

Church Together

Rebels With A Good Cause

13th July 2025

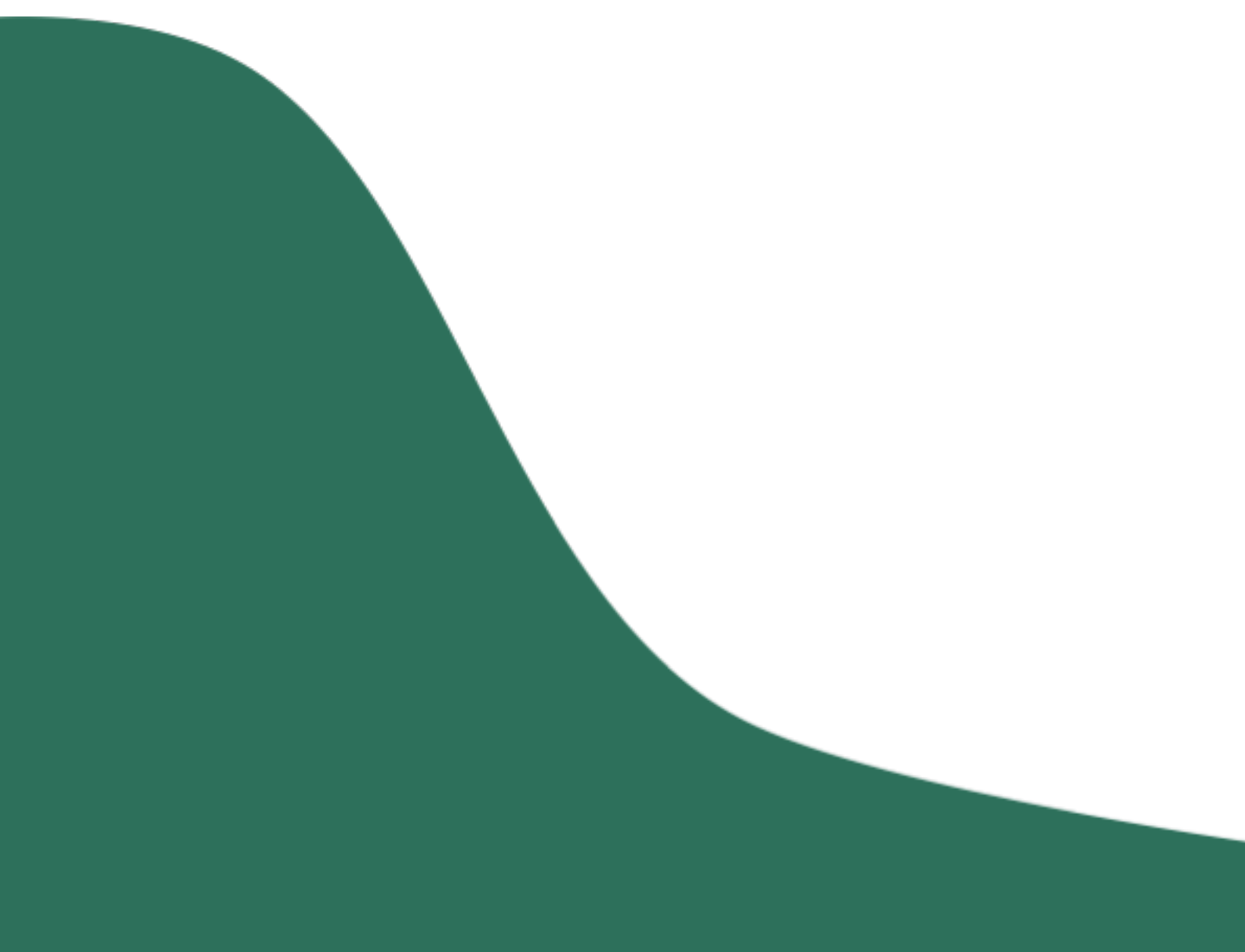


Welcome

In today's Service we will be looking at: **Daniel 1 v. 1 – 21**

The theme for our service today is: **Rebels With A Good Cause!**

We hope that you will be able to engage with everything that has been produced for today's service and that you would be able to **See Remarkable Things In Your Life, When You Are Committed To God**



Call To Worship

Psalms 117 v. 1 – 2 NLT

Praise the Lord, all you nations.

