

Wavelength

March 2020 - edited for website



**SPRING
INTO
ACTION!**

Inside this issue

Building in Grace	2	Parkside in March	10	Meditation for March	18
It's Time to Clear Out the Rubbish	6	Holiday at Home	15		
Hobby Workshop	8	Notice Board	16		
Amazing Grace	9	Future Dates	17		

Building in Grace by Rory McClure

God's grace is both the most wonderful part of our Christian faith as well as the most mysterious. Grace is the pure, undeserved love of God. It is the basis of His character and the only thing that motivates Him to save us, which makes it the core of the gospel.

When Peter addressed the Jerusalem counsel, he said, "We believe it is through the grace of our Lord Jesus that we are saved" (Acts 15:11). Paul tells us that "we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand." (Romans 5:2). He explains further, "And if by grace, then it is no longer by works; if it were, grace would no longer be grace." (Romans 11:6)

This is the most beautiful thing about grace. Because it is "no

longer by works" we are set free from feeling we haven't done enough. Since it is a free gift, given by a loving and generous God, we simply have to receive it

Grace is the pure, undeserved love of God. It is the basis of His character and the only thing that motivates Him to save us, which makes it the core of the gospel.

and it is ours. The core of the gospel is that Jesus "suffered death, so that by the grace of God He might taste death for everyone." (Hebrews 2:9). While we had failed God and not only felt ashamed that we'd failed ourselves, our loved ones and our God,

God took this shame and nailed it to the cross. Jesus, the only one who didn't deserve death, the only one who genuinely had nothing to be ashamed of because He never sinned, took all our shame onto Himself as He died on the cross.

The burden was too great for us, the consequences were too severe for us and so Christ graciously chose to bear that burden on our behalf. He "tasted death" for us, so that we would be spared its bitterness.

Now, "having been justified by His grace, we [have] become heirs having the hope of eternal life." (Titus 3:7). Once we were legally guilty before God but now God has found a just way of showing mercy. Rather than giving us what we deserve, His grace has

motivated Him to give us what we don't deserve; forgiveness. Yet the penalty must still be paid or God would cease to be just. So God the Son volunteered to pay the penalty we ought to have paid. He went to the cross to pay that penalty and now both the justice and mercy of God have been satisfied and we, in turn, have been justified.

Frustratingly, we don't naturally enjoy all the blessings of grace. Some of us are overwhelmed by God's grace from the moment we first believed, but over time our delight in God has waned. For others of us, we've struggled to accept God's complete forgiveness. From God's perspective, we have fully received all of His grace, love and acceptance from the moment we first believed. The problem is, our experience of this changes from time to

time and from person to person. That's why Paul told Timothy, "You then, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus." (2 Timothy 2:1). Peter also tells us to "grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ." (2 Peter 3:18).

**...now both the
justice and
mercy of God
have been
satisfied and we,
in turn, have
been justified.**

In other words, God has given us the responsibility to grow in grace and to become stronger in grace.

How do we do this? Paul told the Ephesian elders, "Now I commit you to God and to the word of His grace, which can

build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified." (Acts 20:32). Isn't that a beautiful term for the Bible? "The word of God's grace." The Bible has to be the fountain where we refresh ourselves in God's grace, but no fountain has ever built anything. Nor can drinking from a fountain make you stronger. Just as you go to a building site if you want to build and you go to the gym if you want to get stronger, the Bible must become our building site and our gym. The Bible gives us the blueprints of life that we have to follow if He is going to be our "architect and builder" (Heb. 11:10)

If you've ever had the builders in your home, you'll know that building can be a dirty and sweaty business. Old stuff needs to be knocked down and the rubble needs to be

removed. New materials need to be brought in, mixed up and then they need to be built up according to the plan. If you've worked on a building site, you'll know that the architect often specifies how the site is to be levelled and drained before the building can even begin. In the same way, if you're trying to be built up in grace, you often have to get rid of all the rubbish that is going to prevent further building.

One of the most frequent forms of debris in our lives that prevents our building in grace is hurt from previous relationships. This most obviously comes if you've had a father who has deeply hurt you in some way. For most people, the deeper the hurt a bad father has inflicted, the harder it is for them to experience the true love and forgiveness of their heavenly Father.

Similarly, harsh or absent mothers, or other abusive relationships can prevent you being built up in grace. That is why Jesus taught us to pray, "forgive us our trespasses (sins) as we forgive those who trespass against us."

