

D is for

Last time we heard about Caleb - a man who wasn't afraid to say what he believed even when other people disagreed with him. The Bible is full of characters like this and **D** is for **Daniel**.

When Daniel was a young man he was taken as a prisoner of war to live in Babylon far away from his family and friends. He was taken because he was good looking and intelligent and the king of Babylon wanted to make use of him and others like him in his own country. But Daniel never forgot the one true God.

There is a whole book about him in the middle of the Bible with exciting stories of how God kept him safe and even used Daniel to influence the king.

Once the king made a law that everyone was to pray only to him, Darius. Anyone found disobeying

this law was to be thrown into a den of lions.

What do you think Daniel did? Did he pretend to pray to King Darius but secretly keep praying to the one true God? Did he go to see the king to try and get the law changed? Did he run away? Find out for yourself by reading the Bible, Daniel chapter 6. It's an amazing story and shows what a great God the one true God and Father of the Lord Jesus really is.

A picture to colour

**What an Unpredictable World**

Since the summer we have had the Brexit vote here in the UK and the election of Donald Trump in America. Neither of these outcomes was predicted by the pundits, and have taken people by surprise and have divided the nations.

It is often quoted: *"Nothing is certain but death and taxes"* (Benjamin Franklin). There is some truth in this, in that life is very uncertain and unpredictable at times, so we need to be prepared for the unpredictableness of our lives.

How do we prepare for that which is unpredictable? By trusting in the certainties of life we will have an anchor in the ups and downs of life.

The Bible describes God as a refuge and ever present help in trouble. Jesus came to make it possible for us to have a relationship with God himself.

His coming into the world did take some people by surprise. However, it was foretold many hundreds of years before in the books of the Old Testament prophets.

In the book of Isaiah chapter 9, verse 6 it says, *"For unto us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."*

There are many other prophecies relating to the coming of Jesus and, just as that of Isaiah, they were all reliably fulfilled in the person of Jesus. The prophets got it right but, just as with recent elections, the people were divided - some believed in Jesus but others rejected him.

Simeon, who the Bible calls a righteous and devout man, knew the prophecies and was waiting for Jesus to be born. When Mary and Joseph took Jesus to the temple Simeon declared, *"For my eyes have seen your salvation."*

Whatever our views on Brexit and Trump it is vitally important that we give serious consideration as to who Jesus is.

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Insight

- Issued four times a year
- To keep you informed
- To stimulate thought
- To invite you to our events

Market Overton Free Church

is an independently governed church and a member of the FIEC



What makes someone a Christian?

How might you answer such a question?

I recently asked a university student what he thought and he admitted he wasn't altogether sure, even though he had just told me he had been christened and confirmed when younger!

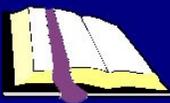
A **CHRISTIAN** is clearly someone who relates to **CHRIST** in some way. We know this because when the word was coined there were also some people known as 'Herodians', who gave their allegiance to King Herod and placed their confidence in him. So to be a Christian, someone must know enough about Jesus Christ to do the same. How well do you know Jesus? No doubt you're familiar with the Jesus of the Christmas story: the baby born to Mary in Bethlehem, with angels, shepherds and wise men playing a part. And perhaps the Jesus of Easter is not a stranger to you – Judas Iscariot's betrayal, the crucifixion and the empty

tomb. But what about the thirty years between? What was Jesus really like and what did he actually teach? And why did he die so young? In the New Year we are running a free course that looks precisely at that question.

Christianity Explored gives people space and time to think about the big questions of life. Over 7 sessions looking into Mark's Gospel (one of the four 'biographies' of Jesus in the Bible), we will find out more about the life of the person at the heart of the Christian faith - Jesus Christ.

The course begins on Tuesday 17th January – you'd be welcome to explore with us. Please contact me if you're interested.

Peter Rush
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Market Overton
Free Church

Sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ

Diary Dates:

Minister:
Rev. Peter Rush

Elder:
Roy Palframan

Phone:
01572 767383

Email:
insight@mofc.org.uk

Morning Worship - Every Sunday, 10.30am
MO Village Hall - suitable for all.

Evening Worship - Every Sunday 6.30pm
Edmondthorpe Social Club

Midweek meeting - Most Thursdays, 7.30pm
MO Village Hall (but check website)

Coffee Hour - Friday, 10.30am:
9 December, 13 January,
10 February, 10 March
MO Village Hall

For latest
information:
www.mofc.org.uk

"Starfish" - A Film Review

Starfish is set in our county of Rutland and tells the true story of Tom and Nicola Ray who lived in Hambleton. At the start of the film we see a couple living a seemingly idyllic life, with a beautiful house, steady income and growing family. Everything changes when Tom contracts sepsis and has to undergo multiple amputations in order to survive. The film is honest and raw, and at times hard to watch. It shows how fragile life is and how easily and suddenly the things we take for granted can be taken from us. When Tom returns home from hospital with insufficient funds for prosthetic limbs, and a house ill-equipped for his needs, he finds himself reliant on others for support. Yet the film explores more than just the physical and financial challenges, as Tom struggles to come to terms with his new circum-



stances and questions his identity and value.

The title of the film comes from prior to Tom's illness, when he tells his daughter how starfish are able to regenerate their limbs, and by the end of the film there

is hope, as Tom and his family start to rebuild their lives and look to the future.

Whilst this story is unique and the family's endurance through adversity is remarkable, at times we will all face difficulties and wonder how to work through them.

Many ask the question why does God allow troubles like this to come our way. One man in the Bible, Job, struggled with this. There are no easy answers to this question but as Christians we know that God is good, he is sovereign and he loves us. He can be trusted even when we don't understand why things happen the way they do. Job came to see this too.

MOFC Events in 2016/17



For more information
contact Peter Rush:
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01572767383

Carol Service
Sunday, 18th December
10.30am in MO Village Hall

Carols by Candle Light
Thursday, 22nd December
6.30pm in MO Village Hall

Christmas Day Praise
Sunday, 25th December
10.30am in MO Village Hall