

Fellowship News

April 2018

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Malborough Baptist Church

Morning Service 10.30 a.m.

Communion Service held on
the first Sunday of the month



*“In the cross of Christ I
glory”*

“There is not a square inch in the whole domain of our human existence over which Christ, who is Sovereign over all, does not cry, ‘Mine!’” Thus proclaimed Abraham Kuyper, Prime Minister of the Netherlands, 1901–1905. (Imagine one of our top politicians saying that!) What can it mean to use the word, “mine”, when we are talking about our relationship to Jesus?

Is it presumptuous to call Jesus ‘mine’, or does He welcome the closeness which that implies? At any rate, we often sing that it is so – *“Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine”* – *“My Jesus, my Saviour”* – *“My Jesus, I love Thee, I know Thou art mine”*.

Then there is the relationship in the reverse direction, no presumption here, just perhaps failure fully to believe it on our part. Jesus says, to all His followers (and that's me, and that's you) 'You are mine – loved, treasured, yearned over....' He prayed to His Father for *"those You have given me, for they are yours. All I have is yours, and all You have is mine."* [John 17. 9, 10] What is it that makes us His? Well, we are His because He made us, and because He provides for our very existence. But supremely because He paid a price for us, He bought us, He redeemed us: *"You are not your own; you were bought at a price."* [1 Cor 6. 19, 20] And that, of course was at Calvary, on the Cross; it's what Good Friday is all about.

So that sense of belonging, of possessing even, that sense of "mine", works in both directions at the same time: *"I know my sheep (they are mine) and my sheep know me (they can call me 'mine')."* [John 10. 14] It's the Cross that has done this amazing thing: *"Tis done, the great transaction's done; I am my Lord's and He is mine."*

Yet there is more, for as Kuyper stated, when Jesus claims "mine", it is over the whole of human existence – it is not just over individuals like you and me, it is global, universal, cosmic. And all that too is because of the Cross. In his book, *The Day the Revolution Began*, Tom Wright takes 400 odd pages to spell out how the Cross is God's pivotal, powerful, purposeful act in history. He writes of "the creator God overthrowing on the cross the powers that had kept the nations captive. Up to now the nations had been enslaved; the cross had opened the gates to freedom"....."something has happened within the actual world of space, time and matter, as a results of which everything is different. By six o'clock on the Friday evening Jesus died, something had changed, and changed radically. Heaven and earth were brought together, creating the cosmic 'new temple': God was reconciling the world to Himself in the Messiah."

In God's upside-down Kingdom, shame (on the cross) becomes glory, weakness (on the cross) becomes power, folly (on the cross) becomes ultimate wisdom. *"For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God."* [1 Cor 1. 18]

Roger Tyler

A number of our fellowship attended the funeral service of a former minister of our church, the Rev Brian Jago which was held at Loddiswell Congregational Church. Comments on those who knew him and remembered his time of ministry with us, reflect that he was a lovely man and a credit to our Lord in every way. Our thoughts and prayers are with his wife and family at this sad time.

Our Lent course continues on Tuesday afternoons at 2.30 pm the drop in on Tuesday mornings from 10.30 am to 12.00 pm.

It has also been great to share fellowship with our brothers and sisters at the Parish Church as we have joined them for our combined Lent lunches in aid of Christian Aid. These have been special times and it seems sad that we only enjoy this fellowship with each other for this period of weeks each year. However, it was good to see some of their members join with us for the Leprosy Mission service recently. Unfortunately because of the “Beast from the East” as it was called our speaker from Bristol was unable to join us.

As you read these notes continue to pray for health and strength for those who are undergoing medical treatment and for swift recovery. These include Terry and Johanna, Dennis Holwill, Rachael Saunders and Denise.

Our Youth Club will be suspended for the Easter break and will return on Friday 20th of April.

In last months Fellowship News, Martin encouraged us to pray for an increased awareness of our God given gifts as we celebrate the Resurrection. Let us rejoice in every gift our risen Lord has for us as we look to him for inspiration, as we continue to be his witnesses in our village.

Blessings, Fred

The Tuesday Drop-In 10.30 a.m. -12.00

Prayer meeting and Bible study every Tuesday in the Chapel at 2.30 pm.

Youth Club suspended for Easter break until 20th April

Good Friday Service in the Parish Church at 10.00 am.

Hoovering (w/e)

April

7th Mrs R Taylor
14th Mrs S Jones
21st Mrs K Young
28th Mrs D Crocker

May

5th Mr F Allen

Flowers

April

8th Easter flowers
15th Mr R Parsons
22nd Mrs D Crocker
29th Mrs R Taylor

May

6th Mrs D Laphorn

Services

April

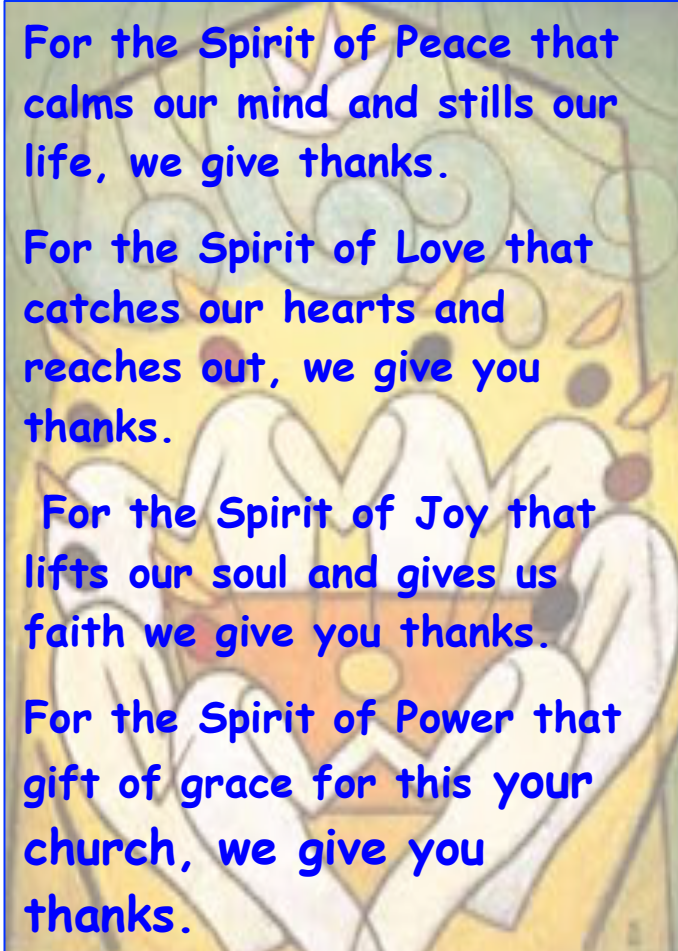
1st Mr M Law
8th Rev Geoff Howden
15th Miss A Edgcombe /Mrs S
Whitway
22nd Mr D King
29th Rev Carl Smethurst

May 6th

Collective worship

May 6th Communion

Mrs D Crocker/Mrs R Taylor



For the Spirit of Peace that calms our mind and stills our life, we give thanks.

For the Spirit of Love that catches our hearts and reaches out, we give you thanks.

For the Spirit of Joy that lifts our soul and gives us faith we give you thanks.

For the Spirit of Power that gift of grace for this your church, we give you thanks.