**The only way
to clear out
that rubble is
through
forgiveness.**

While you might have a very real reason to grieve over the pain a parent may have inflicted on you, the more you allow bitterness to grow in your soul, the more unstable rubble is going to get in the way of you enjoying God's grace. The only way to clear out that rubble is through forgiveness.

Forgiveness can help us to rethink things.

Normally, the deeper the pain, the greater the betrayal and the younger you were when it happened, the deeper and greater the damage. Perhaps you were so young you were utterly incapable of being aware of experiencing anything other than the betrayal, abuse of trust and the pain it caused you. However, with age and experience, together with an increasing awareness of what God has forgiven you, comes an ability to imagine things from another perspective.

Many people have found it helpful to try to imagine what awful things happened in the past of their abuser that led them to do those evil things. Realising that the cruel parent was once the child and victim of their cruel parents, then imagining how that twisted and hurt them

throughout their lives has helped some people to forgive. Slowly, the all powerful monster of their childhood memories is turned into a weak, pitiable person who is no longer strong enough to continue to inflict the same psychological hurt as they once did.

Another source of rubbish that can block your ability to build yourself up in grace, is believing rubbish. For example, if you falsely believe that God isn't in control and therefore can't answer your prayers, or that God is in control but is too mean to answer your prayers, you are never going to enjoy the grace of God. However, if you have real hope in God's power, and a real understanding that God may ask you to carry a cross for a time, you'll come to understand God more like Paul came to understand Him. After

Paul struggled for a time with a "thorn in the side" God said to him, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." And Paul's reaction was to say, "Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest

Another source of rubbish that can block your ability to build yourself up in grace, is believing rubbish.

on me." (2 Corinthians 12:9).

Paul also told us to "be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus." (2 Timothy 2:1). So the Bible also works like a gym for our mind and our faith. That means that while some parts of

the Bible are easy, some parts are hard, and the hard parts are there to make you stronger. If you go to the gym you could injure yourself or you could do as little as possible or you could just give up because it is too hard or too boring. But if you do any of these things you could never hope to become stronger. That's why God gives us enough easy parts in the Bible to keep us spiritually fit and enough hard parts to help us to grow stronger.

Two things work for us in the gym and in the Bible; do it regularly and build up slowly. Start with the New Testament and with some of the easier Psalms. Read them on a regular basis. Schedule it into your daily and weekly routine and start with short readings and work up to longer ones. When these become familiar, work on some of the harder parts of the Bible and

when you get stuck get yourself a study Bible that will help you understand what you are reading. Also, ask your pastor or people in your

home-group if you don't understand something. Equally important is to pray and ask God to help you.

“God’s abundant provision of grace and of the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ.” (Romans 5:17)

It's Time to Clear Out the Rubbish by David Nickless

We live in a society where there is a vast accumulation of rubbish. Do you remember these slogans: “Keep Britain Tidy.” “Don’t drop litter; If you see it pick it up.” “Never become a Litter Lout”!

I remember at school we had special litter collection periods, cleaning up the playground and behind the cycle sheds. This was not a popular task, but it taught us to pick up and dispose of all empty crisp packets, sweet papers and drink cans etc. I wonder whether they still do this in UK schools now?

Each year during Spring

there is a “National Big Clean” event when teams of people clean up their local area. It’s amazing what you can find; things such as old mattresses, engine parts, lots of bottles, tins, rotting food, paper,

plastic, old clothes, masses of cigarette ends and the odd supermarket trolley. It’s easy to throw litter into a hedge, behind a wall or even down an alleyway. These are easy dumping grounds: “Out of sight -



Rubbish tipped over the hedge in a very quiet country lane in Kent.

out of mind”!

The local refuse collectors do a good job collecting and disposing of our rubbish and it is our duty to fill bins correctly and put them out for collection. Beach cleaners do a great job too, and every little bit helps in the battle against pollution and environmental damage.

We are greedy consumers and the more food we eat or commodities we buy the more rubbish accumulates.

Tearfund have seen the effect of climate change around the world and how dumping and burying rubbish is destroying the environment and leading to disease, and poverty. This concern led Tearfund to promote a “Rubbish Campaign” last year to encourage us to think seriously about how we can cut down on the number of plastic

bags, cups and bottles we use. There was even a petition to a well-known company who manufacture millions of plastic drink bottles.

