

Church report May 2018

Good Morning Brethren,

Believe it or not the sun has been out for the last four glorious days. Seeing sunshine definitely puts a big smile on your face!!

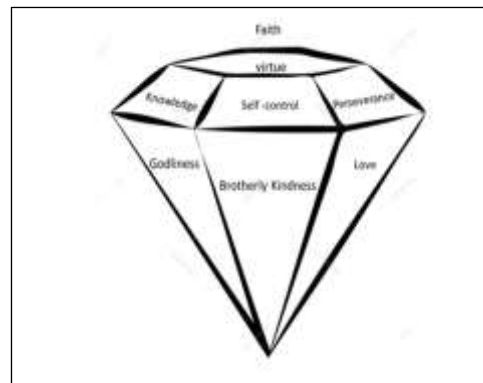
The congregation is doing well, and we are reaching out into our community through our foodbank, craft club and personal evangelism outreaches. This month we have had three new people turn up for the foodbank and I have invited them all to come to worship with us.

Last year a young man turned up asking for help. Gillian and I were serving that night when he walked in; within a few minutes he asked us if Alan Gear was our son and it turns out that our visitor went to school with Alan. Mark has had some major hurdles in his life of which one is depression. He is a good person but struggles with daily life. We have helped him and he is very appreciative of all the help he has received. He said last week that he would attend our Tuesday Night Bible study but sadly he did not turn up. We received a text from Mark apologising for not being at the class explaining that he was back in hospital due to depression. Gillian and I would ask you to add Mark to your prayers and lift his name to our Great God who is really the only one who can help Mark.

We have just completed a nine-week study in growing our faith the series is based on **2 Peter 1:5-7**.

But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love.

This study I believe emphasised the need to have a strong Faith and looking at the individual qualities that need to be in place to have a strong, working, active faith. This study generated more audience participation than any previous study.



We have been studying the Minor Prophets and we are currently looking at the book of Haggai. I must admit I have enjoyed this series as I have had to take a refresher course on this study and delve back into Homer Hailey's commentary and several other commentators.

The ladies class has started studying the book of Hebrews, Gillian is leading the class and is busy preparing herself for the class. We have four children attending Sunday school and some Sunday Mornings you can tell that they are enjoying themselves. Gillian has a vested interest in teaching this class, two of the children are our grandchildren.

We are all looking forward to The big wedding on June 12th, Gilbert Penman and Tracey Cardwell are getting married and I have been asked to officiate at the ceremony. The whole congregation has been invited and we are busy making sure we have the hymns down to a tee. Gilbert is such a nice man and he is so eager to help at church; he just wants to learn as much as he can about his Lord and Saviour, Jesus. Happy days!!!

My brother David is not doing well and he doesn't believe he has much time left. Each day it seems he gets a little weaker and sadly there is nothing can be done for him. Next month we have a meeting with the palliative care organiser and I am not looking forward to that. David seems very matter of fact about what his happening to him. He seems OK within himself about the end of his life, in fact, he seems more worried about our youngest brother Ian. David wants to make sure that Ian will be well looked after when he has gone. I have sat down with him and spoke to him about Jesus but unfortunately as before the same answer is given "Not for me Alex". Keep David in your prayers PLEASE he needs them all. As long as he is living there is hope. I know he would be annoyed at me discussing this with you but what else can I do?

In Him
Alex