

APRIL 2024

"THE ASCENSION"

Acts 1 v 7-9 *"And he said unto them, It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power.*

*But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.*

*And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight.*

Hello, and welcome to our April Newsletter. Between Easter and Pentecost, we consider Ascension Day. Ascension Day this year is May 9<sup>th</sup> (40 days after Easter), but, focussing May's theme on Pentecost, I'd like to look at the Ascension for our April Reflection.

The Ascension affirms the past – that Jesus finished His work, dying for us and rising again. His time on Earth was as Jewish Messiah – and those who believed on Him then, would be instituted as the Church – when the Holy Spirit was to come in the near future. This in itself necessitated Jesus' Ascension. John 16 v 7 *"Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you."*

The Ascension indicated to the believers, that they were on the brink of something new. When on the Cross, Jesus cried "it is finished" – that was His Redemptive work. The Ascension marks the end of Jesus' Commissioning Work, for The Church about to come into being. The Church, empowered by the Holy Spirit, would continue the Mission of Jesus – not just to the *"lost sheep of the house of Israel"* (Matt 10 v 6) – but the Whole World. This encompasses the *"uttermost part of the earth"* (as we saw above) – and the extent of time – from the beginning to the end of the Church Age.

Note that Jesus' parting words were that we would be His Witnesses – by the Power of the Holy Spirit. Let's as a Church and individuals, continue to be that witness, always looking for the new initiatives God may be leading us into. For many of us, it's the harder part of the Christian Life, so how can we "move forward" in our witness?

Bible Reading and Prayer -

When we're in Prayer and Bible Reading, we grow in our relationship with God.

We can then better discern the leading of the Holy Spirit – where the opportunities and Open Doors are – to tell others of Christ, empowered by the Holy Spirit Himself.

Be good Representatives of Christ -

At home, work or the Supermarket, be aware that others can see our demeanour, reactions and life – (telling myself this). Allow the Holy Spirit to change us, so others will want what we have.

Support the Church and its Outreach program -

The church is by nature, a means of outreach as well as mutual encouragement.

Let's each one of us discover how God would have us serve in the Body of Christ.

Bless you, Robert      **Please see the next page.**

## Church Events for April 2024

### Sunday Morning Services (10.30am)

April 7th	Paul Moores (Wycliffe Bible Translators)
April 14th	Paul Chapple (Mark 8:34-36)
April 21st	Keith Massey
April 28th	Eric Kent (Mark 9:14-24)

Sunday Evening (6.30pm) – April 14th, April 28th, May 19th, June 2nd, June 16th -  
Recorded talks from the Keswick Convention (See separate notice for details.)

### Tuesday Fellowship (2pm)

April 2nd	Bill Vell
April 9th	David Lunn
April 16th	Maureen Hawksworth
April 23rd	Greg Hanley
April 30th	Christine Ryder

### Bible Study and Prayer meetings (Wednesdays)

April 3rd	at Church at 11am (Eric Kent – Prayer Time)
April 10th	on Zoom at 7pm
April 17th	at Church at 11am (Mike Dewhurst)
April 24th	on Zoom at 7pm

Tea 'N' Tots – every Friday during term time 10.00 – 11.30am

## Points for Prayer

### Praise and Thanks

- Give thanks to God for His goodness and faithfulness to us.

### World Situations and Projects

- Pray for Christians around the world suffering for their faith.
- Pray for the Christian work we support:
  - Kimbilio – God to continue His blessings there,
  - House of Ants, Slavic Gospel Association.
- Pray for those suffering in Haiti, and an end to the fighting and unrest.
- Pray for an end to the fighting and destruction in Ukraine, Gaza, The Red Sea and Yemen.

### UK

- Pray for our King and Princess of Wales to be healed of Cancer, then give due thanks to God.
- Pray for our Government in these difficult times, that they will seek God's guidance so that they lead us with wisdom and integrity.
- Pray for the Wrongly Convicted Postmasters – that they may receive justice very soon.
- Pray for the NHS – Reconciliation between Government, Officials and Unions.
- Pray for James Bovenizer, and his work in schools.
- Pray for Stuart Lythgoe (Open Air Outreach).

### Our Church

- Pray for the Elders as they seek to know God's will for the future.  
**Meeting – Monday April 29th at 7pm**
  - Pray for those who are unwell, giving thanks for those who have improved health-wise.
  - Pray for the Outreach Projects: Tea and Tots, Sunday Club, Good Newspapers, Junior Church.
-