How does this relate to the Christian faith and the Bible’s teaching?

Reading the first few chapters of Genesis gives us the answer: The world and all creation belongs to God and we are called to be stewards; to look after the animals, the land and the sea. Adam found great satisfaction looking after creation and it is our responsibility to keep the earth clean and productive.

Greed, covetousness, pride, selfishness and laziness all contribute to the state of our world today as people live in the present and forget that future generations will be living on this planet.

Have you noticed when litter is thrown out how

quickly it accumulates; even the wind helps to blow it around and very soon everywhere looks messy. I have seen hungry sea gulls and foxes ripping open black sacks to scavenge tasty pieces of meat and half eaten sandwiches left outside which helps to spread the mess.

This reminds me of sin because when we ignore it, sin develops and not only affects us but also the family and the wider community. When Jesus died on the cross He willingly took all the filth of sin and all the accumulated rubbish in our lives so that we can be cleaned up.

It takes time for God to clear all the rubbish in our lives, but He’s in this for the long haul and as we commit our lives to Him and obey His Word, He continues this work of renewal within us.

Perhaps it’s time for a good Spring Clean!

Hobby Workshop by Chris Blanchett

The second meeting of the new Hobby Workshop group met on Saturday, 22 February when Chris Marsden came and gave an illustrated talk entitled “Spring Into Action”.

Chris gave us practical demonstrations on pruning, taking cuttings and planting seeds. Everyone who attended found the talk fascinating and useful, and we marvelled again at God’s creation and

Chris’s remarkable knowledge.

After the talk we gathered together for refreshments and Chris readily answered a number of questions from those present. We are now ready to spring into action!

Why not join us for our next meeting which will be held on Saturday 28 March when our speaker will be Malcolm Hyde who will be teaching us some of the rudiments of

sculpture under the title, “A Built Up Area”. The meeting will start at 2.00pm and lasts for approximately an hour, followed by refreshments.

All are welcome!

If you want further information please speak to Chris Blanchett - 01903 717648.

A programme is available. in the church foyer.



Amazing Grace by Romaine Brett

Bad Boy Comes Good

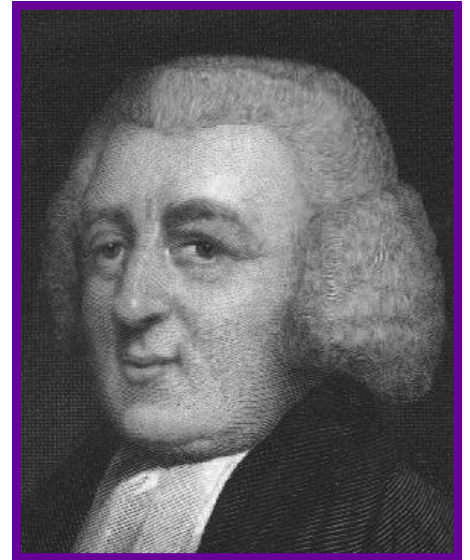
Have you ever pondered the story behind the words of the famous hymn “Amazing Grace” by John Newton? The full details are too many to mention in this article, but what an amazing testimony of God's literal Amazing Grace!

John Newton's tombstone reads, *“John Newton, Clerk, once an infidel and libertine, a servant of slaves in Africa, was, by the rich mercy of our LORD and SAVIOUR JESUS CHRIST, preserved, restored, pardoned, and appointed to preach the faith he had long laboured to destroy. Near 16 years as Curate of this parish and 28 years as Rector of St Mary Woolnoth.”*

John Newton was born in 1725 in Wapping, London, to a Christian

mother, whose desire was for him to become a clergyman. Sadly, she died of TB when Newton was seven. Age 11, he went to work at sea with his father, under the merchant navy captain, losing his first job because of “*unsettled behaviour and impatience of restraint*”. He rebelled against the Royal Navy and deserted. Caught, put in irons and flogged, humiliated, Newton considered murdering the Captain and committing suicide by throwing himself overboard.

He was discharged to a slave ship, working for a slave trader who treated Newton with cruelty. He was rescued by a sea captain who had known his father and Newton became captain of his own ship, working as a slave trader.



The life of slave trading was barbaric. Ships would voyage from England and anchor off the African coast. Tribal chiefs would deliver men and women captured in raids and war, to sell. Buyers would barter in exchange for weapons, alcohol, jewellery etc; the slaves would then be loaded aboard ship, flogged, chained below deck to prevent suicide, packed in like sardines with up to 600 slaves.

