

Minister's Letter

As I write we are still coming to terms with the loss of our much loved superintendent minister Rev Tim Hall who died suddenly on the 31st January in South Africa. His death has been such a shock to us as a circuit but also to his wife Ann and their children and wider family. We continue to hold Ann and their family and friends in our prayers.

Over 800 people came to Leyland Road Methodist church to celebrate the life of Rev'd Timothy Peter Hall. It was a truly uplifting service reflecting Tim's enthusiasm for worship. There were so many people taking part and wanting to pay tribute to Tim that we ran out of time, not leaving for our 12 o'clock appointment at the crematorium till ten past twelve!

When Tim was accredited as a Local preacher his tutor said that "Tim Hall is on fire for Christ and the world will be enriched by watching him burn!" I'm sure we would all agree with this statement. Tim's enthusiasm for the gospel, the saints and the church was an inspiration to all of us who had the privilege of knowing him and sharing in his ministry. His brother in law summed him up thus:

"We all felt privileged to love and be loved by him. He was so exceptionally clever and well-read yet full of grace, humility and genuine compassion. Tim could engage in academic debate yet comfortably sit and listen and talk to the poorest of vulnerable people on the margins of society and make each one feel special and valued. We TRULY saw Christ at work in Tim Hall. Totally transparent, authentic with complete integrity and NEVER judgemental"

Several passages of scripture have been quoted in connection with Tim and his life but this one is perhaps the one that will stay with me and possibly the one that Tim would have us remember:

Ephesians 3:14-21 New International Version (NIV)

A Prayer for the Ephesians

¹⁴ For this reason I kneel before the Father, ¹⁵ from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name. ¹⁶ I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, ¹⁷ so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, ¹⁸ may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long

and high and deep is the love of Christ, ¹⁹ and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God. ²⁰ Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, ²¹ to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.

Friends, if Tim's death has taught us anything it is that life is short, we never know the day it will change forever. I implore you to follow Tim's example and live enthusiastically for the gospel today and every day.

Rev Jan