Praise him, all you people of the earth.

For he loves us with unfailing love;

For the faithfulness of the Lord
endures forever.

Praise the Lord!

Song Suggestion

Father God, I Wonder



Opening Prayer

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good!

His love is everlasting and extends to all creation.

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good!

Bringing wholeness, and peace beyond understanding.

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good!

His arms open wide welcoming home the prodigals.

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good!

His promises are sure, His kingdom shall last forever.

Thank you Lord God for the opportunity of being able to worship you here in this place today. Thank you for the freedom to be amongst your family here, meeting together in the warmth and knowledge that you are our Saviour.

Thank you that in worship we can put aside, the uncertainties of this world and rest upon the certainties of your Kingdom, for your promises are not changeable as those of the world might be, but immovable and eternal. Thank you that we can bring to your feet all the hurts and fears that trouble us, and leave them there, knowing that your strength and assurance are all that we require. Thank you that as we draw near in worship, we are transported from a world of concerns and fears, to a place where we can be at peace in your presence, find healing, wholeness and refreshment. We ask these prayers in the powerful name of Jesus.

Amen

Song Suggestion

Be Bold, Be Strong



Bible Reading

Daniel 1 v. 1 – 21 NIV

Daniel's Training in Babylon

1 In the third year of the reign of Jehoiakim king of Judah, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came to Jerusalem and besieged it. 2 And the Lord delivered Jehoiakim king of Judah into his hand, along with some of the articles from the temple of God. These he carried off to the temple of his god in Babylonia and put in the treasure house of his god.

3 Then the king ordered Ashpenaz, chief of his court officials, to bring into the king's service some of the Israelites from the royal family and the nobility— 4 young men without any physical defect, handsome, showing aptitude for every kind of learning, well informed, quick to understand, and qualified to serve in the king's palace. He was to teach them the language and literature of the Babylonians. 5 The king assigned them a daily amount of food and wine from the king's table. They were to be trained for three years, and after that they were to enter the king's service.

6 Among those who were chosen were some from Judah: Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah. 7 The chief official gave them new names: to Daniel, the name Belteshazzar; to Hananiah, Shadrach; to Mishael, Meshach; and to Azariah, Abednego.

8 But Daniel resolved not to defile himself with the royal food and wine, and he asked the chief official for permission not to defile himself this way. 9 Now God had caused the official to show favour and compassion to

Daniel, 10 but the official told Daniel, "I am afraid of my lord the king, who has assigned your[c] food and drink. Why should he see you looking worse than the other young men your age? The king would then have my head because of you."

11 Daniel then said to the guard whom the chief official had appointed over Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah, 12 "Please test your servants for ten days: Give us nothing but vegetables to eat and water to drink. 13 Then compare our appearance with that of the young men who eat the royal food, and treat your servants in accordance with what you see." 14 So he agreed to this and tested them for ten days.

15 At the end of the ten days they looked healthier and better nourished than any of the young men who ate the royal food. 16 So the guard took away their choice food and the wine they were to drink and gave them vegetables instead.

17 To these four young men God gave knowledge and understanding of all kinds of literature and learning. And Daniel could understand visions and dreams of all kinds. 18 At the end of the time set by the king to bring them into his service, the chief official presented them to Nebuchadnezzar. 19 The king talked with them, and he found none equal to Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah; so they entered the king's service. 20 In every matter of wisdom and understanding about which the king questioned them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and enchanters in his whole kingdom.

21 And Daniel remained there until the first year of King Cyrus.

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Thought

It's difficult to imagine the pain and humiliation felt by the people of Judah at the beginning of the book of Daniel. Have you ever been in a situation where everything seemed lost, where all hope was gone and everything seemed terrible? A time when you cried out to God, but no answer seemed to come. If you have, then imagine those feelings multiplied many times.

Imagine seeing hundreds, perhaps thousands, of your neighbours dead in the streets; the smell of burning buildings; of being too hungry to move yet being forced to walk hundreds of miles in chains to a foreign land and into slavery. This is the scene that is before us in **Daniel 1**. The fall of Jerusalem and the exile to Babylon were the most disastrous events in the history of the Jewish people.