Often, with outbreaks of disease, they were thrown overboard. The remaining slaves were

Parkside in March

Sunday	1	10.30am	All Age Service with crèche	The Beastly King Transformed
		6.30pm	Evening Service with Communion	The Fifth Trumpet
Monday	2	9.30am 10.30am 1.30pm	Pastoral Care Team Meeting Elders Meeting Paradise	
Tuesday	3	2.30pm	Home Group Meeting	
Wednesday	4	10.00am 7.00pm 7.30pm	Home Group Meeting Home Group Meeting Men's Bible Study	
Thursday	5	10.00am 10.30am 7.45pm	Oasis - Ladies Bible Study Service at St Winefride's Home Group	
Friday	6	7.30pm	Deacons Meeting	
Saturday	7	2.00pm	Arcade Knitters	
Sunday	8	10.30am	Morning Service with Communion with crèche and children's groups followed by refreshments	Feeding the 5,000
		6.30pm	Evening Service	The Sixth Trumpet
Monday	9	9.30am 1.30pm	Pastoral Care Team Meeting Paradise	
Tuesday	10	10.00am 2.30pm	Prayer Meeting Friendship Hour - Rory McClure	
Wednesday	11	7.30pm	Men's Bible Study	
Thursday	12	10.00am 7.30pm	Oasis - Ladies Bible Study Prayer Meeting	
Friday	13			
Saturday	14	6.30pm	Skittles Evening	
Sunday	15	10.30am	Morning Service with crèche and children's groups	Slavic Gospel Association
		6.30pm	Evening Service with Communion	The Angel and the Little Book

Monday	16	9.30am 1.30pm	Pastoral Care Team Meeting Paradise	
Tuesday	17	2.30pm	Home Group Meeting	
Wednesday	18	10.00am 7.00pm 7.30pm	Home Group Meeting Home Group Meeting Men's Bible Study	
Thursday	19	10.00am 7.45pm	Oasis - Ladies Bible Study Home Group	
Friday	20			
Saturday	21	2.00pm	Arcade Knitters	
Sunday	22	10.30am 6.30pm	Morning Service with Communion with crèche and children's groups Evening Service	Mother's Day Eat the Book
Monday	23	9.30am 1.30pm	Pastoral Care Team Meeting Paradise	
Tuesday	24	10.00am 2.30pm	Prayer Meeting Friendship Hour - Chris Marsden	
Wednesday	25	2.30pm 7.30pm	Holiday at Home - Piers Along the South Coast Men's Bible Study	
Thursday	26	10.00am 7.30pm	Oasis - Ladies Bible Study Prayer Meeting	
Friday	27	11.00am	Service at Oakland Grange	
Saturday	28	2.00pm	Hobby Workshop	
Sunday	29	10.30am 6.30pm	Morning Service with crèche and children's groups Evening Service with Communion	Walking on Water The Two Witnesses and the Doomed Temple
Monday	30	9.30am 1.30pm	Pastoral Care Team Meeting Paradise	
Tuesday	31	2.30pm	Home Group Meeting	

then taken and traded for sugar and molasses to make rum, which ships would then bring to England. Then the “Triangle Trade” would be repeated.

At some point on his travels, Newton found a book, “Imitation of Christ” by Thomas a Kempis, which was to eventually lead to his conversion.

In 1747, he worked on a ship “The Greyhound.” Sailors were renowned for coarse manners but Newton's exceeded theirs and shocked even them; he was known as “*The Great Blasphemer*” known for rampant sexual immorality, profanity, drunkenness and debauchery.

It was on this ship, that a raging North Atlantic storm took place with little hope of survival, hence sailors worked the pumps hard to stay afloat. After several days, Newton was too

exhausted to pump so was tied to the helm for 11 hours to hold the ship on course. Newton came to the reality that his life was as turbulent and troubled as the storms and ship. With his life at risk, he recalled the words from that book, struck by a passage in

**“Lord, have
mercy on
us!”**

Proverbs, “*Because I have called and ye have refused... I also will laugh at your calamity... when your fear cometh as desolation and your destruction cometh as a whirlwind; when distress and anguish come upon you. Then shall they call upon Me, but I will not answer.*” Proverbs 1:24-31

