

AUGUST 2019



Hemyock *Baptist Church*

With another successful Holiday Club now behind us (see right), I couldn't resist picking out what I thought to be the key message from the life of Joseph. The words above come from Genesis 50:20, and could be considered the Old Testament version of Romans 8:28, "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose". Sometimes we may think that people, circumstances and even the Lord are stacked against us, but we hold on to the timeless truth that our heavenly Father is in control. We know that he loves us and knows what's best for us; and Joseph illustrates this perfectly.

Pampered by his father Jacob, hated by his brothers who sold him into slavery at 17, accused by his master's wife in Egypt and imprisoned, Joseph didn't have it easy. But by the time he was 30, he was freed from prison and appointed Egypt's second in command by Pharaoh. As his brothers came to Egypt twice for food, Joseph tested them, worked on their hearts and led them to repentance. Eventually he revealed himself to them, forgave them, and welcomed his whole family, including Jacob, to a new life free from famine in Egypt. Even when Jacob died 17 years later, the brothers were still fearful that Joseph would punish them, but Joseph assured them that it was all part of God's plan. It could be argued with some justification that God used Joseph to save the Hebrew people from extinction.

What God did for Joseph was ultimately good for him. He was taken away from his father's pampering which would have ruined him, and the trials he faced prepared him to be a leader. Joseph's suffering made him a man of God and an amazing 'type' of Jesus. God's plan was good for the brothers as they were led to repentance (and would go on to father the 12 tribes). Jacob had paid the price for scheming in early life and was rewarded with 17 years of joy and peace with his family. And it was good for Egypt – saved from famine. All that happened to Joseph was working for him and ultimately for us (John 4:22). So next time we are struggling to make sense of it all, let's remember Joseph. "Behold, God is my salvation, I will trust and not be afraid" (Is.12:2).

Pastor Steve

Cops and Robbers Holiday Club



Hemyock Holiday Club celebrated its 50th anniversary in style as volunteers entertained over 70 children with fun, games, songs, crafts, & stories throughout the event. The youngsters had come not only from Hemyock, but also from Dunkeswell, Culmstock, Wellington and even Tiverton to join in the fun. The theme this year was 'Cops and Robbers' and keeping everyone on the straight and narrow were *Acting* Chief Constable Steve Williams (HBC) and PC Jonathan Hillman (Rosemary Lane Chapel). A great week was had by all and it was rounded off wonderfully by a presentation on the Friday afternoon when, in addition to summarising the week's activities, a commemorative certificate was presented to our very own Maureen Aylwin by local MP Neil Parish, to thank her for her service to the Holiday Club throughout all but two of the annual events since 1969. A big thank-you goes to all of our volunteer helpers and of course to Mr. Parish for helping the Holiday Club police with their enquiries!