



Link Up!

Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.’ Mt11: 28-30

Coming up in May:

Sunday 5th May, our Prayer Service & Communion will focus on The Cost of Living/Poverty

Sunday 12th May, we will look at the Ascension story in Acts 1: 1 – 11

Sunday 19th May, we will move on to the events of Pentecost in Acts 2: 1 – 21 & 38 – 41.

Sunday 26th May, we will continue our series in Acts with Acts 3: 1 – 16 – The Apostles without Jesus. This service will also be a baptismal service (see below).

On Saturday 25th May, we will be celebrating the marriage of Holly Ashley and Andrew Ntiamoah at the church at 12noon. They would love everyone from the church to join their family and friends for the service. Please do remember them in prayer as they start their married life together. Pray that the whole day will go well and be enjoyed by all.

On Sunday 26th May, Andrew is going to be baptised while his family are still in the area so that they can be with us. Remember him in prayer as he prepares for that. Also, if anyone else is thinking about either Believers’ Baptism or Church Membership, do please have a chat with Ken or one of the deacons so that this can be arranged.



St Martin of Tours

Like his father before him St. Martin of Tours, also known as Martin the Merciful, was a Roman Cavalry officer. Unlike his father, Martin was a devout Christian and would go on to become a bishop.

Legend has it that one evening as he was entering the city of Amiens, Martin saw a poor shivering beggar. Martin removed his military issue cape and slicing it in two with his sword, handed one half to the beggar.

That night Martin dreamt that the beggar was actually Jesus. The supposed remains of Martin’s cape became a famous relic, and were even carried into battle by kings. The priest who cared for the cape in its reliquary was called a cappellanu, and ultimately all priests who served the military were called cappellani. The French translation is chapelains, from which the English word chaplain is derived.

Similarly, small churches were built to house the relic. People called them a ‘capella’, the word for a little cloak.

Wednesday Night In:

Our Wednesday Night In group are having a good time again with their Zoom Bible studies, which Ken is leading. In the future we will be returning each week to the previous Sunday's sermon passage with discussion questions for us to take us deeper into the passage. You could prepare for this by having another quick look at the passage between Sunday and Wednesday (see overleaf). Anyone who would like to join us is welcome using the links sent out with this newsletter.

Other News:

On Monday mornings between 9.30am and 12.30pm, Age UK are running a Memory Club for those suffering with dementia or memory loss. This is particularly helpful if people are in the early stages of the condition. They have spaces in the club that meets at our premises, so if anyone feels that this would be helpful to them or someone they know, please see the notice on the board in the entrance foyer.

Eventually, such small churches lost their association with the cloak, and all small churches began to be referred to as 'chapels'.

Whenever I used to tell this story to a group of soldiers you could guarantee that at least one smart-alec would pipe up 'Padre, why didn't he give the beggar the whole cape, wouldn't that be the Christian thing to do?'

Indeed, didn't Jesus say 'If someone asks for your coat, give to him your shirt also.' and 'Sell everything and give to the poor.'?

However, Martin was a soldier, and one thing every soldier should know is that looking after oneself is a priority. Be thankful that you've never experienced the dubious pleasure of stag duty at 4 in the morning; sitting in a muddy hole, freezing cold, soaking wet, exhausted, with only a lukewarm flask of tea and the faint hum of a night sight to keep you from going insane.

And if a soldier can't be bothered to put on their waterproofs, woolly jumper or to cook themselves a hot meal, they only have them-elf to blame for their discomfort.

Any idiot can be uncomfortable, as my Colour Sergeant used to say.

Just like Martin, and every soldier, we have two priorities; to look after our-self and to look after others. If we're honest, we probably do neither as well as we should. Jesus said that we should love others as we love ourselves. If we don't look after ourselves, how can we expect to be able to look after others? In the gospel accounts of Jesus, we see a man who, yes, spent a great deal of his time ministering to others. But we also see a man who loved to eat and drink with his friends and disciples, a man who could fall asleep just about anywhere, as well as a man who would often retreat by himself into the hills for prayer and reflection with his Father.

Ken