Believing he was too

much a sinner to be forgiven, he cried out, “***Lord have mercy upon us***” and survived, believing that God had addressed him through the storm and that God's grace had been bestowed on him. Newton recalled, “*On that day the Lord sent from on high and delivered me out of deep waters.*” He called it his “*great deliverance.*”

For the rest of his life, he observed 10 March 1748, as the day of his conversion, when he humbled himself to Jesus. This is reflected in the words of his famous hymn, “*Amazing grace! ...that saved a wretch like me... how precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed... thro' many dangers, toils and snares, I have already come; 'tis grace has brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.*”

For a while, he

continued in slave trading, trying to improve the conditions of slaves under his care. After this John Newton went on to lead a completely reformed life for the Gospel of Christ. He married in 1750 to Mary, whom he dearly loved and they adopted his two orphaned nieces. He suffered a severe stroke in 1754, and took the job of tide surveyor at Liverpool. However, he felt called to the ministry. He studied Latin, Hebrew etc and was eventually ordained into the Church of England as Curate of Olney where he served for 16 years until becoming Rector of St Mary Woolnoth Church, London, fulfilling his dear mother's prayers and greatest desire. In 1764, aged 39 years, he commenced 43 years of ministry.

In Olney, for his parishioners and evening services, Newton often

composed a hymn to reflect the Scripture for the evening. In 1779, 280 of these were collected by poet and fellow parishioner, William Cowper and combined with 68 hymns of his own were published as "*Olney*

Thank You Lord for Your amazing grace!

Hymns", the most famous being, "*Faith's Review and Expectation*" arising from 1 Chronicles 17:16-17; this we know as "*Amazing Grace*"!

Other well known Olney hymns are "*How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds*" and "*Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken*."

So detailed and rich is Newton's life after his conversion, one can only skim the surface here. He became renowned for his pastoral care, hospitality and helping the poor. He aligned himself with the Evangelical Revival, influenced by and supporting his friend John Wesley and Methodism. In 1788, Newton published a pamphlet, "*Thoughts Upon the Slave Trade*" detailing the horrific conditions, and apologised for his life within that business, "*a confession which... comes too late... will always be humiliating to me, that I was once active in a business at which my heart now shudders*" which he sent to every MP.

So influential was he, that well-known social figures sought his counsel, one of notable prominence, was William Wilberforce MP

who had a Christian conversion and considered leaving Parliament. Newton encouraged William Wilberforce to stay and serve God where he was. Together they campaigned to abolish the African slave trade which resulted in the Slave Trade Act 1807,

which enacted this event. Newton's wife Mary, died in 1790. He was plagued with ill health and died in 1807, aged 82 years, buried beside his wife. The town of Newton in Sierra Leone is named after him. In 1982, he was recognised by the Gospel Music Association for his

hymns and inducted into the Gospel Music Hall of Fame. His legacy lives on through many films, plays, musicals and books. And of course, through our own praise and worship! What a legacy!

