

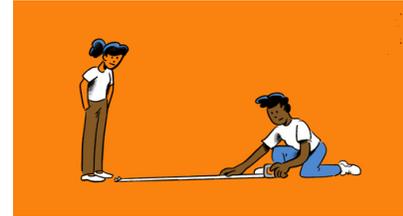
The Corona Chronicle

West Worthing Evangelical Church Rugby Road.

Sunday June 14th

www.westworthingevangelical.co.uk

Being Church while the Corona Virus emergency is on



Shadow of the Führer

SSGB is a novel written by Len Deighton and published in 1978. In it the author depicts an alternative history: Britain has been defeated in 1941 by Nazi Germany and life in our country is very different under the rule of the SS.

It is a gripping work of fiction and, thank God, it is just that – fiction. We think with horror of what life here might have been like if Hitler had actually triumphed.

We should prize our freedom and our democracy very highly and value so much of what we take for granted in our land and which is so far removed from what was enshrined in that dreadful regime. But there is one trend in our society that Hitler would have delightedly applauded: our increasing slide into eugenics.

Eugenics is the philosophy and approach that seeks to improve the quality of human life by encouraging the increase and nurture of those with desirable qualities and traits while reducing or removing those who are judged less desirable and inferior. This kind of idea had been around since at least the fourth century BC but after the publication of Charles Darwin's *The Origin of the Species* in 1859 with its emphasis upon the survival of the fittest, it soon spread across the world. As a result abhorrent policies and actions, such as compulsory sterilization for specific groups, were often introduced and enforced against the individual's will. Its popularity continued in some quarters well into the twentieth century. Eugenics was at the heart of Hitler's obsession with achieving a master race (Aryan, of course) and the horrendous decisions that brought about the unspeakable Holocaust.

So why the history lesson? During the political deadlock in Northern Ireland our Parliament finally took over the government of the Province. One result of this was the replacement of the Northern Ireland life-affirming laws on abortion with liberal legislation that goes beyond even what exists in our own country. The Northern Ireland Regulations allow for the abortion of any child with a disability (even one that can be corrected, such as a cleft palate) up to and **during birth**.

The implications of this are huge. First, there will, no doubt, be immense pressure from the abortion lobby in this country to introduce this widening of the law here. But fundamentally we are espousing the idea that life has to be deserved and that deserving is based upon the criteria of one section of our society (the undiseased) in deciding what life is worthy to be allowed to exist and what constitutes a worthwhile life. At heart this is eugenics in action.

Enter Heidi Crowter. You may not have heard of her but she is a courageous twenty-four year old woman who has Downs Syndrome. She is mounting a legal challenge to the UK Government on the abortion law regarding babies with disabilities, including Downs. Speaking in a Channel 5 interview in February she said she found it "deeply offensive and it makes me cry.... See the person behind the extra chromosome. See the inner beauty." That disabled people have much to offer can be seen in our own Parliament which includes disabled MPs and Peers.

During the Covid-19 pandemic we have seen the great compassion human beings can be capable of showing. How sad, therefore, that this legislation highlights the ugliness and brutality to which we can stoop.

Thankfully, within the last two or three weeks a cross-party alliance of MPs have tabled a bill covering England and Wales which aims to end late terminations for cleft lip, cleft palate and club foot. It remains to be seen how far the bill will get.

But how have we got to such a pass in our land? At root it stems from where you believe life originates. If we are indeed made in the image of God then every life is precious. If we are the product of something that crawled out of the primeval slime aeons ago anything goes.

Dennis R. Read



**KEEP CALM,
JESUS
IS THE SAME
YESTERDAY,
TODAY,
AND FOREVER**

HEBREWS 13:8

Let me start by reminding us all of the investment that God has into the believer's life. He has chosen us to be a Child of God. He knows that we cannot save ourselves being dead in our sin. He made us alive by taking God's wrath upon Himself and His righteousness, through His precious blood, has covered our sin and we can stand 'not guilty' before a holy God. As He has invested so much in our lives we are kept by His power. Our Lord maintains His investment in us. He acts if we walk away from Him and brings us back like a shepherd brings a lost sheep into his fold. He is an unchanging God in a changing world. I am amazed to think of the great changes that have taken place in the world in our Grandparents, parents and our own lifetimes. When I was a boy the twelve inch black and white television had only one channel and was only on for a few hours a day, today if we want it we can have thousands of channels twenty four hours a day. The changes have been breathtaking. We struggle to keep up and there is a reaction against modernism. We seek the old paths. Some of us reject modern technology and find ourselves in difficulty when we are told that we must make contact by Email. The Lord is our unchanging refuge and strength in all the situations we might find ourselves in life. He is our anchor, steadfast and sure while the billows roll.

*'The eternal God is your refuge,
And underneath are the everlasting arms;
He will thrust out the enemy from before you,'
Deut 33v27*

He has promised never to leave us or forsake us, whatever the circumstances may be.