Although the biblical accounts in such passages as **2 Kings 25** tell of the effect on the nation, we should not forget that it was individuals whose hopes were crushed, families and friends slaughtered or taken away in chains. It was a low point for the nation; it was a low point for every individual. The capture of Jerusalem and the exile apparently turned Israelite theology upside down.

Ever since their exodus from Egypt over 700 years earlier, a key foundation of their theology was that the Lord was looking after them. They believed that no matter how high the odds were stacked against them, God would rescue

them and prove his supreme power and might. But now the temple lay in ruins, the ark of the covenant had disappeared, and the gods of the Babylonian conquerors seemed much more powerful than God himself.

In Daniel 1 v. 2 we read of what the exiles must discover: that it is the Lord God who is in control of events. Much of the first half of the book of Daniel is about how individuals respond to that in their lives day by day. And we the readers are invited to observe the responses of four Jews: Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah.

The first challenge they face is apparently about their commitment to Jewish food laws: surely not a life or death issue? Indeed, modern Judaism permits food laws to be breached in life or death situations. But the real issue is more complex: it's about how far they become involved with their new society – what we would call a multicultural society – and how far they remain committed to God's laws. The issue is not presented as what they believe but how they live out those beliefs when the situation is tough. It is a theme that runs through these chapters, with situations getting increasingly difficult and the risks more obvious.

To live in a multicultural and increasingly multi – faith society presents us with hard challenges and difficult choices. Our lives may not be 'on the line' in quite the same way as those of Daniel and his friends but there are other risks. To be committed to God's standards at the very least leaves us open to verbal persecution and accusations of bigotry.

Of course, we must be careful that what we proclaim and live out really are God's standards and not merely personal viewpoints and prejudices. But once we are

certain that we are acting biblically then we must be ready for the response of others. It may be persecution, or it may be honour and respect: Daniel tells of both. Daniel and his friends are seen as rebels with a good cause as they enter Babylon.

DANIEL AND HIS FRIENDS ARE TEENAGERS WHO ARE TRAUMATISED (Daniel 1 v. 1 – 2)

Daniel and his three friends, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah were all facing troubled times. Their city was conquered, and they were captured by the enemy and marched across the desert to Babylon. Life must have seemed over for these four young men. But then their fortune changed.

After a 3 year training period they were chosen to be Nebuchadnezzar's counsellors. No one ever knows what the future holds. Our current bad times may only be temporary. God's blessings may be just around the corner. God may even use our hard times to prepare us for greater service for him.

DANIEL AND HIS FRIENDS HAD TO MAKE CAREFUL CHOICES (Daniel 1 v. 3 – 7)

Should they co-operate or withdraw? In any situation where our faith is not honoured, the choice of co-operation but not compromise needs careful thought. So, they said 'yes' to a pagan education, mastering its content without being indoctrinated. Daniel and his friends said 'yes' to a political career, deciding to be 'salt and light'. They said 'yes' to a change of name, recognising the mind games but keeping clear heads. However, they said 'no' to the king's food, to maintain some distinctiveness.

DANIEL AND HIS FRIENDS NEEDED TO CLARIFY THEIR

COMMITMENT (Daniel 1 v. 8 – 16)

When people try to squeeze us into their mould and get us to compromise our values, we need to remain strong and set godly boundaries on our behaviour, just as Daniel did by not eating food contrary to God's laws. With proper boundaries, we will be less tempted to give in to compromise and will foster our spiritual growth. We too need to draw the line somewhere. For Daniel it was his diet. There could have been several reasons for this: the risk of seduction by the good life, the meat was not kosher (but why was he worried about the wine?), the meat may have been offered to idols. Probably the food symbolised covenant loyalty to the king and Daniel's loyalty was to God.

It was a matter of conscience that proved to be an act of witness, leadership and commitment. But it was done courteously with a ten – day trial built in to help Ashpenaz.

