

CHRISTMAS FOOD COLLECTION

Malling Food Bank Christmas Food Collection Sunday 20th December

If you'd like to donate some Christmas treats (e.g. Kids' Items, Mince Pies, Puddings, Biscuits, Snacks) please put them in the basket on Sun 20th or in the few days before.

Carol Service

7.30pm Sunday 20th December

Traditional format with Carols, Readings, Choir and Christmas Message, followed by Mulled Wine and Mince Pies.

All welcome. Please think about who you could invite to come with you.



Diary Dates

Sun 13 th Dec	4pm Family Craft and Carols
Sun 20 th Dec	10am Nativity Service (1 hour) Guest service inc. Carols, Performance & Short Talk 7.30pm Carol Service (see above)
Fri 25 th Dec	10am Christmas Day Family Service (1 hour) a child-friendly celebration
Sun 27 th Dec	10am Testimony Sunday Praise and worship with a chance for anyone to tell us something God has done in 2015, large or small
Sun 3 rd Jan	7.30pm Monthly Prayer Evening (drinks from 7.15pm)

Sunday 13th December

CONNECT WITH THE MESSAGE

The Courtroom of God

Romans 5:1-2

1) What would you steal first on an epic quest of thievery? (Assuming no consequences, spiritual, physical or otherwise)

Read Romans 5:1-2

2) What did you find most helpful from Ryan's message? Was there anything you'd like to discuss?

3) What does it mean, for you, to be justified through faith and to have peace with God?

Read John 5:25-29

4) Who are "the dead" referred to in verse 25? How can we have life and spread that life to others?

5) How does the Jesus portrayed in verse 27 contrast with modern views of Jesus? Why is it important for us to uphold this side of Jesus?

6) How can we balance verse 29 with “justification through faith?”

Read Exodus 33:18-23

7) Does this not excite you!? How does this passage show us just how glorious God is?

At present we cannot fully look at this glory of God, but it will be fully revealed to us in the future. It is the hope we have before us.

8) How would you say your life currently boasts in the hope of the glory of God? Would people around you notice it?

9) Challenge yourself to dig deeper into understanding and experiencing the glory of God and the hope we have in it. Let this spur you on in your worship of God: on your own, in your day-to-day life, and with your small group.

DIGGING DEEPER

Read Revelation 1:9-18

1) Where is John and why is he there?

2) Is this a vision of the past, present or future?

3) How does John’s vision of Jesus compare with the prophecy of Jesus’ first coming in **Isaiah 53:2-9**?

4) How do you understand the differences?

5) Using as many Bible passages as you can to support your conclusions, examine the image of Jesus that John saw and write down the significance of the different elements (i.e. the lampstands, the robe and sash, the white hair, fiery eyes, bronze feet, rushing water voice, handheld stars, double edged sword mouth and shining face.)

You may find it helpful to search for related passages on the internet but don’t necessarily believe every explanation you read!

6) Which aspect of this vision of Jesus have you discovered, or been reminded of, that most inspires you to worship him?

CONNECT IN PRAYER

Carol Service

- Pray for a good response to invitations and for those thinking about coming.
- Pray for the preparations: Chrissie and the choir; Rich speaking; and all involved in refreshments, praying, reading, set-up and welcoming.
- Pray for God to be at work in our guests through the message and every aspect of the service, so that people would want to receive Jesus or begin exploring who he is this Christmas.

Nativity Service

- Pray for invitations going to the wider families of the children taking part.
- Pray this would be an enjoyable and accessible way for people to consider or reconsider Jesus this Christmas and that God would open their hearts.

Peace this Christmas

- Pray for peace in places of war and conflict around the world.
- Pray for those separated from family because of armed service.
- Pray that many would trust in Jesus, the Prince of Peace this Christmas.