As Jesus was going to the cross His disciples forsook Him and fled, but through His terrible experience of capture, trial and execution God did not forsake Him, right up to the point of His death when He gave up His spirit.

John 16v32,

At His death, an atonement for our sin God's wrath, our sin, the just penalty for our sin was upon Him.

God forsook Him.

Oh! the greatness of the cross that the Son of God should die for me.

Oh! the love of God, who created the majesty of the Universe should die for poor wretches as ourselves.

Oh! the grace of God for us.

Jesus is the same yesterday today and forever, He will never forsake us. Although Peter chose to deny His Lord, Jesus still loved Peter and later by the seashore reinstated Him. He will never forsake us.

Earthly friends may fail us, but we can trust that the Lord will be with us. We might fall into some sin and even when convicted refuse to repent, but in His mercy towards us He will take away our peace and joy. He might discipline us with difficult circumstances, but He will still keep us and call us again to keep to His word and we can find delight in that.

Our friends may let us down. Even when peoples hearts change and their love turns to hate when their attitude suddenly changes. God's love never changes. The Lord will be gracious to us, look on us with favour, His love is unchanging.

He is our refuge and strength even when our physical strength wanes away. The Lord will care for us even in our times of weakness and old.

*'Even to your old age, I am He,
And even to grey hairs I will carry you!*

I have made, and I will bear;

Even I will carry, and will deliver you.'

Isaiah 46v4

Jesus IS the same Yesterday, today and forever.
David Page

Books of the Bible Game

In the following paragraphs below see if you can find 25 books of the Bible.

Have fun. "Mark" is in the first sentence.

In these re^{mark}s are hidden the names of 25 books of the Bible. Yes, there are some that are easy to spot; others are harder to judge. So we admit it usually results in lamentations when we can't find them. It is a lulu – kept me looking so hard for the facts that I missed the revelation. I was in a jam, especially since not all the names are capitalized, and space separates some of the letters. The truth will come to numbers of you; to others, it will be a real job; to all it will be a most fantastic search. One book is circled to help you get the idea. We offer some other hints. It helps if you are in a humming mood. One lady said she brews soup while she puzzles over it; another tries to hose a part of her lawn. She may try to josh u a little, too! My friend, Joe, looks for a her, man's best friend, but he has a pet ermine – not a dog. He also keeps alms under a doormat. The weird ideas some have!

If you find all twenty-five in an hour, you're a real pro. Verbs are not as helpful as nouns. Begin by reviewing the books of the Bible. Then happy hunting! And remember that Jacob had the largest herd of cattle even larger than Abraham's. If you can't find all 25 at first, don't feel too bad. I ahem, didn't either. And there's another!

We are going to start enclosing answers to the puzzles.... On a separate piece of paper of course!

Jesus Christ the same yesterday, today and forever .

Hebrews 13v8

Holy God, we praise You as the one who is the same yesterday, today and forever.

Your yearning to shower blessings on Your people has not changed.

As You delivered the people of old from slavery in Egypt,

So You deliver us from our sin that enslaves us through the sacrificial death of Jesus Christ on the cross at Calvary

Who rose again so that we might have eternal life.

We thank You that You change not, Your promises are trustworthy and true.

Your love for us is new every morning.

Great is Your faithfulness

Accept our praise and adoration, we pray, for we offer them in Jesus' name

And through the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen

Bible Reading Hebrews 13v7-17

1. Oh, how sweet the glorious message simple faith may claim:

Yesterday, today, forever, Jesus is the same; Still He loves to save the sinful, heal the sick and lame,

Cheer the mourner, still the tempest, glory to His name!

Refrain:

Yesterday, today, forever, Jesus is the same, All may change, but Jesus never glory to His name!

Glory to His name! Glory to His name!

All may change, but Jesus never glory to His name!

2. He who was the friend of sinners seeks the lost one now:

Sinner, come, and at His footstool penitently bow;

He who said, "I'll not condemn thee, go and sin no more,"

Speaks to thee that word of pardon as in days of yore.

3. Oft on earth He healed the sufferer by His mighty hand:

Still our sicknesses and sorrows go at His command;

He who gave His healing virtue to a woman's touch

To the faith that claims His fullness still will give as much.

4. As He walked once to Emmaus, with them to abide,

So thro' all life's way He walketh ever near our side;

Soon again we shall behold Him hasten, Lord, the day

But 'twill still be this same Jesus as He went away.

Simpson, A. B. (Albert Benjamin), 1843-1919

Benediction

In Christ our Saviour, who is the same, yesterday, today and forever, we can do all things through Christ who strengthens us.

With the blessing of God, in your mind and heart, let

each morning be a joy to you,

each path be a joy to you,

each neighbour be a joy to you.

Now and always..

Amen!