

## THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH



I'm sure like me you have been really enjoying the mild weather recently, it is certainly unusual for January. However a couple of weeks ago when I was asked to think about writing a little thought for the

bulletin the weather was quite different and heavy snow was forecast and weather warnings issued. Thankfully the snow didn't come as forecast however it did get me thinking about the times when snow is mentioned in the bible.

Doing a little research, the word snow is mentioned some twenty five times in Gods word mostly in the Old Testament and at least three times in the New Testament.

The first time mentioned is in the book of Exodus, Ex 4v6 and the last time mentioned is in the book of Revelation, Rev 1v14.

The bible refers to snow in three different contexts, firstly it talks about the cold snow of winter as in Proverbs 25v13 As the cold of snow in the time of harvest, so is a faithful messenger to them that send him: for he refresheth the soul of his masters.

Secondly it talks about how something can be as white as snow, as in Matthew 28v3 His countenance was like lightening, and his raiment white as snow.

Thirdly and most importantly the bible refers to snow when it describes how clean our sins will be when washed in the blood of Christ when we confess our sins and believe in him as our Lord and Saviour. Think about Isaiah 1v18 Come now, let us reason together, saith the Lord: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.

One of my favourite verses in the bible when snow is mentioned is in the book of Psalms. Psalm 51 is that well known prayer of David when he seeks forgiveness after he falls and commits adultery with Bathsheba and we find in verse 7 an encouragement to us all, Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean: wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. How great it is to know that we can be made whiter than snow no matter what or how bad our sins are, by coming to our Saviour and asking for forgiveness. We can be made whiter than snow each day of our lives. We can be made whiter than snow at no cost to us for He paid our debt on Calvary's tree. We can be made whiter than snow in an instant by coming to Him. We can be made whiter than snow even though we will sin again and sin comes easy to us, and we can have our sins made whiter than snow because that's what God is willing and able to do for us, just come to Him.

Perhaps this year the snow won't come, that would be great, but if it does maybe it will remind us that someday our raiment will be like His, white as snow.

Ed Shaw

### BAPTISMAL SERVICE

A Baptismal Service will be held on the evening of **Sunday 19th February**. Anyone interested in Baptism should speak to Pastor Moffitt.

### TESTIMONY OF CHARLES SPURGEON

I sometimes think I might have been in darkness and despair until now, had it not been for the goodness of God in sending a snow-storm one Sunday morning, while I was going to a certain place of worship. I turned down a side street, and came to a little Primitive Methodist Church. In that chapel there may have been a dozen or fifteen people. I had heard of the Primitive Methodists, how they sang so loudly that they made people's heads ache; but that did not matter to me. I wanted to know how I might be saved....

The minister did not come that morning; he was snowed up, I suppose. At last a very thin-looking man, a shoemaker, or tailor, or something of that sort, went up into the pulpit to preach. Now it is well that preachers be instructed, but this man was really stupid. He was obliged to stick to his text, for the simple reason that he had little else to say. The text was—"LOOK UNTO ME, AND BE YE SAVED, ALL THE ENDS OF THE EARTH" (Isa. 45:22)

He did not even pronounce the words rightly, but that did not matter. There was, I thought, a glimmer of hope for me in that text.

The preacher began thus: "This is a very simple text indeed. It says 'Look.' Now lookin' don't take a deal of pain. It aint liftin' your foot or your finger; it is just 'Look.' Well, a man needn't go to College to learn to look. You may be the biggest fool, and yet you can look. A man needn't be worth a thousand a year to look. Anyone can look; even a child can look.

"But then the text says, 'Look unto Me.' Ay!" he said in broad Essex, "many on ye are lookin' to yourselves, but it's no use lookin' there. You'll never find any comfort in yourselves. Some say look to God the Father. No, look to Him by-and-by. Jesus Christ says, 'Look unto Me.' Some on ye say 'We must wait for the Spirit's workin.' You have no business with that just now. Look to Christ. The text says, 'Look unto Me.'"

### CHARLES SPURGEON (CONTINUED)

Then the good man followed up his text in this way: "Look unto Me; I am sweatin' great drops of blood. Look unto Me; I am hangin' on the cross. Look unto Me, I am dead and buried. Look unto Me; I rise again. Look unto Me; I ascend to Heaven. Look unto Me; I am sitting at the Father's right hand. O poor sinner, look unto Me! look unto Me!"

When he had . . . managed to spin out about ten minutes or so, he was at the end of his tether. Then he looked at me under the gallery, and I daresay with so few present, he knew me to be a stranger.

Just fixing his eyes on me, as if he knew all my heart, he said, "Young man, you look very miserable." Well, I did, but I had not been accustomed to have remarks made from the pulpit on my personal appearance before. However, it was a good blow, struck right home. He continued, "And you will always be miserable—miserable in life and miserable in death—if you don't obey my text; but if you obey now, this moment, you will be saved." Then lifting up his hands, he shouted, as only a Primitive Methodist could do, "Young man, look to Jesus Christ. Look! Look! Look! You have nothing to do but look and live!"