DANIEL AND HIS FRIENDS SAW A REMARKABLE REWARD (Daniel 1 v. 17 – 21)

As a result of his faithfulness, Daniel was blessed with gifts from God for learning and interpreting. Having been faithful in one area, he was equipped for further service. God's rewards are always more work. Daniel was in high office for the next 70 years! When we use the talents and abilities given to us by God, others will notice. This as we have seen was the case in this passage when King Nebuchadnezzar saw that Daniel and his friends had more insight than any of his other magicians or enchanters. The wisdom of these young men is what set them apart from the other advisors and allowed them to triumph.

Song Suggestion

Jesus Shall Take The Highest
Honour



Prayers Of Intercession

Loving Heavenly Father, it gives us joy and delight to be in your presence this day. To know that you are indeed our Lord and Saviour. To you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hidden: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts today we pray, by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit.

We pray for those we know who struggle with mental health issues, anxiety and depression. We pray that there will be resources released to help, enough staff employed and finances given towards mental health services nationally. Help us to be a friend and a listening ear to those who suffer. Fill us with compassion and wisdom. Ultimately, we pray for those who wrestle with sorrow, that they may know your victory over those dark thoughts which currently seem to triumph in their lives.

Thank You for this day Lord. Thank you for the wind and rain, sun and snow, warmth and cold. We think of many barren lands around our world where no - one would complain. Thank You for the time we shared and for our plans and schemes, We think of people round the world who have lost their hopes and dreams. Thank You for life's simple things, for blessings on the way, For all we take for granted, Lord, and thank You for today.

Lord, we pray this day for those who are hurting, those who are fearful and those who are grieving, be close to these brothers and sisters for whom we pray, may they

find you in their pain, within their fear and sharing their sadness; and, finding you, may they find healing for their hurt, love for their fear, and peace for their distress.

Lord, we lift up to you the community that we are part of; for the shops around us, the schools, the churches, and all that makes up our community. May your blessing rest upon them as they seek to make sense of the ongoing situations that they find themselves in and its implications for their futures.

For a moment in the quietness of this day, we pray, Lord Jesus, for those who have served in our church and in the world, but who are no longer with us. We thank you, loving Lord, for all those who have heard the call of Jesus, and have responded with their lives. We thank you for those who have shared their faith with us. In silence now we name before you those who have served us in special ways, influenced our lives and lead us nearer to you. As we learn from both their successes and failures, so may we offer ourselves as servants of your kingdom today we pray.

We ask these prayers in the name of Jesus.

Amen

Song Suggestion

Majesty, Worship His Majesty



Tithes, Gifts & Offerings



If you feel that you are able to, then please keep on giving to the work of the church here at Salendine Nook, with a generous and cheerful heart, praising God for all that he has given to you and share in the finances of the church.

Outline of the book of Daniel:

PART 1

**Historical
Section
(Daniel 1 to 6)**

Chapter 1
Education of
Daniel and
his friends,
captive
in Babylon

Chapter 2
Nebuchad-
nezzar's
first dream,
interpreted
by Daniel

Chapter 3
Deliverance
of Daniel's
friends from
the fiery
furnace

Chapter 4
Nebuchad-
nezzar's se-
cond dream,
interpreted
and fulfilled

Chapter 5
Belshazzar's
banquet,
followed by
the fall
of Babylon

Chapter 6
Daniel's
miraculous
deliverance
from the
lions' den

PART 2

**Prophetic
Section
(Daniel 7 to 12)**

Chapter 7
Prophecy of
the four my-
thical beasts
and the
little horn

Chapter 8
Prophecy of
the ram,
the goat,
and the
2300 days

Chapter 9
Prophecy of
the 70 weeks,
following
Daniel's
prayer

Ch. 10 to 12
Prophecy of
the warring
kings of the
North and
the South



The Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in Heaven
Hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
On earth as it is in Heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread
And forgive us our trespasses,
As we forgive those who trespass against us.
Lead us not into temptation
But deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, the power
And the glory, forever and ever.
Amen

Song Suggestion

O Lord Our God How Majestic Is
Your Name



Blessing

May the peace of the Lord Christ go with you, wherever He may send you.

May He guide you through the wilderness, protect you through the storm.

May He bring you home rejoicing at the wonders He has shown you.

May He bring you home rejoicing once again into our doors.

Amen