit. Listen out for details of how this year's Giving Day offering will be spent.

Coming soon: Curry and Quiz Night

Christmas

Events are being planned for December to share the love of God with our community. Listen out for details and commit yourself to volunteering your time at various times and in various ways.

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Usual Weekly Programme

Sunday Morning Service 10.00am-12:00 noon

...with GIG* for children aged 5-13 & Tiddlywinks for pre-school children.

Mid-Week Life Groups usually 7.30-9.00pm, different venues and times. Please ask for details.

Wednesday Treasure Kids Club Edenthorpe 4.00-5.30pm, in term-time, free for children ages 5-11.

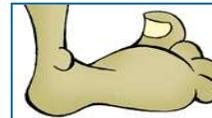
Thursday Treasure Kids Club, at the Assembly Hall, Dentons Green Lane, Kirk Sandall 4.15-5.30pm during term time; for children age 5-11, free admission.

Friday Treasure Kids Club at the Community Resource Centre, Church Road, Stainforth, 4.30-5.45pm in term time; for children age 5-11, free admission.

Friday Youth Group (age 11-18) at the Community Centre, term-time, 7.30-8.45pm

* Growing in God, which is what all of us are created to do ☺

Footnote



“Sin shall not be your master, because you are not under law, but under grace.”

Romans 6:14

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Daring to stand out from the crowd

Forty years ago the singer-songwriter Bob Dylan in his gospel period released a song stating that whether it was the devil or the Lord, we're all "gonna have to serve somebody". It was a simple song with a profound truth - that whether we think we're in charge of our own destiny or not we're actually faced with a choice of masters.

Some might say that not choosing either of the alternatives Dylan proposed is good enough to pass any goodness test. Unless we actively choose to do wrong then we're safe for eternity. However, unfortunately for those who don't want to take sides, it's not that easy ... as Dylan rightly suggested.

I guess the best known verse in the whole Bible might be John 3:16: "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." The Gospel in a nutshell and a summary of just how much love God has for us - willing even to sacrifice his own Son that we might be accepted back into God's holy presence. Less well known is what John goes on to write, because just a couple of verses later he presents the stark contrast between faith and apathy: "Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God's one and only Son."¹

We're all going to have to serve somebody - the choice is ours but there can be no abstaining from the decision. At the end of his lifetime leading the people of Israel after Moses' death, Joshua stirred the people to a fresh commitment. They had seen miracle after miracle but still so often relapsed into grumbling and self-centred unbelief. So Joshua called the people together and repeatedly urged them to commit themselves to faithfully follow the Lord who had brought them through the desert and into the promised land. He urged them not to be lured away to serve gods that were not true, not to adopt the ways of the ungodly peoples surrounding them.



"Now fear the Lord and serve him with all faithfulness...But if serving the Lord seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served beyond the Euphrates, or the gods of the

Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord."² The choice was theirs to make, even though Joshua made it plain to them that faithfulness would bring blessing while unfaithfulness would bring disaster upon them. Joshua didn't want to "blend in" among the godless people of Canaan, he wasn't fussed about being liked and accepted by the resident population. His loyalty lay with the Saviour who had delivered him and the people from slavery and aimless wandering outside the land promised to them by God.

Many generations later, the people of Israel had relapsed into unbelief and had been exiled to Babylon. Among them was one young leader known by the name of Daniel. Once again, a believer was surrounded by a godless people. Not fussed about fitting in or being liked and accepted, Daniel stood firm in faithfulness to God. While



others fell in with the norm and kept a low profile, we read "Daniel resolved not to defile himself with the royal food and wine"³ We might think it was only what was on the menu but for Daniel and his companions, it meant a wholesale surrender to the values and principles of the godless nation in which they found themselves. Concession in one point can so often lead to the erosion of a faith-centred life to the extent that it becomes indistinguishable from the rest.

So we go on into Jesus' day, when he reserves his most biting criticism for the religious leaders who outwardly appear pious and holy but in fact have sold out on any real devotion to God. Quoting Isaiah, Jesus called them hypocrites: "These people speak very prettily about the Lord but they have no love for him at all."⁴ "You ignore God's specific orders and substitute your own traditions."⁵ Jesus severely warns his followers about the dangers of adulterating true faith in God with additions of our own or adoption of what others accept as the norm. Jesus said that his followers were like salt in a corrupt world but if the salt lost its saltiness it was "no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot."⁶

Peter writes that once we were not a people, but now we are the people of God; and that means our lives are dedicated to his purposes and to his glory.⁷

¹ Jn.3:18; ² Jos.24:14-15; ³ Dan.1:8; ⁴ Mk.7:6 TLB; ⁵ Mk.7:8; ⁶ Mt.5:13; ⁷ 1 Pet.2:9-10