



Friston Circular



January 2024

I should imagine that none of our readers would fail to recognise the location illustrated on our cover. The Autumn winds have stripped the leaves from off the trees and generally the vegetation has lost the lush green that it possessed earlier in the year, but the sky is blue and nothing can take away the peacefulness of the village green. Yes, we like to see the children playing, but even their excited cries can't take away the peace of this favoured spot.

. We live in a world that is looking for peace, but it will never be attained in this world of sin. Greed and pride have seen to that. Some say we have peace when there is no peace.

Jesus said "My peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid." (From the Gospel of John 14.27)

OLD ROBERT; OR HOW TO KEEP OUT OF TROUBLE

"Robert." said a young gentleman. "I can't tell how it is, but you always seem happy; you never get into scrapes as I do; how is it, Robert?"

Robert was a poor but pious man. He had very few earthly comforts; and although he had to brave the cold wintry weather in gathering a few sticks to make his fire, yet, with his dog at his side and Christ in his heart, he always seemed contented and happy.

"Well, young master," replied Robert. "I'll tell you how it is that I have managed to keep out of scrapes; as you call them. I have endeavoured to mind this good rule. Never to go anywhere and never to do anything, if I could not first kneel down and ask God's blessing on it."

Selected from "Cheering Words" magazine

We thought we'd try a new venture. "We" are the Baptist Church in Mill Road. Initially, bi-monthly, we thought we'd produce something that everyone might enjoy reading.

The New Year might not come across as very new, though of course it will be. This new venture might not succeed.

However, our heavenly Father has said, "Behold, I make all things new". No more tears, no more death, no more sorrow, no more crying, no more pain. That's so very, very attractive in the days in which we live.

This world will finish when the Lord Jesus Christ returns in all His glory as King of Kings. It's then that all things will be made new. A new heaven, and a new earth.

Our sins have spoiled this world, which displeases our Maker. There is pardon from the King of Kings, the Lord Jesus Christ, for those who sorrow in the presence of God for their share in these dire things and repent of them. But it is for them who trust Him. He said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man (person) cometh unto the Father but by me". (John 14.6).

Meanwhile, the Saviour mends lives and makes them new for those whose sorrows and difficulties drive them to Him. The church exists to turn people to the Saviour and our venture is a renewed effort.

Like classic cars, the old may not simply be patched up, but where there is a skilful hand it may be lovingly restored to original condition to be a delight for many years to come. The loving heart and the skilful hand of the Lord Jesus Christ prepares those who believe, for a new and delightful life which will stretch into eternity.

Will you be one?

Pastor Michael Harley, Friston Baptist Church.

The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD:
and he delighteth in his way. Psalm 37:23

“Daddy” said a little boy, climbing on to his father’s knee and looking into his face as if he understood the importance of the subject. “Daddy, is your soul insured?”

The father who was a prosperous farmer looked startled. “What are you thinking about my son?” he replied. “Why do you ask that question?”

“Well Daddy, I heard Uncle George say that you had the farm insured, and your life insured, but he didn’t believe you had thought of your soul, and he was afraid you would lose it. Won’t you get it insured right away?”

The father leaned his head on his hand and was silent. He owned acres of land that were covered with a bountiful harvest, he had plenty in his barns and his buildings were well covered by insurance. He had the day before taken out a life policy for a large amount, yet not one thought had he given to his immortal soul. On that which was to waste away he had spared no pains; but for that which was to live through eternity he had made no provision. “What shall it profit a man if he shall gain the whole world and lose his own soul?” Mark 8:36. “How shall we escape if we neglect so great Salvation?” Hebrews 2:3.

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