I saw at once the way of salvation. I know not what else he said—I did not take much notice of it—I was so possessed with that one thought . . . I had been waiting to do fifty things, but when I heard that word, "Look!" what a charming word it seemed to me. Oh! I looked until I could almost have looked my eyes away.

There and then the cloud was gone, the darkness had rolled away, and that moment I saw the sun; and I could have risen that instant, and sung with the most enthusiastic of them, of the precious blood of Christ, and the simple faith which looks alone to Him. Oh, that somebody had told me this before, "Trust Christ, and you shall be saved." Yet it was, no doubt, all wisely ordered, and now I can say—

E'er since by faith I saw the stream  
Thy flowing wounds supply,  
Redeeming love has been my theme,  
And shall be till I die. . ."

That happy day when I found the Saviour, and learned to cling to His dear feet, was a day never to be forgotten by me . . . I listened to the Word of God and that precious text led me to the cross of Christ. Oh! there was joy in the household that day, when all heard that the eldest son had found the Saviour and knew himself to be forgiven.

*Written by Charles Haddon Spurgeon*

## MEETINGS ON THE LORD'S DAY

<b>5th Feb</b>	AM/PM: Pastor S Moffitt
<b>12th Feb</b>	AM/PM: Pastor S Moffitt
<b>19th Feb</b>	AM/PM: Pastor S Moffitt <b>PM: Baptismal Service</b>
<b>26th Feb</b>	AM/PM: Pastor J Ormerod

## FRIENDLY HOUR

The Friendly Hour will meet on **Thursday 2nd February at 10.45am**. The guest speaker will be **Mr John Weir**. The meeting will be followed by a light lunch and all will be made very welcome.

## PHILIPPI DINNER

The Philippi Dinner will be held on **Sat 4th Feb at 7.00pm** in French's Bistro in Clough. Please add your name to the list in the foyer and make your menu choice. All are very welcome.

## YOUTH FELLOWSHIP

Youth Fellowship meetings will take place on **5th and 26th February 2017** at 8.15pm. All young people P7 and above will be made very welcome at Youth Fellowship.

## SPORTS 4 CHRIST

**Saturday 11th Feb 2017 in the Multipurpose Hall**  
**6:30—7.45pm Ages 6-10 / 8:00—9.30pm Ages 11-15**

Please come along on 2nd Sat of January, February and March 2017 for a time of fun, food and fellowship. There will be an epilogue, sports coaching and team challenges.

## GUEST SPEAKER AT BIBLE STUDY

**Miss Linda Corry**, representing **CEF in Central Europe**, will be bringing a report on her work at our Bible Study and Prayer Meeting on **Wednesday 22nd February** at 8.00pm. Please plan to attend this meeting,

## LADIES' FELLOWSHIP

The Ladies' Fellowship will meet on **Tuesday 28th February at 8.00pm**. This meeting will be taken by ladies from the **Iron Hall**.

A cup of tea will be served following the meeting and all are welcome.

## ROTAS FOR THE MONTH

	5th	12th	19th	26th
<b>DOOR DUTY</b>	Group B: D Glover *, E Shaw *, T McCormick *, J Carson, B Gibson, D McGreevy * <i>deacon in charge</i>			
<b>CHILDREN'S CHURCH</b>	Lynsey Karen	Derek Alison	Ed Sharon	Paul Gillian
<b>FLOWERS</b>	Naomi Dudgeon	Mae Glover	Mae Glover	Karen Reid
<b>INTERNET</b>	Andrew & David	Aaron & Joel	Mark & Andrew	Daniel & Aaron
<b>RECORDING</b>	Scott	Ed	Gary	John

*NB Above are also responsible for the sound desk on the Wednesday following their Sunday recording duty.*

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- Sun 12th February @ 3.00 pm — Meeting in Tullywest Nursing Home — Mr Robert McMillan speaking
- Sun 26th February @ 3.00pm — Meeting in Silverbirch Nursing Home — Mr Derek Hrabovsky speaking

## SPECIAL ACCESS CAR PARKING SPACES

It would be greatly appreciated if the three Special Access Car Parking spaces at the front of the church could be made available to those who have mobility issues. These spaces were created for those whose mobility requires parking close to the entrance door of church rather than for all disabled badge holders. Your assistance with this would be greatly appreciated.

## CONGRATULATIONS

Special congratulations to Jonny McCoubrey, Scott McNeill and Ashleigh Shaw who have all achieved their Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award. Well done to you all.

Details of items to appear in the bulletin must be given to Karen not later than the second Sunday in the month for inclusion in the next month's edition (email to: [nkreid@outlook.com](mailto:nkreid@outlook.com)).

Saintfield Baptist Church  
51 Crossgar Road  
Saintfield

## Monthly Bulletin



**SAINTFIELD  
BAPTIST  
CHURCH**

[www.saintfieldbaptist.org.uk](http://www.saintfieldbaptist.org.uk)

**February  
2017**

Hebrews 13:5 Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.

**Sunday  
Services:  
11.30am  
& 7pm**

**Sunday  
Sch: 10.30am  
Searchers:  
Wed 6.45pm**

**Bible Study  
& Prayer  
Meeting  
Wed 8pm**