***Thank You Lord for
Your Amazing Grace !***

~~~~~

### Amazing Grace by John Newton (1725-1807)

Amazing Grace! How sweet the  
sound  
That saved a wretch like me!  
I once was lost, but now am found  
Was blind, but now I see.

The Lord has promised good to me.  
His Word my hope secures.  
He will my shield and portion be  
As long as life endures.

'Twas Grace that taught my heart to  
fear,  
And Grace my fears relieved.  
How precious did that Grace appear  
The hour I first believed.

Yes, when this flesh and heart shall  
fail,  
And mortal life shall cease,  
I shall possess within the veil  
A life of joy and peace.

Through many dangers, toils, and  
snares  
I have already come.  
'Tis Grace hath brought me safe thus  
far  
And Grace will lead me home.

When we've been there ten thousand  
years  
Bright shining as the sun,  
We've no less days to sing God's  
praise  
Than when we'd first begun.





# Holiday at Home

**Wednesday 25th March 2020**

**at**

**2.30pm - 4.30 pm**

## Exploring Piers along the South Coast



**Parkside Church 1 St Flora's Road, Littlehampton.  
Tel: Church Office 01903 714670 for registration  
before March 20th 2020 please.**

## Notice Board

### *Special Times*

Many of us had a birthday in February but it was a special one for our Pastor, Rory - 50th birthday this year! Congratulations Rory.

It was good to help celebrate this event with a bring and share lunch on Sunday 16 February. We want to thank you Rory for your ministry at Parkside and wish you much joy in your work through this coming year.

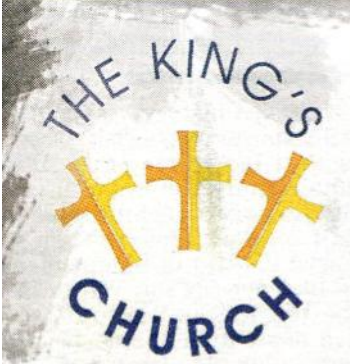


### *April Wavelength*

Please let Julie have any items for the next Wavelength by Sunday, 15 .March



Thank you!



## Prayer and Share

with

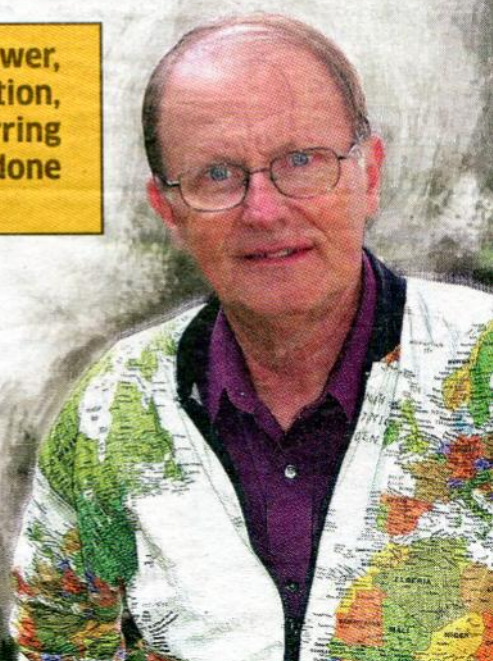
# George Verwer

**Come and hear George Verwer, founder of Operation Mobilisation, share on mission, with faith-stirring testimonies of what God has done and is doing now.**

**Thursday 12th March**  
7 - 8:30 pm (Doors open 6:30)  
**Arundel Town Hall**  
Maltravers Street, Arundel  
West Sussex BN18 9AP

**ENQUIRIES**  
livingwordmlw@gmail.com

*No refreshments, but time for corporate prayer*



## Future Dates For Your Diary

Further details will be available nearer the time and please note that these events may be subject to change!

**Items not included in previous issues or changed in some way are in bold.**

**14 March..... Skittle and Fish ‘n’ Chips Evening**

25 March ..... Holiday at Home

9 April ..... Maundy Thursday Communion

10 April ..... Good Friday

**12 April..... Easter Sunday**

17 June ..... Holiday at Home

24 June ..... Prayer Retreat

11 July ..... Parkside Church Day Out

**3 October ..... SGP Annual Conference**

**7 October ..... Littlehampton Area Meeting for London City Mission**







**May our Lord Jesus  
Christ Himself and God  
our Father, who loved us  
and by His grace gave us  
eternal encouragement  
and good hope,  
encourage your hearts  
and strengthen you in  
every good deed and  
word.**

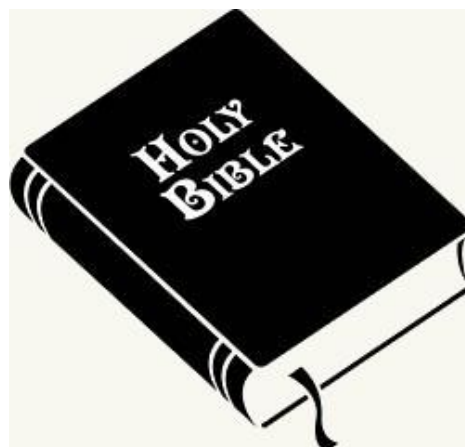
**2 Thessalonians 2:16 & 17**

**1 St Floras Road, LITTLEHAMPTON, BN17 6BD**

**Phone: 01903 714670**

**E-mail: [cdayparksidechurch@gmail.com](mailto:cdayparksidechurch@gmail.com)**

**Website: [www.parksidechurch.org.uk](http://www.parksidechurch.org.uk)**



## **Quote of the Month**

**WE Gladstone**

**We look forward to the  
time when the power of  
love will replace the  
love of power. Then  
will our world know  
the blessings of peace.**

**We reserve the right to edit and/or amend any article submitted for publication.**